

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Friday, March 11, 1977 10:00 a.m.**

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 20
The Names of Homes
Amendment Act, 1977

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to reintroduce a bill, being The Names of Homes Amendment Act, 1977. Mr. Speaker, the amendments proposed in this bill will enable Albertans who take pride in ownership to protect the names of their farms and farm homes.

[Leave granted; Bill 20 read a first time]

Bill 21
The Public Health
Amendment Act, 1977

DR. BACKUS: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being The Public Health Amendment Act, 1977. This bill changes the composition of public health boards in cities over 100,000, Edmonton and Calgary. This was introduced to comply with the request of the cities.

[Leave granted; Bill 21 read a first time]

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the following bills be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders: Bill No. 20, The Names of Homes Amendment Act, 1977; and Bill No. 21, The Public Health Amendment Act, 1977.

[Motion carried]

head: INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. HANSEN: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to introduce to you, and through you to the House, a group of school children from Fort Kent school in my constituency. Some 40 students are with their teachers Mr. Parmar and Mr. Campeau, and their bus driver Mr. Luciak. I would like them to rise and be recognized by this House.

MR. APPLEBY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and to the members of the Assembly the mayor of the town of Athabasca Mr. Jack Sturges. He's visiting the Assembly this morning, accompanied by his wife Jean. They are in the members

gallery. I would ask them to stand and be welcomed to the House.

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today, as the culmination to Education Week in this province, to introduce to you and to the members of this Assembly three award winning essayists in a province-wide competition for junior high school students writing on the topic, "Can I Really Be What I Want to Be?" We have three winners from three regions of the province of Alberta. They have chosen their favorite teachers to accompany them, and I'll be introducing them as well.

Following their introduction to the Assembly, they will be taking a tour of the city of Edmonton by helicopter and subsequently will have the pleasure of meeting with the Lieutenant-Governor and the Premier.

The winners are, Mr. Speaker: for northern Alberta, from St. Mary's school, Beaverlodge, Roman Catholic Separate District No. 68, grade 9 student Teresa Atkinson of Goodfare and her teacher Mrs. Patsy Martin; for central Alberta, from Sylvan Lake school in the county of Red Deer, grade 7 student Lynn Thiels of Benalto and her teacher Mrs. Pat Anderson; for southern Alberta, from Olds school in the county of Mountain View, grade 9 student Kathy Smith of Olds and her teacher Mrs. Sharon Howell.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Speaker, I wish this morning to introduce to you and to the members of the Assembly 53 grade 5 students from the Belvedere school in the constituency of Edmonton Beverly. They are accompanied by two teachers, Mrs. Marjorie Walker and Mr. Bill Babowal. They are seated in the public gallery. I'd ask that they rise and receive the welcome of this Assembly.

head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to file with the Assembly copies of a brief which I had the pleasure of presenting to the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture, March 10, on the Long-Term Stabilization of the Canadian Beef Industry. In addition, Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the annual report of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976.

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, as required by statute, Sessional Paper No. 77, The Blind Persons Act, and Sessional Paper No. 78, The Disabled Persons Act.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table The Gas Resources Preservation Act report as required by statute.

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to table the seventy-first annual report of the Department of Education.

head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**Water Management**

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of the Environment. It flows from the ECA's report on erosion of land in north-western Alberta. The ECA recommends the capital cost of joint water management programs in north-western Alberta be shared between provincial and municipal bodies on the basis of 75 per cent by the province and 25 per cent by local governments, rather than the present 50-50 basis. The question to the minister is: what point has the provincial government reached in its discussion of this recommendation?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, we haven't reached a conclusion on that. The report was submitted to the department for assessment. They'll be making recommendations. As members are aware, we also had the MLA, Mr. Shaben, put a resolution on the paper so members of the Legislature could debate and give their viewpoints on the recommendations. But no conclusions have been reached yet.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, is the minister in a position to give us some indication of a time line when we can look for a response from government in regard to this major recommendation?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I would hope it could be very soon. It's rather a major problem insofar as environment protection in Alberta is concerned. We would hope to deal with it as soon as reasonably feasible following the adjournment of this session.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Is the government considering funding such joint water-management programs from the capital projects division of the heritage savings trust fund?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, we hadn't considered that. As you know, MLAs have been canvassed for suggestions insofar as land reclamation projects are concerned, but we view this as something much larger than that.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary to the minister. Has the department, either itself or through consulting arrangements, undertaken assessment of the economics and viability of controlling the level of Lesser Slave Lake, once again as recommended by the same ECA report?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, as far as Lesser Slave Lake is concerned, I have asked the department to do an in-house review on the economics of water stabilization versus land acquisition, which is the present program. I expect to have those figures very shortly.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary to the minister, perhaps to redirect the question. Since the ECA recommendations, has there been no initiative by either the department or consultants in fact to follow up its recommendations?

