

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Wednesday, October 13, 1976 2:30 p.m.**

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

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

MR. SPEAKER: We have with us for the first time this afternoon the new Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Stefaniuk came to this position through a nation-wide competition. It may not be too partial to observe that I took it as a sign of the widespread interest in and recognition of our Assembly that there were 100 applicants for this position, an even 100, many of them with outstanding qualifications.

I look forward to working with Mr. Stefaniuk and all the officers and staff of the Assembly in serving all the members of the parliament of Alberta.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House are very pleased to underscore and warmly support your words of introduction and welcome to the new Clerk of the Assembly. He comes to us with, clearly, very impressive credentials which we believe will enable him to carry out very effectively the demanding and exacting duties of Clerk of this Assembly.

We on this side look forward very much indeed to working with him in the days and months ahead.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, we too on this side of the House wish to welcome the new Clerk. I might say that you may not always find, in fact you won't always find, the members of the loyal opposition as agreeable to the government as we are on this particular occasion, when we are pleased to associate ourselves with the remarks of the Speaker and the Government House Leader.

My last comment would simply be to the new Clerk. From the standpoint of longevity, sir, you are the fifth Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of this province. The average stay has been something like 17.5 years. Most politicians would like that kind of longevity.

head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the response to Motion for a Return No. 174.

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the response to Motion for a Return 115.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table responses to Motions for a Return No. 187 and 188.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the response to Motion for a Return No. 202.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table a reply to Motion for a Return No. 198, and also to file a copy of the annual report of the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the response to Motion for a Return No. 194.

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the response to Motions for a Return 195 and 196, and at the same time, for the information of hon. members of the Assembly, to file two reports from the Department of Education. The first is a progress report on Early Childhood Services, and the second, Roles in Student Evaluation and Research.

DR. BUCK: Just give us money, Julian.

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Speaker, I should like to table replies to Motions for a Return 171, 203, and 215.

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a reply to Motion for a Return No. 164, also three reports: first, the Alberta Interconnected System Electricity Requirement Forecast 1976-1995, by Hu Harries and Associates Ltd.; secondly, Power Costs in Alberta Under Selected Generation Alternatives 1976-1986, by Foster Research Limited; thirdly, Alternatives to the Full Development of Dodds Power Plant by 1986, by the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table responses to Motions for a Return, No. 135, 143, 144, 162 and 169.

head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Nous avons dans la Chambre une délégation bien distinguée de l'Assemblée Nationale de Québec. Au nom de tous mes collègues je leur souhaite une bienvenue la plus sincère et cordiale.

We are very happy and honored to have with us a delegation from the National Assembly of Quebec. We have a common interest in the strength and continuation of the Canadian way of parliamentary self-government in all the provinces of Canada. We welcome the opportunity to compare with our colleagues from La Belle Province, the ways in which we do our work as elected representatives in the parliaments of our provinces.

In the name of all the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, I ask our distinguished colleagues from Quebec to stand and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
(continued)

MR. SPEAKER: Might I just take a moment to correct

an oversight. It isn't often that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly — in this regard, he somewhat resembles the Speaker — comes in to express personal opinions within the confines of the Chamber. Our new Clerk would like to have an opportunity to say a few words to the members on the occasion of his first day in the Assembly.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CLERK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to express to you my appreciation for the warm welcome accorded me on the occasion of my appointment as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. May I, through you, also express my appreciation to the hon. Mr. Hyndman, to Mr. Clark, and to all the members of this Assembly.

I consider myself genuinely fortunate to have been the successful candidate in the vigorous competition for this post. I in turn wholeheartedly commit myself to carrying out the duties of my office and to the preservation of its long-established traditions to the very best of my ability. I am keenly aware of the fact that I must accord the highest priority to the provision of service to all members of this House in accordance with its established rules and traditions. I am extremely pleased, Mr. Speaker, to have found myself among a very capable and dedicated group of co-workers who have readily demonstrated their willingness to assist and counsel. Their help is very much appreciated, especially so during this initial period of familiarization.

My family shares with me a great joy at having this opportunity to settle in Alberta. We are proud and fortunate to be Canadians. I am confident that we shall become increasingly proud and will consider ourselves fortunate to be Albertans as well. We eagerly look forward to many happy years in this Legislature and in this great province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for having allowed me to address this distinguished Assembly. [applause]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**
(*reversion*)

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to introduce to you and to the members of the Assembly 30 Grade 7 students from Lloydminster. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Butcher, and are seated in the public gallery. I would ask that these special guests rise so that we may pay our respect.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

Municipal Revenues

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The question flows from the recent AUMA convention at Jasper. Mr. Speaker, the question is: is the Government of Alberta giving serious consideration

to the concept of revenue sharing with Alberta municipalities?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I attended the AUMA meeting in Jasper. Of course, the essence of that meeting was the pressure toward revenue sharing. At this point I have not received the official resolution from the AUMA, so I really don't know what they're requesting.

I think it's important that we sort out what is being suggested and what is being done in the province, and at a later date I could probably go into that. But at this point I have not received their position. I'll be waiting for that opportunity to reply to it.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Is the Government of Alberta, through the committee headed by Mr. Ellis, actively considering and looking at the concept of revenue sharing with the municipalities in Alberta?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Municipal Finance Council, as headed by Mr. Ellis, is indeed reviewing the question of responsibilities in service areas. By that I mean: what has the provincial government done in the past five or six years to alleviate the pressure on the property tax and to move into the position of assisting municipalities more directly? I only have to talk about the school foundation program, the hospital program, and other forms of direct assistance. Certainly, we are trying to determine and to delineate the responsibility areas. That will be forthcoming sometime this fall.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a supplementary question to the Deputy Premier, flowing from his comments at the same conference. Was the Deputy Premier speaking on behalf of the Government of Alberta when he announced, not to the convention but to the news media . . .

MR. NOTLEY: The CBC.

MR. CLARK: . . . that income tax revenue sharing was unworkable and municipalities were children of the provincial government?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I was commenting in my role as an individual MLA. My concern was with regard to the increased needs of our municipalities for additional revenues and how they might secure those. In my view, I felt their proposition of revenue sharing of a particular kind of tax, or whatever, would put them in a strait jacket and wouldn't really do the job they wanted.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Deputy Premier. In light of the fact that the Deputy Premier chose not to speak about revenue sharing to the AUMA, but spoke to the media after, has the Deputy Premier apologized to the AUMA for his conduct?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I don't know how naive my honorable friend can get. Surely we as members of this Legislature can respond to questions from the media. That's all I was doing at that time. My speech

to the AUMA dealt with matters which I'm more at home with, those of transportation and the great job this government has done over the past five years in providing the necessary funds to those municipalities.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Premier. Has the Premier met with the president of the AUMA, as has been requested?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I think a meeting is scheduled with a delegation of the AUMA sometime in November. Perhaps the Minister of Municipal Affairs might elaborate.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, in a normal sense the AUMA makes a presentation to members of Executive Council, and they outline the many resolutions which are passed by them. We have an opportunity to comment both on the resolutions and on matters of joint and considered concern to the province of Alberta and the municipalities.

Municipal Government Jurisdiction

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Can the Premier advise the Assembly whether or not the Deputy Premier's particular choice of words, "children of the province", represents the official position of the Government of Alberta as it relates to municipal government in this province?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I don't particularly favor that word, but neither do I favor the word that has been used so frequently in this Legislature over the years referring to the municipalities as "creatures" of the Legislature. If I have to choose between the two — and I am not sure that I want to. I think basically what the Deputy Premier, who can speak for himself, was attempting to point out is the very important constitutional difference that exists under our constitution in Canada. We have a situation where exclusive sovereignty in jurisdiction rests with provincial governments and with the federal government. No such provision applies in our constitution to municipal governments. Constitutionally, municipal governments are not in the same relationship to the provincial government as the provincial government is to the federal government. As I understand it, the Deputy Premier was commenting in an attempt to explain that.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the hon. Premier. In light of concern not only in Alberta but across the country by municipalities for greater decision-making power, does the Alberta government favor some broader power at the local level?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I really think the nature of that question is more for debate. I certainly will raise it in the course of my remarks on Motion No. 2. I believe that in part it has been answered by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Labor's Day of Protest

MR. CLARK: I would like to direct the second question to the minister responsible for dealing with the public service, the Provincial Treasurer. What is the position of the government with regard to employees of the provincial government who do not come to work tomorrow, October 14. I'll be here; I hope you are.