MR. RUSSELL: Well, I think there has been considerable initiative, if you want to use that word, Mr. Speaker. The first thing I did was give the report to the department and ask them to work out a recommended plan of action for the area. I also indicated to the department that I wanted the benefit of a public debate, hence a resolution on the paper. But I repeat, we do intend to design a program of reclamation and preservation for the area and start implementing it as soon as circumstances permit.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister responsible for native affairs — once again one of the recommendations from the ECA; that is, the proposal in which native people assume a stronger role in opening rights of way and that their management and advice be given more serious consideration by the government. What steps has either the minister or the Native Secretariat taken with regard to implementation of that recommendation?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, from time to time various proposals come forward from native groups requesting assistance in doing that kind of work. We are looking now at brush clearing and the like. The hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury may recall that last year the Neegan Society, which was set up to do that very thing and was funded by the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower, encountered some financial difficulties. Consequently, the funding came to an end. However, a proposal is currently before both the Solicitor General and me to reactivate a group similar to the Neegan Society for the same kind of work.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister, bearing in mind that the report came out in November 1976. The question to the minister responsible for native affairs really is: what initiative has the minister or the Native Secretariat taken in light of the recommendation by the ECA that native people should really have more influence in the question of determining where rights of way shall go in their particular area?

MR. BOGLE: I have just indicated, Mr. Speaker, we try to work in conjunction with the various native people in the province. We're currently working with a group on a proposal. The fact that the ECA in its report has come up with a recommendation only strengthens the argument being used by native groups, and with the kind of input we're trying to have.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for clarification, if I may, to the hon. Minister of the Environment. I wasn't quite sure if I heard the hon. minister correctly when he answered the hon. Leader of the Opposition about the heritage trust fund, whether any possible investment from the heritage trust fund would be considered for water resource management and drainage in northwestern Alberta. I wasn't sure if the hon. minister said that would be too expensive. But I would like him to clarify whether the government would consider that proposals under amendments in the whole water resource program in northwestern Alberta would be proper for the heritage fund investment.

MR. RUSSELL: Well, to clarify that earlier response, Mr. Speaker, I indicated to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that the reclamation of flooded areas was not included in the capital works part of the heritage trust fund as it now stands to the end of the next fiscal year. The reclamation projects that are budgeted for that part of the program would not include a project of that magnitude. That's not to say it couldn't be considered at some future date, but it has not been considered at this time.

MR. NOTLEY: One further supplementary question to the hon. Minister of the Environment. In assessing the various options of cost sharing on water resources projects, that is the physical construction itself, in addition to the proposals of the ECA is the government giving any consideration to the proposals of northern Alberta improvement districts that a certain set mill rate should be struck, then above that mill rate the funding would be assumed on approved projects by the provincial government, either through the Department of the Environment or through capital investment through the capital works part of the heritage trust fund or what have you?

MR. RUSSELL: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a variety of suggestions have been made. I wouldn't want too much emphasis to be placed on one geographic region of the province because currently we have a report dealing with northwestern Alberta. There are drainage and water management problems throughout the province. I wouldn't want to leave the House with the idea that we would want to rush into a special program for one special part of the province, unless circumstances were so unique that that was warranted.

MR. SHABEN: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of the Environment. Is a local group or are local people involved in making recommendations to the minister on the report and working with the local regional office of the Department of the Environment?

MR. RUSSELL: At the present time we are of course working with the regional office. We've been developing the pattern that as soon as we get some recommendations under way in any of these kinds of projects, we try to set up local advisory committees and later local management committees. It's a rather new technique, but I'm hopeful that we could use the same procedures with respect to this particular issue.

Red Deer River

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, the second question is also to the Minister of the Environment. It really flows from a statement made at the ECA hearings in Innisfail with regard to the question, to dam or not to dam the Red Deer River — in capital letters. Mr. Speaker, the question is: has the minister had a chance to check the statement which indicated that effluent from the town of Innisfail will be entering the Red Deer River immediately upstream from where the water intake will be for the central Alberta water line?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I saw that statement. As you know, the hearings are at the rate of one every two or three days in different communities along the

course of the Red Deer River. I've been getting briefings by telephone as each hearing finishes. Naturally, we haven't had time yet to assess and respond to the various issues raised as a result of the hearings. But that one was particularly brought to my attention, and we will be responding to it.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could pose a supplementary question to the minister. In light of the fact that the water line is supposed to open in April or May, that some of the water is already down the line, and they're now doing some of the final checking, would the minister be in the position to dispatch someone from the department posthaste to see in fact if that is the situation? Because if the town of Innisfail is putting its effluent, even though it's through a treatment system, in the Red Deer River just upstream from the pipeline intake, it seems to me to be rather questionable planning. And I'm being very charitable in saying that.

MR. RUSSELL: Well the hon. leader may have answered his own question when he indicated that it is treated water that goes through the system. The treatment plant is part of the system. As for the detail with respect to whether or not water containing effluent dumped into the river from a nearby location is in fact being taken into the system, I can't answer that question today. It has been brought to my attention. It's in the department, and I will be responding as soon as I can.

Rapid Transit

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask this question of the Minister Without Portfolio responsible for Calgary affairs. It's my understanding that the city of Calgary council are all going to Europe to view rapid transit systems in heavily populated cities. As this is a fact-finding journey before they commit to specific equipment that I presume the province will be expected to pay for, I'd like to know if the minister can advise if he or any member of Executive Council has been asked to accompany the council on their fact-finding journey.

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any invitation at this moment to attend this very interesting tour. Perhaps that's one of the problems of being in this House rather than the house down there. The hon. member might want to reflect on . . . Well, no he shouldn't.

Mr. Speaker, the short answer is no. We have not yet been invited, and frankly I don't know whether it will be necessary for any member of Executive Council to attend that tour.

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary that perhaps the Deputy Premier could answer. Have any guidelines been offered to the council on the kinds of financial aid they might expect, particularly with regard to the kind of capital investment they might make and the ongoing operational costs the citizens will have to bear if this expensive, long-range program is adopted?

DR. HORNER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will probably recall that some time ago in announcing

our urban transportation policy during the last parliament, the then-minister outlined the kind of assistance we would make available to both Calgary and Edmonton relative to public transit. Part of that includes a \$7 million per year grant, which the city of Calgary has received. The question of the type of rapid transit will be decided upon after close consultation with my department.

I might also say to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, that in fact we have had an invitation from Calgary city council to attend on their trip, but no decision has been made.

Nursing Home Plans — Taber

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Does the minister plan to build additional nursing home beds in the town of Taber in the coming fiscal year?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, Taber's planning is under way. I have also been in discussion with my colleague in the House on that. Basically no final decision as to the extent of nursing home development in Taber has been made, but we are working on planning with the community.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Will the Taber area receive a decision in the early months of 1977?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, in answer to that particular question I would reply to the hon. member that the highest priority in the hospital and medical care system throughout the province would be in the area of nursing home beds. For that reason it's my intention, with Taber and other proposed nursing home developments in the province, to place the highest priority on those particular projects.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Is the minister aware that at the present time over 100 people are on the waiting list for nursing home facilities in the Lethbridge-Taber area, and that Lethbridge doesn't want to proceed at the present time because they're waiting for the Taber development?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I think my reply to the earlier question from the hon. Member for Little Bow implied that we're aware of the need to accelerate nursing home construction throughout the province as the major priority. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that that answers the question of the hon. member.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary just for clarification of the minister's remarks. Can I assure the people in the Taber area that nursing home facilities are being considered and will be made available in the Taber area, and that the minister has not denied them that facility?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the first question, I have assured the government MLA of this in conversation with them. As I implied in answer to the first question, that will be the case.