AN HON. MEMBER: I'll be here. You don't have to worry about that.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, it depends on why they don't come to work. I assume the hon. Leader of the Opposition is referring to members of the provincial service who may stay away from work in order to take part in the protest which is being organized by labor. Our position is that those who do not come to work for that reason on October 14 will not be paid. That merely follows the usual rule that if you don't work, you don't get paid.

Through communications from the Public Service Commissioner and otherwise, we have also indicated that following October 14, when we will be in a position to assess what has occurred and have all the necessary information at hand, we will give consideration to some form of disciplinary measure against those employees.

Foothills Hospital — Kidney Transplants

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. The minister looks well rested.

Can the minister inform this House if the kidney transplant situation has been re-established, or if the problem of replacing Dr. Abouna has been solved?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View, earlier this week I spoke to the administration of the Foothills Hospital. They advise me that surgeons who will comprise the transplant team have now been appointed, and they expect to be making an announcement very shortly.

Provincial Grants Guidelines

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. In view of the fact that the restraint guidelines were announced on September 17 last year, so that local jurisdictions could plan can he advise the Assembly when the 1977 guidelines for health, hospital, education, and social service grants would be announced?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I can't give the hon. member an exact date when that might occur. It's under consideration, and I anticipate it will be done in the upcoming weeks.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. Will the

Provincial Treasurer give an undertaking that it will be done during the course of the fall session?

MR. LEITCH: No, Mr. Speaker.

Hospital Funding

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care concerning a memo sent to hospital administrators on August 5. Has the Government of Alberta supplied the Hospital Services Commission with a target figure for 1977 grant guidelines?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, the question from the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview borders on the earlier question to my colleague the Provincial Treasurer. With respect to hospital financing, the documents which flow between my officials of the Hospital Services Commission and the individual hospitals are a normal, annual, ongoing budgetary process. The important thing to emphasize, as my colleague the Provincial Treasurer just said, is that my cabinet colleagues and I have not as yet arrived at any decision on the level of hospital funding for the upcoming budget. In my view, until such time as that decision has been made, the other matters going on are simply exploratory between officials and the hospital committee.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Can the minister inform the House whether or not a preliminary target figure has been supplied to the Alberta Hospital Services Commission, which would have prompted them to send out the memo I referred to?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I think it's basically that the officials of the Commission, in working with the hospitals, have done their own — which I support — exploratory procedures with individual hospitals, not through any direction from me as the minister. They will not have any direction from me as the minister, or official direction, until such time as my cabinet colleagues and I have made a decision as to the actual level of funding for hospitals for the upcoming budget year.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, one final supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the government considering any contingency plans to cushion the impact of possible 'de-controls', particularly as they relate to hospital budgets? Mr. Speaker, the reason I say that is, as members know, that the temporary inflation program expires the end of March 1977. Is any consideration now being given, either by the government or by the Hospital Services Commission, to providing some additional funding to cushion the impact of possible 'de-controls'?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not totally sure of the import of that question. Probably I have to refresh the hon. member's mind that the public expenditure increase restraint policy of this government does not solely apply to the hospital or health care field. It

applies to all major public expenditure areas, as the hon. member knows. The decision relative to the future of that, basically, is within the total cabinet context but does not confine itself solely to the portfolio of Hospitals and Medical Care. Perhaps my colleague the Provincial Treasurer might want to expand on my answer.

MR. CLARK: A supplementary question to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Is it his intention to introduce at the fall session this year legislation which would make it possible for hospital boards to have supplementary requisitions, in light of their inability to meet some of their legitimate costs?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I think I had indicated to the Legislature that my particular approach to future policy in the hospital and medical care field was that all questions should be considered, that a question was better considered and rejected than not considered at all, that when I and my colleagues have made a decision relative to the specific matter which the hon. leader raises, the Legislature and the people of Alberta will be advised.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Could the minister perhaps clarify somewhat for me? Does that mean we will not have legislation forcing supplementary requisitions on hospitals during this session, but will likely have it in the spring?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I don't think the hon. leader needs to be concerned about legislation on that matter in the fall sittings.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, one further supplementary question. Could the minister indicate to the House the results of the survey that he got back from hospitals across the province when he asked them whether they needed supplementary requisitions to meet legitimate health care costs at local levels? Generally were more in favor or more against supplementary requisitions?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, first of all I would emphasize that my desire as minister to achieve input from a wide cross-section of people in Alberta with respect not solely to this matter, but to many other questions, a broad variety of questions in the hospital and medical care field, was not in the nature of a survey but in assisting me through an educational process to determine what longer term policy directions we should eventually bring before this Legislature. In due course I will have had an opportunity to consider all the input from many different areas and to propose to my colleagues, and ultimately the Legislature, the kinds of policy directions in the longer term which we believe will improve overall hospital and medical care services for Albertans.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask one final supplementary question to clarify an answer the hon. minister gave to the very first question I posed to him, that is the target budgets. Do I take it from the hon. minister's answer that the target budgets which have been sent out to hospital administrators in this province come strictly from the

Hospital Services Commission and in no way, shape, or form reflect the policy or position of the Government of Alberta?

MR. MINIELY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview has put it in a somewhat different context than I earlier described it. I encourage, and I believe that every member of this Legislature would encourage, the self-initiative of officials of any department working with hospitals to explore general budgetary parameters, or what the needed levels may be. Having said that, that does not in any way predicate the decision, other than an advisory one, that officials would bring forward to me, and in turn, from me to the Premier and my cabinet colleagues, in determining what the actual level of hospital funding for the upcoming budget year should be.

Beef Exports/Imports

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Is the government taking any action on the imposition of beef import quotas announced by the President of the United States the other day?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, no direct action has been taken by this government. I should, however, indicate to the members that the action taken by President Ford in signing a declaration which controls imports of beef to the United States is a global control of imports to that country.

More recently, at noon today in fact, the Undersecretary of State for Agriculture, Mr. Bell, is quoted as having said he's hoping that will not affect the importation of meat from Canada to the U.S., such as has been taking place during the last eight or nine months. In addition to that, the federal Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Whelan, is quoted today as having made a commitment to place imports of beef and veal to Canada on an individual permit basis, effective next Sunday.

So, Mr. Speaker, the offshoot of the whole matter may be that the action of the United States has resulted in an action in Ottawa by Mr. Whelan consistent with what we and western cattlemen's organizations have been asking for for some months, and that's a better and stricter control of the importation of offshore beef, particularly from Australia and New Zealand.

Wage Control Program

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Premier. Is it still the intention of the government to continue the wage control program to March of 1977?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, the government has made no decision on that matter. I'd like to refer to some aspects of it later on this afternoon during the course of debate under Motion No. 2.

Civil Service Growth

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Premier. Is it the intention of the government to hold the civil service growth in Alberta to less than 1 per cent, in line with the Prime Minister's announcement in the federal throne speech?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we look at the question of civil service growth on the basis of the services required by the people. We have looked at it consistently on the basis of the needs of the citizens of this province and the requirement to provide effective administration of those programs.

Anti-inflation Program

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the Premier. Does the Premier intend to hold public hearings before the Public Affairs committee of the Legislature on the question of Alberta's continuation in the anti-inflation program?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we do not. We welcome the views of [legislators] who, we hope, have been consulting with their constituents over the course of the last five months.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Can the Premier advise the Assembly whether the federal government has requested Alberta to extend the Temporary Anti-Inflation Measures Act beyond the March 31 deadline?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, we have received no official communications of that nature from the federal government.

Cow-Calf Program

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Could the minister indicate to the Assembly whether any discussions were held with Ottawa prior to the announcement of the cow-calf assistance program for this province?

MR. MOORE: Yes, indeed, Mr. Speaker. Discussions were held at the official level and communication did flow back and forth between myself and the federal Minister of Agriculture for a period of eight or nine months before the announcement was made by the Government of Alberta with regard to the cow-calf assistance program.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement was made after the federal government failed in their obligations to inform us whether or not they would have a national cow-calf stabilization program by September 15 of this year. It was after not having received that information and learning that there would be a further delay in their decision-making process that the provincial program was announced.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did the federal government offer any specific

assistance in this area when the discussions were on?

MR. MOORE: No, Mr. Speaker, there was never an offer from Ottawa of any kind of program.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the application forms be going out to the district agriculturalists in the near future for the registration of the cow herds in the province?

MR. MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would hope they will be in all offices probably next week.

MR. KING: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the hon. minister advise why the government opted for this program rather than the course of action followed by the Government of Saskatchewan?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, quite frankly, it was our view that some action was necessary after our producers had suffered some three years of prices below the cost of production. It continues to be our view that that action should be at a national level and should involve a national stabilization program as well as a national agricultural policy that would recognize the importance of the beef industry to Canada.