Bassano Dam Study

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of the Environment. Could the minister indicate whether he has received the study being done by the PFRA on the Bassano Dam and the proposed Eyremore Dam?

MR. RUSSELL: No, I haven't, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister or his department had any input to the study being done by the PFRA?

MR. RUSSELL: Yes, the department has had substantial input, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MANDEVILLE: One final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister then give an indication when the study will be completed and when there will be a decision on the Bow River basin?

MR. RUSSELL: I'm unable to give an exact date, Mr. Speaker. The last time I asked about this I was told, very soon.

Extended Flat Rate Calls

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Utilities and Telephones. From representation that has been made from my constituency and other areas, can the minister indicate how the extended area service project is going? How close to completion is it, and when can we look forward to the 40-mile radius extended area service for telephones?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, with respect first of all to the extended flat rate call service the hon. member brings forward, that program is nearing completion. Because of a meeting I had on Monday with the mayor of Bruderheim in the hon. member's constituency, I would clarify that the program was designed to provide for an exchange-to-exchange flat rate, not toll free but flat rate hookup to the nearest trading area, so long as that trading area was not more than 30 miles away from the exchange in question.

Extending that beyond 30 miles, for example to 40 miles, is not presently contemplated, although if the hon. member were recommending the necessary rate increases to cover such costs, that could be considered.

Drought Plans

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. In view of the winter's low precipitation and the prospect of possible drought conditions this summer, has the department formulated any contingency plans should such conditions prevail?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, in answer to a similar question in the House of Commons the day before yesterday, the federal Minister of Agriculture said, really, all you can do is pray. He wasn't far from wrong, although he was laughed at. I say that because for centuries drought has taken its toll on world food production and supplies. We simply don't

have any means, any short-term programs, that would alleviate a shortage of rainfall in a particular year.

On the other hand, we have been doing some longer term things for many years and will continue. First of all, I think it's important — and I believe our farmers in southern Alberta are doing as good a job as any farmers in the world in terms of conserving moisture supplies in years of low moisture reserves, in the kinds of cultivation methods they have, summer fallowing and so on. It's likely that even without rainfall, much of the summer fallow land will be planted to crops. On the other hand, much of the stubble land will not be planted unless there is rainfall.

In addition to that, the hon. member will recall some of the very extensive work that's been done, mostly in the northern U.S. states, on rain increase programs. That particular scientific area is very similar if not almost [identical] in nature to what we're doing in central Alberta with respect to hail suppression. We don't think at this time we have progressed far enough to get into actual rain increase programs in southern Alberta.

The most important thing we can do is longer term, the provision of some \$200 million from the heritage savings trust fund to increase irrigated acres in southern Alberta and fresh-water storage in this province. Hon. members would know that in western Canada we certainly have more ability to store water for irrigation purposes than any other province.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we could say that having made the decision two years ago to spend those kinds of dollars from the heritage savings trust fund, we'll be in a position 10 years from now where we will be less dependent on annual rainfall to produce crops in certain parts of the province. That isn't to say we won't always be dependent upon some very good rainfalls. Indeed if the hon. Minister of the Environment and his department can work effectively over the next few years in developing that additional water storage, I'm sure it will help a lot.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment may have some additional comments to make.

MR. STROMBERG: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of the Environment. Is enough water now impounded for storage to supply irrigation and the urban needs of southern Alberta if there is no more snowfall on the eastern slopes this coming spring?

MR. RUSSELL: I don't believe so, Mr. Speaker. I think the remarks of my colleague the hon. Minister of Agriculture were quite sincere when he alluded to the federal minister's exhortations for us to pray. The department is making what arrangements it can to start filling the major reservoirs earlier. Somewhere between 40 and 60 per cent of normal run-off in the spring is expected, so there will be serious water supply problems in the region this year.

MR. CLARK: Supplementary question to the minister on the portion of the minister's answer that dealt with rain-increase programs, cloud seeding, and so on. In light of the fact that a number of states in the central United States, particularly the Colorado area,

have now as a matter of policy moved in the direction of cloud seeding in light of the shortage of water and precipitation at this time, is the minister prepared to have officials from either the weather modification group who work in central Alberta or senior people from his department go down there to see if we can't perhaps use some of their technology, if we don't get very desperately needed moisture, certainly in April or May?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, scientists from the Alberta Research Council, and indeed I think almost all members of the Weather Modification Board, have been from time to time in that area and have had meetings with individuals involved in rain-increase programs in the United States. While some progress appeared to have been made with respect to rain-increase programs two or three years ago, unfortunately many of those programs in the U.S. have come to a halt, partly because of problems with respect to having perhaps moved the rain from one area to the other and the concern expressed on a national basis about law suits and so on which might occur if you implement rain-increase programs. It's never been well-established scientifically that in increasing rain in one area, you don't decrease it in another.

So I just have to say in conclusion, it's not our view that any technology, either in the United States or Russia, has yet reached the stage where we can say with any kind of certainty that a rain-increase program can be carried out on a practical basis. But certainly, Mr. Speaker, we will be keeping in touch as closely as we can with knowledgeable people around the world about those kinds of programs. If it's our view they would be beneficial, we will be implementing them on an experimental basis at least.

MR. TAYLOR: Supplementary to the hon. minister in connection with the irrigation reservoir supplies. In the event there is no significant precipitation in the next couple of months, how long would the water now stored in these reservoirs likely last?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe anyone can even answer that kind of question. First of all, you may recall that about this time in March two years ago it was very dry in southern Alberta. I was there in late April and it had just rained for 20 days. They were late seeding because of the moisture problem.

Really the problem of determining whether the water in storage will meet the needs of the area depends to a very great extent on rains that might occur in June and July. Indeed if it turns out to be a very dry summer, as well as winter, then of course we'll need additional water. It's just hard to put a figure at all on when we might run out of water for irrigation purposes. It depends entirely on how much rainfall occurs.

AGT Policy on Harassment

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Utilities and Telephones what recourse Albertans have, besides paying their bills, when finance companies use AGT in a way that could best be described as "harassment" in order to collect overdue accounts.

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member giving me notice of this question, so I have had some opportunity to look into it. It's my understanding, if the information provided is correct, that the finance company involved has been calling the person in question a couple of times a week during business hours. I further understand that under the present legislation at least, that would not constitute harassment unless threats or abusive language were used.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, there might be about three alternatives. One, although it may not be satisfactory to the person, would be to pay the debt. A second, which I guess would be unsatisfactory to the finance company, would be that the customer does have the right to hang up. But I think the third alternative would probably be a useful recommendation to the person involved; that is to sit down with the finance company and try to work out something reasonable for all parties concerned.

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Speaker, does AGT have a policy as to harassment or abusive language on their phones?

DR. WARRACK: Yes we do, Mr. Speaker. I alluded to it in my initial answer, but not in detail. The policy is specified by the legislation that governs Alberta Government Telephones operation. Though what is a threat and what is abusive language are matters of judgment, it seems to me, watching television anyway, that abusive language is becoming more and more commonplace. In any case, harassment would in fact have to involve threats or abusive language under the present legislation, which is the benchmark for Alberta Government Telephones policy in this regard. In the event a person feels threats or abusive language, and therefore harassment, is taking place, Alberta Government Telephones has a security group that would try to assist the citizen in solving that kind of problem.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the hon. minister. In the minister's response, he uses the term "finance companies". Does he really mean "collection agencies"?

DR. WARRACK: My term by way of response was to relate directly to the question posed by the hon. Member for Camrose. I don't know the name of the company or anything like that. It may very well be a collection agency rather than a finance company. But the hon. member who posed the question would probably know that answer.