That would involve some restrictions on the importation of offshore beef, some renegotiation of the tariff structures between the United States and Canada. It's our view that if those efforts were made on a concerted basis in Ottawa to improve the market place, it would not be necessary to have provincial *ad hoc* one-shot programs across Canada.

I can assure the members of the House that the efforts of this government will continue in the direction of insisting that Ottawa act as it properly should in improving the market place so that beef producers, the large majority of whom are located in Alberta, get a fair return for their production efforts.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. In light of the minister's answer, is the government in a position to advise the Assembly whether Ottawa has closed the door on any sort of commitment or whether there is any target date for federal initiative in this regard?

MR. MOORE: My understanding is that the federal Minister of Agriculture wants once again, possibly in mid-December at the time of the annual Outlook Conference, to discuss with provincial ministers of agriculture the provision of a national stabilization program. I can only say that for some two years now that has been a subject of discussion on a number of agendas at meetings of provincial and federal ministers of agriculture, and we would not have the provincial programs in many of the provinces if action had been taken at the federal level. It wasn't. The result was the provincial program. I'm hopeful that something still can be worked out, but it has been very discouraging in terms of the lack of action at the Ottawa level.

Education Standards

MR. LITTLE: Mr. Speaker, may I address my question to the hon. Minister of Education. In view of the apparently low standards of quality of reading and writing exhibited by high school graduates entering postsecondary institutions of education in this province, and the concern expressed by both educators and parents in this situation, does the minister envisage any changes in the Alberta school curricula?

MR. KOZIAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, that's a very timely question. Action is being taken in two areas. I appreciate the controversy that exists, particularly in Calgary. But I should point out to the members of the Assembly first of all the appointment and the first meeting of the Curriculum Policies Board, which will be considering such matters as the curriculum that students in our basic education system are required to master, including whether perhaps too many options are fed their way, whether sufficient emphasis is placed on the acquisition of basic skills, whether Canadian history is given sufficient treatment in our basic education system. Even more timely, of course, was the announcement I made yesterday, Mr. Speaker, on the appointment of the advisory committee, composed of representatives of the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Alberta School Trustees' Association, the Alberta Federation of Home & School Associations, the Alberta Federation of Labour, the Alberta Chamber of Commerce, which will be providing the Department of Education and me with advice with regard to the levels of achievement of students in this province.

Now this is a matter of concern not only in Alberta, but throughout Canada and North America. Hopefully the committee will point the way to evidence which will either prove or disprove the current charges and will provide a basis for future action.

DR. PAPROSKI: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. In addition to the low level of the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic that is well known, is the minister considering introducing compulsory physical fitness in elementary, junior, and senior high schools, in view of the low level of physical fitness in our society?

MR. KOZIAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all I'm not well aware that the basic acquisition of skills is at the level suggested by the hon. member. As a matter of fact, recent essays written by Grades 4, 5, and 6 students on rural safety would indicate the highest level of achievement in many years. This is taken from the words of markers who have been marking these essays for the past 17 years. Although charges like these are made from time to time, they aren't necessarily with foundation. That's the purpose of this committee, to find the evidence that this either exists or does not exist.

I'm afraid, Mr. Speaker, we may find that part of the problem, and this is conjecture on my part and not fact, is that maybe the dish, the banquet, we're feeding to students in our school system is too much to digest within 12 years, or 12.5 years which includes our early childhood services. The more that people ask for compulsory plug-in of various programs, such as environment education, consumer

education, law education, sex education, family life education, the more these are plugged in, something must be taken away from other areas as a result. So I would caution hon. members in their requests for additional work that students might be forced to work at during the course of the 12 years to have in mind the particular concerns I pointed out.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would respond to the specific. Is the minister considering introducing a physical fitness program in elementary junior high as part of the basics in order that our level of physical fitness will improve?

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker there is now some provision for physical education in our elementary curriculum. But I would also raise the question, Mr. Speaker: what in fact is the role of the community, what is the role of society, what is the role of the parent in providing for the level of physical condition that we would like our children to reach?

DR. BUCK: Maybe the Department of Education could get an agricultural grant and make a complex, and they'd all go broke together.

Alberta Game Farm

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife and has to do with the Alberta Game Farm. Have there been any direct negotiations between the minister or other members of the government and the owners of the Alberta Game Farm?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, not recently. We had some discussions with Dr. Oeming some time ago, at which time we indicated to him that we as a government were not prepared to purchase the game farm, but we were open to any requests or proposals that might come from any private sector organizations, foundations or whatever. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that there is one group of people forming a foundation and making a proposal to us right now. We have received the initial thrust. We have asked for more information, and they haven't brought that to us as yet.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate to the Legislature if the government has made a proposal as to what assistance they would give a foundation, if one were struck, to help with the purchase of the game farm?

MR. ADAIR: No, Mr. Speaker, we haven't really set any particular guidelines. We have asked the people, whoever they may be, who may be interested in submitting a proposal to us to lay that proposal before us, and we would consider almost all aspects. It can be loans, the possibility of a grant, although I did indicate to practically everybody that the grant possibilities were the least acceptable at this particular point. But we wouldn't rule them out.

Beyond that, of course, we have the one application before us, as I said. When the information we have requested comes back to us we will certainly give it serious consideration.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister or the cabinet given consideration to the purchase of the farm and converting it into a provincial park?

MR. ADAIR: No, Mr. Speaker.

Flu Vaccine

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. Can the minister inform the Assembly as to the availability of the swine flu vaccine, and when the health authorities in the province will be vaccinating the citizens?

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am unable to give a date of delivery of the vaccine since we have been unable to obtain a date from the federal government, which has assumed responsibility for collecting the vaccine and filling the orders we placed many months ago. Until we know the date that we will receive it, we are unable to put our plans into effect. I would like to advise this House that a good operational plan is in place. It will be delivered through the public health units. They have done all their preliminary planning, Mr. Speaker. When the vaccine arrives, it is our best information that the bivalent will be the first. It will be given to those who are considered target risks, that is, those with chronic diseases and the elderly. It will be distributed as best we can. Until we get some further information from the federal government, I am unable to give any specific dates.

MR. PURDY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. In view of the decision by about eight authorities in the United States in the last couple of days, will the minister be reassessing our position on total vaccination?

MISS HUNLEY: We're continually reassessing our proposals. We do that in conjunction with other ministers of health. Recently we met and made some decisions about the best system we could use for Canadians.

I think the new development in the States has received some unfortunate publicity. My information was obtained from the director of the division of local health services from the communicable disease centre in Atlanta, Georgia. That centre is not recommending that they cease vaccinations. They are not convinced that 10 deaths occurred as a result of vaccination. As a matter of fact, three deaths occurred in Allegheny County, in Pittsburgh, soon after the vaccination. All three were high-risk elderly people, all of whom had a history of coronary artery disease — that was out of 10,000 people — and according to the communicable disease centre in Atlanta, they are not directly attributable to the vaccine. I would like to stress that. Two occurred in Oklahoma; two in Tennessee, both elderly with previous heart disease; one in South Carolina, and that person happened to die before receiving the vaccine, but while reading the consent form, [laughter] I'm not sure whether this has rather far-reaching implications or not. One occurred in Florida — previous

heart disease and heart surgery; and one occurred in Georgia four days after vaccination. So I'd like to assure all hon. members that we are not convinced any of those deaths occurred as a result of vaccination.

Library Development

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture. It flows from the fact that the Minister of Culture has been squired around the province by officials of the Alberta Library Association. I'd like to ask the minister if it is his intention to bring forth supplementary estimates at this fall session of the Legislature which would give additional financial support to Alberta libraries.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, of course we're all aware of the financial restraints imposed upon us not only by the federal government, but also by our budget. Therefore, I do not intend to bring in supplementary estimates. However, we are working on improvement of the Alberta library system not only in financial support, but in other support areas such as the establishment of an Alberta library board, workshops for librarians who happen to be voluntary helpers in the library systems of Alberta, and other items which could improve the library system in this province.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. When does the minister plan to have the regulations completed which flow from the legislation dealt with in the spring session this year, The Libraries Amendment Act, 1976? When will those regulations be complete and available to library boards, and when might we expect the appointment of the library development board?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, to the first question I could reply that once cabinet has approved the improvement of the library system and its support in Alberta, we will start to work on the regulations. As far as the second item is concerned, again, as soon as we know in which direction we are going with our library development in Alberta, we will be able to appoint the library board.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, one further supplementary question from the minister's first answer. Did I understand the minister to say that the department would start to work on the regulations? You mean no work has been done on the regulations since the act was approved in the spring session?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has formerly been a member of a cabinet, he well knows that at all times when certain developments of policies are being discussed, one has regulations in the background which are being prepared for that kind of policy and/or the act which happens to be under discussion. In order to have regulations, however, one would have to know what kind of budgetary appropriations are being approved by the Legislature. Therefore regulations could not, of course, be approved before then.