Dunvegan Dam Study

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of the Environment. It concerns the Dunvegan Dam study which was tabled in the Legislature yesterday. Is the government in a position to advise the Assembly just where things stand on the proposal that there would be an immediate assessment of the technological and economic merits of the low Dunvegan Dam proposal — three options, but the low proposal — as it relates to the integral part of Alberta's overall electrical requirements?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I think a better way of putting it is that that proposal would be considered in comparison with other possible developments in other parts of the province.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Will the proposal for a low dam at Dunvegan specifically be considered in relation to the proposal in this report that the Mountain Rapids site on the Slave River be fully examined as well? Will the two specifically be assessed hand in hand?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the best way I can answer that question is that it would be the intention of the government to look at Dunvegan, Mountain Rapids, and other kinds of projects that might involve thermal rather than hydro sources for generating power.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the hon. minister. In light of the very specific recommendation contained within this report concerning the low dam, plus the recommendation on Mountain Rapids — I shouldn't say proposal but possibility — is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly whether a time frame has been considered by the department at this time for that sort of evaluation?

MR. RUSSELL: No, Mr. Speaker, not in a precise sense. The government does have, through its Department of Utilities and Telephones and its Electric Utility Planning Council, broad terms with respect to what time frames are involved in bringing additional projects on stream and tying them into the grid. I think the important thing for members to consider is the three summary recommendations in the joint B.C./Alberta report with respect to involvement with British Columbia in a joint project or simply going it alone at Dunvegan insofar as Alberta is concerned. That would involve what is called the low project. The report indicates that would be assessed in relation to other possibilities in the province before a decision would be made.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Utilities and Telephones. Does the department at this point in time have any estimate as to the capital requirements for meeting the projection of the Electric Utility Planning Council of what would be approximately — if these figures are correct — a two-and-a-half-fold increase in the power requirements of the province by 1985, and more substantial increase between 1985 and the year 2000?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, no precise calculations, other than to recognize that the capital capacity involved in whatever series of alternatives there would be to meet the load growth projected would be very, very large. As a matter of fact, I'm not sure that one doesn't really need to have some basis to estimate future years' inflation to have any reliable set of figures projected into the future. But certainly the ballpark answer is that the amount of money that would be required in the way of capital investment would be very substantial.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Utilities and Telephones. Would the approximate figure the government has to consider at this stage for the total of those projects listed in the ERCB report on power requirements be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$7 billion?

DR. WARRACK: Mr. Speaker, that's really asking me the same question again. I've indicated it would certainly be a substantial amount of capital investment to provide the high quality and assured supply service that we have been accustomed to, and is very important, particularly for diversified economic development throughout the province. But committing myself, or any member for that matter, to some exact number in the future on such large requirements would not I think be either accurate or wise.

I did notice the hon. member referred to government commitment. He may be presuming government financing in doing so, although that may be an incorrect implication to draw from the question. In any case, I would point out that government financing is not presently contemplated, nor has it been asked for.

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be the final supplementary on this topic.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I assure that that is not the inference to the question. The question was to get some indication as to whether or not the government has any information at this point as to the capital requirements, whether they come publicly or privately.

However, my final supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Utilities and Telephones, or perhaps the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, is: in view of the rather specific data we have on the increase in power requirements in the province, has the government given any definitive consideration at this time to the mix between thermo projects on one hand and hydro-electric projects for peak loading on the other?

DR. WARRACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I've given considerable attention to that matter. It might be useful for the House to know that in the past year of 1976 the total load in Alberta was slightly over 4,300 megawatts. Of the breakdown by Calgary Power, which uses hydro sources in the Bow River, the Big Bend and the Lake Abraham Big Horn project, Calgary Power supplies about 62.5 per cent of that total across the province, and 30 per cent of that 62.5 per cent is provided by hydro. The remainder is provided by Alberta Power, Edmonton Power, and Medicine Hat; the latter two fueled by natural gas, and Alberta Power largely by coal.

With respect to the possibilities of future percentages of the electric requirement served by hydro rather than coal, at the moment there appear to be the two projects that require and have in fact been receiving close attention: one, the Dunvegan matter that my colleague the hon. Minister of the Environment has just referred to, the other the question, which would be well down the road, of the Mountain Rapids project.