DR. BUCK: In other words, you've done nothing.

Patriation of the Constitution

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Premier. With reference to bringing our constitution home and the recent premiers' conference in Toronto, was there agreement on bringing the constitution back to Canada before we had reached agreement on an amending formula?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, no, that matter was not agreed on among the premiers or between the premiers and the Prime Minister.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary. Was there any support from the other provinces for a veto for each province, as suggested by the province of Alberta?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, there was not.

MR. TAYLOR: One further question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know how Premier Bennett rationalized his request for a veto for B.C. and opposed a veto for the province of Alberta.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, it is a very complex subject. Rather than dealing with it in the question period, it is the government's intention to propose during the course of this fall session a resolution on this matter, when I think all members would have an opportunity to express their views.

Planning Act

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. It flows from an answer he gave during the last days of the spring session concerning the provincial planning act. Is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly of the reasons for the failure to table a position paper or to prepare and submit for distribution a position paper and to have legislation ready for the fall session?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, during the spring sittings I did advise the Assembly that I hoped to be able to bring forward the new planning act, an act which has major significance in land-use planning in the province of Alberta. In the considerations which were given to us, we took the position that the elected people should make the legislation. As a result of that we have spent an awful lot of time going through the act, giving consideration not only to the principles involved in that legislation, but weighing very carefully the recommendations of the land-use committee. As a result of those deliberations and attempts, we have not been able to get the act prepared for fall legislation.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly whether or not a draft of the act will be ready so it can be distributed to various municipalities in the province, so MLAs will have an

opportunity to meet with the municipalities they represent before actually having to vote on the legislation?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview recalls, there was ample opportunity for input to this legislation. I do think that when it is introduced there will ample opportunity for participation not only in the Assembly, but certainly by elected officials outside.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question for clarification. Is it the intention of the government to introduce it in the Assembly during the spring session of 1977, then hold it over until the fall so there can be that kind of input?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I haven't had the advice of caucus on that important matter. My own feeling is that we would introduce it early in the spring of 1977 and would likely pass it in that session.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

head: GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

2. Mr. Lougheed proposed the following motion to the Assembly:

Be it resolved that this Assembly approve in general the operations of the government since the adjournment of the spring sittings.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, in addressing myself to this motion, I would like to say how much I as the leader of government welcome the opportunity to report to the Assembly on the operations of government during the course of the approximate five months we have been in recess. I look upon the fall session, which was an innovation initiated by this government, as a very useful occasion for accountability, for an opportunity for us to respond to questions by the legislators, and I'm very happy to do so. A great deal has happened, and that of course is natural in these dynamic times.

During the course of these five months, I started preparing my remarks. I had my usual warning from my colleague, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, about the extent of my remarks. Then when I got involved in them, I added up the extent of the breadth and the scope of government activity over the course of these five months and the degree of the issues that face us, and it's apparent that it is extremely extensive.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I know of no government in Canada that has made a greater effort to be accessible to the people of this province. We've had two cabinet tours since we recessed. The first one was in June when we visited over 32 communities of various sizes in central Alberta, some very small. In September we had a second cabinet tour from Banff into the southeastern part of the province, including Medicine Hat, where we again visited some 27 communities in the province. In many areas that we

were in, when we reviewed it the ministers were told that groups of cabinet ministers had seldom, if ever, visited their particular communities, and on many occasions where I had travelled, never before had they met a Premier. I think it's important for the leader of government to visit smaller communities as well as large.

It was very interesting in our assessment, Mr. Speaker, of our two cabinet tours in Red Deer and Medicine Hat . . . I've said before, and say again in this House, that I'm often puzzled by the nature of some of our debates, some of our questions; they seem so different from the views that our citizens in walks of life throughout the province seem to find uppermost in their minds.

I was very pleased that the response, particularly by the smaller communities, is that the depression that seemed to grip a fair amount of rural Alberta and the smaller communities in the '60s is no longer there. There's a feeling of confidence. They know that the potential for growth is up to each individual community, their enterprise and their own initiative. They do recognize that with growth there will be the penalties or the problems of growth. The recognition of coping with those problems is important to them, and a considerable amount of our discussion evolved around matters such as our water and sewer programs, our paving programs within municipal areas, the improvements in our secondary road systems, the overall water supply aspects for their communities. These were the sorts of things on the minds of the citizens as we met with them. They did make it abundantly clear to us though, Mr. Speaker, that they much preferred dealing with and grasping with the problems of growth than those of declining populations and fading communities.

I'm pleased too, Mr. Speaker, that over the course of these five months the ministers have been constantly on the move throughout Alberta, not just here in the capital. This naturally raises some complaints. The ministers are not at the beck and call of certain established groups. Frankly, I'm happy that that's the case. I think they should be in the field and on the move, talking to citizens about real problems and not just to interest groups.

Mr. Speaker, in this 18th Alberta Legislature we have commenced a practice in the Speech from the Throne of outlining priorities in a given session of the Legislature for the government to debate in the Legislative Assembly. Hon. members will recall there were five priorities for this second session: expanded housing and accommodation, law enforcement and justice, workers' health and safety, land-use planning for people, and improvements in the education curriculum.

I'm pleased to report to the members of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that there has been good progress for the first four; not yet enough in improving an education curriculum, but we anticipate that this will continue as a priority during the course of next year.

As far as expanded housing and accommodation for our citizens, it's been just an outstanding record, an excellent record, in starts this year. And I think it's fair to say that the Alberta Housing Corporation, the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation, and of course the Minister of Housing and Public Works with the many due programs that took our attention and effort

during the latter half of 1975 have proven their effectiveness. The statistics indicate that to this date and for this year the number of starts in this province is going to be almost double, and I think that's very important.

I think it's clear, too, that the programs announced in a very extensive presentation earlier in the spring by the Minister of Housing and Public Works . . . It was unfortunate that it seemed to be an occasion when perhaps not the highest level of public attention was granted to the remarks. But he gave a tremendous overview of the breadth of the housing programs we have in this province: the starter home ownership program, the core housing incentive program, and many others. I know there isn't a province in Canada [with] even close to the effort being made by this province in terms of housing, and I think it has met that priority very well.

The second priority in the Speech from the Throne was in the areas of law enforcement and justice. In the field of law enforcement — the Solicitor General is not with us today; he is attending a conference in Calgary — I think members will be interested that we're the first province with substantial additional support to urban municipal police forces. From time to time there is, I think, a convenient lack of recognition — and I'll deal with this later in my remarks — of the very substantial additional support that has been directed to urban municipalities by this government on a budgetary basis.

The Solicitor General wanted me to report that these funds have been well used in such crime prevention projects as neighborhood watch, block parents, juvenile squads, and increased traffic enforcement, and that they have bolstered the successful Check Stop program.

In the area of corrections, there have been some important new initiatives. The work-for-fine programs have been set up in the probation services to reduce the number incarcerated as a result of non-payment of fines. Also the wilderness challenge program for young offenders at Nordegg increases the work activity in our Alberta institutions and our bush camps as part of an overall philosophy of the government in that area of corrections.

The Attorney General, following through on the priority of the Kirby Board of Review, has continued to improve and modernize the administration of justice in light of the many recommendations contained there. Several new provincial court judges have been appointed. Many additional Crown attorneys and court reporters have been employed to speed up the process of the courts. The physical facilities of the courts, particularly in the rural areas, have been modernized. Court administrative procedures are being streamlined by new techniques and new technology. Crown attorneys are working with the police to ensure that no unnecessary enforcement proceedings are being taken against our citizens. The Provincial Court Reorganization Agency and the Attorney General have jointly launched a special project to continue these improvements. There is going to be special emphasis on case-flow management, witness scheduling, criminal case processing, and diversion of traffic cases to a speedier and more convenient solution for people.

A number of additional new initiatives can be expected from the Attorney General shortly as we

move to strengthen the administration of justice and citizen protection. Mr. Speaker, this is an area that we've all admitted has been neglected for many years in the province. It deserves the high priority it has had in the 18th Alberta Legislature in the second session, and it's currently receiving it.

The third area of priority is in the field of occupational health and safety. Members will recall that we made this undertaking on the basis of the importance of improving health and safety in the work place for our citizens in the labor force — again, an area neglected for many years. We followed through on the Gale Commission report. We put in place under one umbrella an effective occupational health and safety services division under the Department of Labour. The new legislation, as members will recall, has been enacted, the regulations are being promulgated, and next spring the minister, no doubt, will be able to give us a full-year report of progress. But I think it's fair to say right now that we have established the necessary ground work, as we said we would do in terms of that priority for this session.

The fourth area of priority was land-use planning for people. Members will recall that we had a good debate in the spring on the Land Use Forum recommendations. We have had a government caucus committee working on this, chaired by the Member for Banff. A number of recommendations should be ready for next spring. They rejected out of hand, and I think appropriately so, the recommendation of the Land Use Forum regarding changes in trespass law.

We have seen three very significant areas of action in terms of land use over the course of the summer. One of the keys of the Land Use Forum, one of the essential features of our government's policy in terms of land use, is preservation of agricultural land. The government made a very major decision, a very bold and dramatic decision, when it moved under the basis of the new arrangements under the coal policy, which I'll deal with in a minute, to decide that the Dodds-Round Hill project, as conceived, was not in the best interests of Albertans because it would disturb too much prime agricultural land in comparison with other potential plains coal fields.

I think this, perhaps more than many other actions we've taken, underlines the commitment of this government to the preservation of agricultural land, but also to the preservation of our environment. I think it will have implications as reflected in documents tabled today by the Minister of Utilities and Telephones. It was a decision made after considerable thought; not an easy decision, but one that we feel under the circumstances will serve Alberta well. And we're fortunate indeed in having alternate places for coal supply to generate electricity. Mr. Speaker, I think that Dodds-Round Hill decision will emerge as a very important milestone for this administration.

Mr. Speaker, in the question period I was interested that no questions about the coal policy announced in June were directed to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. It's been a controversial subject, but we think it is a very good balance between development and protection of the environment. The coal policy set aside in our province many key areas of land use where environmental or recreational features can be maintained and neither exploration nor development will be permitted. Other

areas were set aside in that coal policy in which there would be no development unless there could be full assurance of satisfactory reclamation.

I'm aware, Mr. Speaker, of the criticism of that policy. The criticism was that we went too far on the side of building in a royalty scheme, too far on the side of preservation, particularly of our eastern slopes, and that there will be inadequate development of coal projects in this province to the economic detriment of Alberta. I don't think that will prove to be the case. Since we announced the policy we've already seen some permits issued. We've already seen some action on a number of fronts. But like Dodds-Round Hill, it is a concrete example of this government's attitude toward land use as related to people, not merely economics. I guess I was slightly disturbed, and I'm sure the word "slight" is an appropriate adjective, when I heard about a recent meeting — again, I suppose it's normal they are held in Ottawa, a lot of them are — at which they discussed Alberta's coal. The discussion was on the basis of, what does Alberta think it's doing with its coal policy in setting it up in such a way that it's not going to destroy the beauty of this province and the eastern slopes, and that we are not going to do everything Ontario wants us to do — ship it down to Ontario for their cheap electricity. I don't accept that position at all.

Mr. Speaker, another important area in this field of land use is the question of foreign absentee ownership of land. Members will recall statements I made in the House in December and further follow-up statements earlier in the spring session. The data we made public during the summer indicates that it's not yet a significant problem. But we are making some progress — I suppose when you are dealing with the federal government in enough areas you're bound to make some progress — in terms of clearing away obstacles.

I hope to be able to report to members of the Assembly the progress we've made in terms of setting a framework for legislation that will not be of a kind that will separate Canadians between provinces. I know some members have proposed legislation of that nature. I don't think it's right, in Canada's interests, if we can avoid it. If we can't avoid it, maybe we'll have to go that route. But I think we should try every way we can to be able to ascertain that we could bring in legislation that could really be foreign absentee ownership of land and not exclude people across this country from having ownership interest in lands in different provinces. I don't think that's a good policy for Canadians. So I hope to be able to report further on that.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I think we've had very good progress in four of the five priority areas. Regarding further improvements in education curriculum, circumstances are such that we're going to have to wait until the third session. Considerable effective preparatory work in the area of curriculum has been done concurrently by the caucus education committee and now by the establishment by the minister of the Curriculum Policies Board. The minister, in the course of the question period today, developed the approach he is moving toward in terms of identifying levels of achievement, which is an equally significant part of the matter of curriculum improvement, and tied very closely to it. I think it should continue to

remain near the top of our priority over both the third and fourth sessions of the 18th Alberta Legislature.

By the way, in my own travels through the province and in listening to people, both in my own constituency and in Alberta, I sense they are looking for the government to play a larger role than has been the case in the past in the area of curriculum content. That's my sense and feel of the mood of the citizens, and we're here to represent them. I'd like to assure you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that we intend to respond to that.

In the fall session of the Legislature, the House leader has advised me that we'll have approximately 40 bills, including the four on the Order Paper. They will include the capital projects division legislation, the first appropriation bill under the Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

Since the session adjourned a major issue has emerged, and that is Alberta's position on amending the constitution. The Member for Drumheller asked me about that in the question period, Mr. Speaker, and I responded by saying it would be our intention to provide a motion in this Assembly for debate that would ascertain the position of the members of the Assembly on the constitution and, in particular, on the amending formula.

Mr. Speaker, since we adjourned the government has had to face the decision, under the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, of its initial investment portfolio of \$1.5 billion, which we announced on August 30. The largest single item was \$300 million for social and economic investment in housing, which provides a solid, long-term investment for citizens of this province. I think that's a very effective use of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. In essence, if I could explain it this way, Mr. Speaker, it will provide our future citizens with the security of the mortgages that are provided at going interest rates throughout Alberta in the many, many programs — some \$300 million to date, a very extensive approach — all of them brought together as debentures. I think it's an excellent investment for us; probably one of the most obvious, I suppose, on one hand, and as well one of the most useful, for us in the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

We also applied nearly a quarter of a billion dollars for energy resource development. Some people criticized this, and I find it completely incomprehensible why. If we're putting aside a heritage savings trust fund, surely a portion of it should be put into the area of doing what we can to strengthen our resource revenue position at the time the conventional oil resources begin to decline. If we can do that through synthetic oil production, that's obviously a sound investment for us. The balance is placed in a relatively liquid basis, but it is going to yield us, and has been yielding us, an average of 9.4 per cent, essentially in short-term investments. Just to give members the picture, you'll recall that in addition to the \$1.5 billion, 30 per cent of each year's natural resource revenue flows into the fund. That will make the fund approximately \$2.1 billion in March 31, 1977. We hope to have our first audited statement presented by the Provincial Treasurer next spring. Of course, at the start of the third session we will be presenting to the Legislature for approval an appointment of a standing committee to review the fund in consultation with the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, the government's financial position is such that I do not yet have available the public accounts for the year March 31, 1976, or a six-month statement. But all indications from the Provincial Treasurer are that we have a solid record of responsible financial management, that our budget guidelines of 11 per cent seem to be followed with general acceptance in this province, and that there is little evidence of any significant hardship whatsoever. Frankly, I find it completely puzzling, and I can only say it this way, that people must be out of touch with their constituents if they do not recognize that in these days the vast bulk of our citizens wants a government exercising sound financial management responsibility of its affairs. It just puzzles me completely that there seems to be such an out-of-touch view. Certainly you can hear and talk to the self-interested groups, the people who have some particular pet projects. They're going to be asking for more, more, more. But the general citizens don't feel that way at all. If they want to continue on that basis and ignore the view of their constituents, Mr. Speaker, we'll see what will come.

Mr. Speaker, we're going into a difficult year of federal-provincial financial negotiation. There's renegotiation of the major cost-sharing programs of postsecondary, hospitals, and medical care. Since we adjourned, we have had a first ministers' meeting in June, a premiers' conference in August, and a provincial finance ministers' meeting in September.

Our position was essentially outlined to this Legislature during the spring session after the western premiers' conference, but I think it's important enough to underline just briefly Alberta's view: that we would be better off in these major cost-sharing programs if we saw to a transfer of tax points. The transfer of tax points would give us the flexibility as a province to meet our own particular priorities.

We're in the position today of having the largest number of acute hospital beds of any province in Canada as a result of the program in the '60s, when the federal program provided the so-called 50-cent dollars only in those areas, and not in the extended care areas. We all know, any of us who have been spending any time on this, that the weakness in the province today is that we have more than enough acute care beds, but we don't have enough extended care beds. That's where our shift is occurring. For that reason it's evident that we have to watch our priorities. It's unfortunate that the way the federal government set up these programs, by way of conditions, doesn't work particularly well for a province such as Alberta.