I think it would be fair to say that considering the modest size of the Dunvegan project, should it go

ahead, and even the much larger size of the Mountain Rapids project, should it go ahead, would be well enough into the future that we would largely be looking at base load requirements fueled by coal, unless it reached the point in the future where the people involved in the planning and the people of the province wanted to consider nuclear for base load requirements.

In short, Mr. Speaker, I'm saying that I doubt that the existing percentages of the capacity fueled by hydro and by coal would change all that much.

Obscenity Legislation

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Attorney General. I wonder if the Attorney General would advise the House whether, in discussing with the federal Minister of Justice amendments to the Criminal Code dealing with obscenity, he will use and encourage expressed concerns of Alberta citizens and communities in helping him to establish new guidelines and clarity in this regard?

MR. FOSTER: I'm happy to receive the hon. minister's representations, Mr. Speaker.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. Would the minister indicate to the House whether he has established dates for discussions [with] the federal Minister of Justice, or is this an ongoing process?

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, I expect that the federal Attorney General will be meeting with his counterparts from the provinces sometime in the spring. No date has been fixed for that meeting.

Pollution Prosecutions

MR. FOSTER: While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could respond to a question put to me earlier this week by the Member for Spirit River-Fairview concerning the appeal on GCOS. We will be appealing three of the charges involving GCOS, one under the Fisheries Act, one under the clean air regulations which relates to visible stack emissions, and one relating to SO₂ emissions. The appeals have to be filed before March 22. I don't propose making any further comment in the House; it's a matter before the Court.

Power Lines

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. It's with regard to moving power lines off irrigated lands. The minister indicated in the fall session that he was attempting to negotiate an agreement between Calgary Power and the government, and a plan for the landowner. Could the minister advise the Assembly whether that program has been completed at this point?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I hope to be in a position to provide the information in that regard during the budget estimates. I'm sorry, I don't have it now.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Is it the intention of the government to

provide funding for such a program through the heritage trust fund?

MR. SPEAKER: It would seem that that question would also be answered in discussion on the estimates.

Cooking Lake Study

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of the Environment. It's from the studies on the studies to study the studies on the Cooking Lake moraine. I'd like to know, Mr. Speaker, if the minister can indicate if his department is going to take up any project to increase and stabilize the water level of Cooking Lake.

MR. RUSSELL: Well, that matter is still cooking, Mr. Speaker. It's a pretty complex issue to deal with. There's a major problem with respect to involvement of large sections of privately owned land, as the member is obviously aware. Other than that, I can't report any further progress.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate if there is an RDA around the lake?

MR. RUSSELL: I don't believe there is, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BATIUK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. In reviewing the study of the Cooking Lake moraine, I noticed that fish and wildlife and recreation were centred. In no place did I see anything mentioned about agriculture. It seems agriculture has been a very important part of that area. Could the minister advise whether this study was made intentionally for recreation, or is it a total package?

MR. RUSSELL: No, Mr. Speaker, the study was really based upon what I would call a multi-use concept. My earlier answer to the Member for Clover Bar indicated we are concerned about the large tracts of productive land involved in any large-scale scheme. We're trying to consider that aspect of it, and that's why the matter has been rather quiet lately.

Sulphur Dioxide Emissions Study

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I'd like to respond to two questions put to me earlier, one by the Member for Spirit River-Fairview with respect to a joint federal/provincial report on the Syncrude air pollution topic. He asked whether we have received the report.

No, we haven't. The only thing I can find is what appears to be an unsigned draft of the federal point of view. But we don't yet have any joint report ready for consideration.

Red Deer River (continued)

MR. RUSSELL: I have more information for the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury on the problem he raised with respect to the water intake. I've been advised by memo since he asked the question that of course everyone knew the effluent discharge point was ups-

stream from the water intake point at the time. That was considered with the advantages and disadvantages of other engineering aspects. The effluent is treated. It is released from the lagoon only once a year at high flow level and is perfectly safe. There's no reason for anyone to have any concern. It's not a new item which was brought to the attention of anybody.