By the way, I should mention one of the concerns at the first ministers' meeting in June. We had a pretty extensive debate about the matter of postsecondary education. The requirement — I suppose that may be too strong a word — the view of the federal government was that it would like to see a national forum on education as one of the conditions of postsecondary . . . We resisted that quite strongly. In fact, Alberta took the lead in the resistance, and I believe it's true that when the education ministers met in Halifax just a few weeks ago, the general feeling was supportive of the Alberta position that that would not be in the interests of the country.

We really feel that if you move into standardization of education in this country, you're going to move

levels down. You're going to increase the degree of mediocrity in terms of education. I think it's healthy that there is an element of competition. I think for those who criticize the problem of mobility in our society, the Council of Ministers of Education has been making some progress in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Treasurer will no doubt be providing the Assembly with ongoing reports in this key area, important to Alberta, of federal-provincial financial negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a word about provincial/municipal finance. There's been a great deal of talk about this area ever since I got involved in public life back in 1965, and I'm sure 10 years from now they'll be discussing the same matters discussed here today. I think it's an ongoing problem. I go into other provinces and hear the same debate. And it's a good debate, one that should be presented.

But during the course of the summer an assessment was done by the Treasurer's Department, and checked by Municipal Affairs, which evaluates the degree of Alberta provincial support to municipal governments as compared with other provinces. The assessment concludes with two very important conclusions: first, that after making the appropriate population adjustments, the local sector in Alberta has the highest expenditure level in the country. Municipal governments are spending more in Alberta, as an average, than anywhere in the country. The second conclusion was that in Alberta the local sector, the municipal government, receives proportionately more support by provincial government grants than the Canadian average, and that this results in proportionately less use of property tax as a revenue source.

I think the real nature of this debate deals with two areas. [One is] the question of conditional versus unconditional grants. I think that is a good and valid debate. Members of the opposition may have different views, and that's fine. We look to the point of view that the direction of funds in areas such as transportation, police, and others is an appropriate role for provincial government. There is another view, of course: that we should very appropriately recognize the strength of local government. I think we do. It's a matter of degree, a matter of judgment.

The second question, of course, is whether or not there is a practical area in terms of revenue sharing of provincial government resources by the municipal government. I think we've been pretty clear that we're prepared, as the Minister of Municipal Affairs said in the Assembly today, to continue to examine these matters. But at least as matters stand now, the concept of taking a major provincial tax source, such as income tax, and assigning it in part to municipal governments is not our view of a policy that's sound for Albertans. We're prepared to keep an open mind on that question, but that's certainly our view at the moment. If other areas can be proposed — and we're anxious to hear the views of members of the opposition — where there can be appropriate revenue sharing, we're certainly open to considering them.

Mr. Speaker, I should mention during the course of this report that we've made two important organizational changes during the summer. The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources had concluded that additional ministerial attention was required to handle policy and administration in the area of public

land. We therefore appointed the Hon. Dallas Schmidt, the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Wetaskiwin-Leduc, as Associate Minister of Energy and Natural Resources responsible for public lands.

Mr. Speaker, we made one other administrative and organizational change: the 4-H programs were transferred from Recreation, Parks and Wildlife to Agriculture. These programs involve over 11,000 young Albertans. The government considers that 4-H has been most effective, and that this change will facilitate the better use by 4-H of the extension services of the Agriculture Department.

Mr. Speaker, I should also mention that we officially opened Government House on Heritage Day. I was delighted with the decision to invite the pioneers of the province to come and participate. And the way it was done was interesting. The various pioneers, old-timers, senior citizens, and historical organizations selected their own delegates, and they came from all around the province. I'm sure many of the members of the Assembly heard back, and it was most appropriate that they were there for the reopening and restoration of this historic building. Incidentally, I am sure it is the best conference centre in Canada, and permitted us to effectively and successfully host the seventeenth premiers' conference in August. Thereafter, our Ombudsman hosted an effective conference there of ombudsmen from all over the world. It's evident from the calendar that it will be a well-used building, and public tours have indicated the degree of public response.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move now into social areas, and health and hospitals first. During the recess there have been a number of highlights of activity in this area. We announced our commitment just a week ago to the Alberta health sciences centre at the University of Alberta. This should assure Alberta the lead in health care research in the country. It was very timely, because in the area of medical research, as you know, the federal government has been withdrawing from support.

Mr. Speaker, we're fortunate in having here in Alberta a nucleus of medical specialists of international reputation. I think we take it for granted a little too much, but it's certainly there. They will provide a very important nucleus.

The complex will be a patient referral centre not just for the one area of Edmonton, but for citizens all across the province, and will provide the finest diagnostic and health care services available, we think, in the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is an important step. We spent considerable time requiring and requesting a revision of the original plan for the Centennial Hospital. That time was worth it. Because I think all involved, even those who were concerned about the time element, feel the effort was worth while in that we've now come forward with a concept that is much better and much more in tune with our desires and our policies in terms of patient care.

Mr. Speaker, the government will be asking the Legislature for approval of commitment to the first stage, which should be completed within four years, of some \$86 million, the first portion of it as part of the appropriation bill for the capital projects division of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, also this summer the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care broke ground on the

construction of the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, which again I think we can say without equivocation is the finest overall child health care centre in Canada in terms of its concept, and will prove so in terms of its utilization.

We have continued with an expanded program of renovation and restoration of rural hospitals in Alberta. For some reason this seems to be an area that doesn't get the same degree of public attention that other areas do, and deserves it. The new health centre at Radway is a good example. It is a very extensively expanded program.

During the course of the summer, we also allotted funds for emergency facilities at Rockyview and Holy Cross Hospitals in Calgary. We also issued a special warrant for \$8.2 million for equal pay for equal work for the certified nursing aides in the province. Mr. Speaker, all in all a very important summer in the area of hospitals and health care.

Another area I would like to mention by way of report, Mr. Speaker, is the area of senior citizens. I had some concern with the administrative difficulties in some of these programs that cover a wide number of our citizens. During the course of last fall we worked very hard on the senior citizen housing improvement program, which you recall, Mr. Speaker, is a program for a \$1,000 grant to senior citizens of limited income to permit them to repair their homes and hopefully be in a position to stay in their homes for a longer period of time, because the large majority of them want to be able to be self-reliant and to keep up and maintain their homes.

I am pleased to report that over 24,000 Albertans have received these \$1,000 payments by way of grants from the citizens of the province, as we approved in our budget. I think it is a program that has been exceptionally well received and is very, very effective, and I think great credit is due to the Minister of Housing and Public Works. Future phases of that program will be announced in due course by the minister.

In the area of social services and community health, also during the summer the cabinet approved plans for five community-based resource centres for dependent handicapped persons in the Edmonton region. I remember the hon. minister leaving that cabinet room and saying there were tough days in this business, but that was one of the really key and important days in her life. I think it is important for me to take a moment to describe what is involved here. It permits the moving of some handicapped citizens from other parts of the province to the Edmonton area to bring them closer to their families. In addition to that, it provides a new approach of putting together with community involvement the training, the residential, and day facilities, a very positive step for the government in this area.

In Recreation, Parks and Wildlife we have had good progress in both metropolitan parks, the Capital City Park in Edmonton and the Fish Creek Park in Calgary. In addition to that, of course, [we] continued with our budgetary commitment of expanding the parks system throughout the province.

In Environment a considerable amount has also occurred during the summer recess. The overdue construction of the Red Deer regional water line has made good progress. We have had the public review, and will continue it, in the two important river flow

projects, the Red Deer and the Oldman. The Gull Lake stabilization, which I recall was discussed here for a number of years, became operational this fall. The government's concern respecting development around the two metropolitan areas was reflected in the restricted development areas, which are now completely in place.

In the area of Culture, Mr. Speaker, the highlight, and there were many of them, was obviously the opening of the Glenbow Centre. I don't know what one does in these situations. I winced a bit. I guess one lives with it. But we were involved, I believe, with \$9.1 million of provincial government money and, I think, 420,000 federal government dollars. For some reason the communication was such that it gave the impression it was a joint federal-provincial project. I took some umbrage at that. It was a project by the people of Alberta that provides one of the finest museum displays anywhere in the world, and I think a sound decision. I urge hon. members to go and take a look in their day of the month off, because it is going to be a centre for western Canadian history and artifacts.

I should mention too that we have continued with our program of decentralization of government services, as reflected in the regional offices of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I answered a question from the hon. Member for Little Bow, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the public service. I am sure further remarks on that score will be made by the Provincial Treasurer over the next few days. I just want to make one point, though. I don't think we can have it both ways. If we do want to have a provincial government not just concentrated in the capital in Edmonton, but able to service the people in this very large and vast province on a program of decentralization, we are going to have to accept some increase in the number of people. We can't have it both ways. Frankly, if I read the mood of the province, and certainly the mood of the MLA it is a recognition that that service has to be provided in many of the areas at the local or regional level, not just in the capital, and that's a factor.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, we also decided this summer that tenants in mobile home parks must receive at least one year's notice of eviction. We felt an unfairness was occurring, and we'll be bringing in legislation in this area.

I just want to reiterate that in assessing the social programs there is just absolutely no doubt about a fact, and if I say it a hundred times, I'll plan on saying it two hundred times, and so will most of the MLAs, because the citizens need to have it underlined. I think it is important for them to be aware of it. Alberta spends more in terms of education and health than any other provincial government in Canada, and it will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to some comments about the general state of the economy in Canada and in Alberta. The international economic recovery, which began last year, gathered pace in the first half of 1976, and most countries saw a moderation in the rate of inflation. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the OECD, in their recent economic outlook said that in the short term it looked like moderate growth through to the first half of 1977, with the United States, Japan, and possibly

France leading the way. Notice the absence of Canada in that comment. In the medium term, it would be difficult to project, but it was anticipated there would be moderate but sustained growth through to 1980.

Canada has not done nearly so well. As a nation we did come out of the economic recession throughout the western industrialized world, but with modest recovery. Canadians have had some progress on inflation from September to September. The consumer price index data indicates we are now down to a 6.5 per cent figure compared to 10.6 per cent a year ago.

But Canada is building up some very serious basic economic problems. In my view, in a few years Canada faces the prospect of a balance of payment crisis somewhat along the lines experienced by the United Kingdom in recent years. I know that's a strong statement, but I think it's one that should be made. It's caused for a couple of major reasons. First of all, over the past two years there's been no surplus on merchandise trade account. In addition to that it is anticipated that by 1980 our oil payments deficit, the acquisition from the Arab states of oil for the eastern part of our country, will add an additional \$2 billion a year of balance of payments deficits. The second factor is that provincial governments, I might say not Alberta, and corporations in the country have been borrowing heavily abroad. Last year, the net outflow of interest and dividends for Canada was \$2 billion. That's net. We've started to rise by stages and are now at the stage of \$500 million increase a year. That compares to only five years ago when it was \$100 million increase.

I don't think we can be here in the Alberta Legislature and not be aware and conscious of this. The federal government will face a major challenge to offset this balance of payments crisis, and I don't think "crisis" is too strong a word. Devaluation of the Canadian dollar has serious implications. There are implications in many ways for a country such as ours. As far as exports are concerned, we depend upon the effort made in terms of containing rising wages in the postcontrol period, because we have to compete in the international market place.

The other major Canadian economic problem is productivity. Many Canadian decision-makers, and this is very serious for Alberta at this stage of our development, are moving expansion plants south of the border where there is a higher level of productivity by labor. Alberta is not immune to it. It's a Canadian problem, but we're part of it. I suppose it's one that occurs for a number of reasons. But ATCO Industries, an Alberta-based company, and its president noted and elaborated again with me personally that its expansion program is quite clearly to the United States and not Canada. That's a fact that needs to be said, underlined, and is a deep concern in this Legislature. In September we in the cabinet met with the Young Presidents' Organization, some 30 of them — a very useful and effective dialogue and exchange. This was one of the important subjects we discussed. On the positive side, Mr. Speaker, wage settlements in the second quarter of 1976 show an average annual increase of base rates over the life of the agreement of 11.5 per cent. That's still pretty high compared to the United States. But when one looks at the lowest increase since the end of 1973

and compares with the peak of almost 19 per cent in the second quarter of '75, obviously we can't be competitive in a world situation and continue with settlements of that nature. The federal anti-inflation program deserves some credit for this and for the lowering of the cost of living, although food, being the major factor and the reason the consumer price index has declined, is not part of the federal anti-inflation program except in an indirect way. So we must give some credit at this stage to the federal anti-inflation program. I think we could have a good debate as to the degree.

As I mentioned during the question period, Mr. Speaker, the government is in the midst of an assessment as to whether or not it is to the best interest of Alberta to continue with The Temporary Anti-Inflation Measures Act beyond March 31, 1977, presuming the federal program also continues. As I said, I understand the Leader of the Opposition has some good ideas and suggestions as to what course we should follow, and we'll welcome hearing from him.

Mr. Speaker, the Alberta economy is something I would like to review: its present state, some important actions taken during the course of the summer by the provincial government, and conclude with some of my concerns about the future. When one looks at the present state of the Alberta economy, there's no question that Alberta's economy is the strongest in Canada today. The Bank of Montreal in their regional outlook put it this way:

The 1974-1975 recession was hardly felt in Alberta, Canada's boom province. Gains in all sectors exceeded the national averages in 1975 and in the vast majority of cases by a healthy margin.

This is continuing. Our unemployment on a seasonally adjusted basis in September is only 3.7 per cent, compared with 4.3 per cent a year ago. And here's an important piece of information for the members of the Assembly: today 46,000 more people are working in this province than there were 12 months ago. That's quite a healthy improvement.

Mr. Speaker, we continue with the highest participation rate in the labor force, which is also a positive feature for our province. Almost all indicators show that Alberta is in the lead in terms of retail trade, an increase of almost 20 per cent in the first half of '76 over '75 — retail trade of \$2.5 billion in that period, the largest increase of any province, which indicates, I believe, the confidence of our citizens. Manufacturing shipments are going up and exceed the national rate. And probably most important of all for those of us representing the citizens at large, the average weekly wages are growing much faster than in the nation as a whole.

On a price basis, it surprises me — I said this a year ago and said I didn't expect to say it a year later, but I'm still saying it; it's probably not likely I'll say it in the fall of 1977 — that despite being the boom province in Canada, our rate of inflation does not seem to be moving towards the top levels. It's staying at the national average. Frankly I don't think we can continue with that if we continue with the same growth factors. But it's interesting to see. The Agriculture Department's recent statistics on average retail food prices show a decline. Of course, Alberta continues to have the lowest priced gasoline at the

pumps, both at the retail and the self-service level.

In terms of consumable income, and that's important for us who represent the citizens, as you know Alberta has the lowest overall tax burden, which continues to be a major advantage to us. We looked at a recent study, and had it checked out, comparing Alberta with the gross domestic product as a proportion of tax burden relative to other provinces. Alberta is well below the rest of Canada in tax burden.

So Mr. Speaker, Alberta's economy, though still too dependent on oil and gas, is nevertheless an energy-based [one] today. It's a pleasure to be able to stand here in the Assembly as the leader of government and say that despite the problems and difficulties of '73, '74, and early '75, the energy industry has never been stronger in this province, nor investor confidence ever better. The cash bonuses to our Department of Energy and Natural Resources in the first eight months are at an all-time high of \$166 million. Exploration and development drilling has reached record levels.

It's not just in the non-renewable resources. Our economy is moving forward too in such areas as the forest industry. Back in the late '60s we heard talk about the difficulty of getting these projects off the ground in the Whitecourt constituency. I remember being there, and the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources was there only a few weeks ago at the opening of the Simpson Timber sawmill at Whitecourt, the first of a three-phase plan that's important. What's important about it? It's a renewable resource, it's diversification of our economy, and it's decentralization of our economy. And that's critical. In addition to that we've been able to negotiate an option for 40 per cent of the equity to be available for Albertans. That's the sort of project that reflects the policy of this government in its overall economic sense, and I think an important one. Mr. Speaker, the base industry of Alberta, though, remains agriculture. On the grain side we have been fortunate to have throughout most of the province a harvest that is, I think, exceptional. The recent reports are even encouraging with regard to some of the areas that have been slowed down in the harvest. The Minister of Agriculture advises me that the yields of our major crops are well above the average of the past five years. Prices, Mr. Speaker, are generally lower than last year; that is true for wheat and the feed grains but not for the oil seeds. Of course, in this area we're still very dependent, and let's admit it, upon world climatic conditions and upon the demands in countries such as Russia and China for wheat over the world — hence wheat supplies, grain supplies, and grain pricing.

The farm input costs, like prices, fortunately have moderated. I'm advised that a few of them have even substantially declined — some of the matters that were raised here in the House two years ago. The forecast is that for '76 and '77 farm incomes and expenditures or input costs will stabilize at slightly lower levels than the record highs of '74 and '75.

Mr. Speaker, on the livestock side all MLAs are aware that beef cattle prices have been depressed over the last three years. We brought in our cow-calf support program for 1976. We announced it in late September. I would say it has generally been very well received. A \$40 million special program, payment not to exceed \$50 per calf to producers, will benefit 23,000 operators throughout this province by

an average of \$1,700. We must have thought it through well, because I am advised that the Saskatchewan government today announced an almost identical program. Mr. Speaker, I intend . . .

MR. CLARK: I wouldn't want you to think that's some kind of criterion you could usually use . . .

MR. LOUGHEED: I was hoping he would interrupt me at that point.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that when we heard these discussions in the past, a general view was expressed opposite, very vociferously and very properly so, that we should take this action. We took the action. It is a positive one for the people of Alberta because it is a base industry. I think the minister has explained very well that it is really a federal and national responsibility. They are abdicating their responsibility, but it is important for us as a base industry that we take the action. But what we ought to do better than we have in the past is to improve our communication as to why. I think the why is pretty obvious to Members of the Legislative Assembly, but should be reiterated. Beef cattle prices are depressed because of the North American market, primarily U.S. market prices. No matter what is done in Canada, there will be no upturn in those prices until the prices improve in the United States. That may happen. Our hope is that it will happen next year. But we in Canada are only 10 per cent of the North American market, and we will follow that North American market price situation. We had better realize that reality.

Mr. Speaker, with 40 per cent of the livestock production here in this province, it is essential that we have a full awareness of it, that we do what we can to improve and strengthen it. The federal government continues to provide obstacles and not co-operation in this area. The import of Australian and New Zealand beef was referred to by the Minister of Agriculture. I heard the other day that the import of Australian and New Zealand beef exceeds the total production of livestock and beef cattle in this province. This will give you some idea of the magnitude involved. Mr. Speaker, we have to find new markets for our agricultural products. The United States provides one of the best potentials for markets. One of the better areas is processed boxed beef. But we have to make some changes in the tariff and trade situation. We allow it to enter Canada at a duty of 3 cents a pound. But when we want to sell it from the west into the northwest or into California, the United States has an *ad valorem* tax of 10 to 15 cents a pound. Now it is important for us to make some breakthroughs in these trade and tariff areas. When I was in Washington in June, I spent a fair amount of my time discussing it with senators, congressmen, and the administration.

But let's recognize how important it is for Alberta. It's key in the Alberta economic strategy for agricultural processing, Mr. Speaker, and trade and tariff arrangements are going to become more and more the attention of the Executive Council of Alberta, and I hope of the whole Legislature. Canada's negotiations on GATT are critical to Alberta, and hopefully we can move more effectively in bilateral negotiations with the United States, particularly in the area of agriculture.

We are going to be involved, and we want to be

involved in a very high risk area of agricultural processing. For we must process these agricultural products in this province, and we must get into the world markets. We must become less dependent merely on the price situation of the basic grains, and the China and Russia crop situation. In international marketing it has been our policy for five years, through our agencies, to do what we can to move in and find new markets. And we have had some important successes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it absolutely clear that we expect to have losses. In fact the leader of the government is going to be upset if we don't. Why are we in the support programs in this area of agricultural processing? Because the traditional commercial organizations are not prepared to get in. The government is prepared to get in because it thinks it is in the long-term interests of Albertans. The commodity markets are uncertain. There will be losses. But there is to be no apologizing for losses, because the gains are going to far outstrip the losses and the people of Alberta are going to benefit by a government that has the courage to do something. The people of Alberta don't want to go back to the do nothing era of the '60s.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of economic strategy — and we have them — in the fall of 1974 it was outlined. We have made considerable progress in agricultural processing, both in terms of the support we have given and the initiatives we have made, but equally because we have created a climate here. We have seen concerns come to this province to process our agricultural products, and so there have been. Later in the fall we will have further elaboration on some very important steps forward in this area.

In petrochemicals it's tough. It was tough when I said it in May 1974, Mr. Speaker, and I suggest to members of the Assembly that they read the statement again. What we said was that Petrosar had a strangle hold over the petrochemical industry in this country. The former government had allowed it to go ahead. There it was in its reality.

Petrosar is a reality, but one thing it won't be is an approved purchaser from the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission. I would urge the business community of this province to recognize the detriment of that step. Despite these difficulties, the petrochemical industry is moving ahead in this province, but it is going to be tough. It is going to require a great deal of effort, a great deal of co-operation, and some breakthroughs in the area of tariffs to make it so.

Another important forward step was the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority. I don't know if members are aware, but the end result is a good partnership with the private sector. What happens is that we provide the funds through the authority, and the technology and the patents remain the property of the people of Alberta. The company involved in the joint venture can use it for its projects, and its projects alone. I think it is an excellent arrangement of co-operation between the public and private sectors in this province. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other areas I could refer to with regard to the economy, but I am sure I should move to the area of transportation, which is still our key obstacle.

In terms of transportation, the Pacific Western

Airlines decision of the federal cabinet — I can't use any other word but vindictive. It is very important to us that this regional air line serves Alberta interests and has an Alberta decision-making base. It is crucial to Alberta that this province be the gateway province to the north. But we are not going to win by default. There is a tremendous effort in the province of British Columbia, with their natural link through the Yukon and their advantage of tidewater, to be that gateway province. But Pacific Western Airlines is an important part of our economic strategy.

The freight rate issue is one I want to deal with for a moment. The Western Economic Opportunities Conference led to the federal statement in February 1975 by the then minister Mr. Marchand. As we said at the western premiers' conference in Medicine Hat in late September and reported here, the current minister, Mr. Otto Lang, has set back the steps that were taken by way of policy announcement by Mr. Marchand. I note that the federal Speech from the Throne yesterday refers to unfair freight rates. That's interesting. I suppose one could read into that an admission. But after the way this matter has been handled by the federal government, I think we will wait and see. I have one idea that the Minister of Transportation brought to me the other day. When we hear from central Canada about the user pay philosophy, in terms of transportation we ought to add the St. Lawrence Seaway and see what happens to the economy of the country.

Mr. Speaker, we have been involved this summer in some effective work by our Department of Transportation in their presentations to various commissions, in particular the Hall commission. Some people thought the Member for Calgary Currie was ahead of his time when he talked at WEOC about the roadbed view and the approach to the roadbed in terms of transportation. There is a growing acceptance of that view. I can remember the almost chuckles and laughter at WEOC when he presented it. It sounded like a pretty far-out view for a Progressive Conservative government and a Minister of Industry and Commerce who was committed to the free-enterprise way. But as time is passing, it's becoming more and more evident that that will be back here and back before the House of Commons as a concept that may be one of the dramatic ways to deal with the issue of transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude my remarks by expressing concern about the attitude of many Albertans, not all of them, towards our current prosperity. I see from my remarks that it has been a busy summer of decision-making. Let me recap the major decisions: the Heritage Savings Trust Fund with the initial portfolio, the health science centre at the University of Alberta, the cow-calf support program, the coal policy for this province, the Dodds-Round Hill decision, the policy with regard to the Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority, the arterial roads for our metropolitan areas, the restricted development areas in Calgary and Edmonton, the federal-provincial cost-sharing position, our constitution, and

many other important decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the progress of our government. I think there's no doubt that we're at the forefront in Canada in terms of both responsible management and social concern. The people here are enjoying prosperity, better than the rest of the country. They have the best in terms of government services. They have the lowest rates of taxation.

But how long can it last? In my view, not very long; perhaps a decade at the most, unless we're able to put in place a more balanced economy for that inevitable day, Mr. Speaker, when oil and gas no longer provide such a large number of our jobs, when production begins to decline, and resource revenue falls off. But it will not be easy to do so. There are going to be some failures and setbacks. It's not a place for timid people. It must be done without large influxes of population, for it must be done for Albertans. It must be done without unduly damaging our environment or our quality of life. It will not be easy. There will be major risks to take. There will be losses to be incurred. The number of solid opportunities for diversification are few. Some which exist today may not exist a decade from today and may be lost forever. Somehow the transportation hurdles must be overcome.

We can't rely on the federal bureaucrat or the establishment in Toronto to do it for us. For our objective means a fundamental change in the economy of Canada, a shift of the decision-making westward, and essentially to Alberta. Because of that, it will be vigorously opposed. Unfortunately there are too many Albertans who take our current prosperity for granted. I do not. We've made a lot of progress in five years. But in my view our economy, our prosperity, and our job security are still too precarious. It's no time for complacency; it's certainly no time to coast. It's not going to be easy to do. It never is. But given the talent and imagination of our people, and a responsible and far-sighted government, it will be done; and what we have today, Mr. Speaker, will be preserved for our children.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. Leader of the Opposition adjourn the debate?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move we call it 5:30.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the proposal by the hon. Government House Leader, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

[The House rose at 4:27 p.m.]