Coal Leases

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question involves the excellent policy announced by the government to buy back coal leases that now become unworkable because of the new coal policy. My question to the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources is: is a formula going to be used or is each lease going to be considered on its own merits?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the guidelines we've established are to assess with the company the costs expended on a lease, then compensate them for those costs in return for the lease.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

head: GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

1. Moved by Mr. Hyndman
Be it resolved that Standing Order No. 5 be suspended in order that the Assembly may sit at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 11.

[Motion carried]

head: CONSIDERATION OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Moved by Mr. Miller.

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Ralph G. Steinhauer, Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Alberta

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

[Adjourned debate: Mr. Hyland]

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Speaker, as I rise to continue my debate, I would like to mention that among the things in transportation that were finished in the Bow Island area this last year was a paved airport. It is going to be a great asset to the community in future years, I'm sure.

I forgot to mention one thing, Mr. Speaker, when I was talking about irrigation. I gave many statistics on the number of pivots, but I forgot to note that in addition to this number of pivots there are also 300 to 350 of what we in irrigation circles call "side-roll systems", which irrigate a quarter section. As I said, there are 350 of these as well as the amount of land that is flat enough to flood.

In the field of recreation, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say a little on the Cypress Park hearings that created much stir in our area during the past year. These were public hearings. The department had assessed a report from a consultant, set out their position on the report, and put it out for public opinion. It was well debated in public. At most of the meetings, everybody had a chance to have their say. I'm sure the department learned a lot from the way the hearings were carried out, and I'm sure it will be put to good use later on. We must remember that, even if mistakes were made during this presentation, it had never been done before. Much of it was an exercise to find out what was the best way to approach this kind of program.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we get into rural natural gas. Much has been said in the Legislature and in the papers in the last little while about rural natural gas and the Department of Utilities and Telephones. But it appears, Mr. Speaker, that this program is getting off to a very good start, because for some reason many of the members who sat for a good number of years in this Legislature — sat on their hands and didn't do anything for rural natural gas — seem to want to get on the bandwagon now.

Not only that, Mr. Speaker, even the news media want to get on the bandwagon. They want to take the praise for making it work. I quote: "part of the program's success can be probably attributed ..." and it names the members of the opposition. It says they have burned up the phone lines to the department since the program's inception. Well, Mr. Speaker, this may be true, but they weren't the only ones burning up the lines to the department to make this a success.

Mr. Speaker, there have been a lot of problems with engineers, the department, and the co-ops. But everybody has worked very hard together, and through communication and administration many of these problems have been solved. It's not all solved; nobody is saying this. But also it's been intimated that REAs were put up with just bang, nothing. Nothing went wrong, absolutely nothing at all, we've been led to believe. But I've been told by members who were involved that sure wasn't all a pure exercise with no problems. And it worked. It's working now.

To get back to rural gas: there have been a lot of things said on price ranges and the amount it would cost a person to get natural gas. Some of them undoubtedly haven't been right. But the people who are making this work are dedicated people. They have their minds made up that it's a good program. We know it's a good program. How many other provinces in Canada or anywhere else in the world have gas in rural areas? So we don't have to be told it's good. Neither do these people. They're taking a lot of flak, but they're sure of what they're doing. They know it's going to work. Much praise is due to the local co-op directors, the Federation of Gas Co-ops, and the people in the department who are now working very hard to make this program work.

I hesitate to say, as I stand here, that I have an REA which celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. Last night, I believe, they had their supper. [If] we stand here 25 years from now, we'll be talking about rural gas co-ops that are working.

Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to make a short comment on national unity. I believe we saw the greatest thing

that has been done toward national unity in this province in a long while when the Premier of Nova Scotia was here the other day . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Newfoundland.

MR. HYLAND: Newfoundland. Sorry about that. We don't want to get that mixed up. No comment. I don't want to say that and put it in *Hansard*.

One thing that occasion brought to mind, Mr. Speaker, was a quote many years ago — I can't remember if I was watching television or if I read it in the paper — from a great Canadian, Louis St. Laurent, who said, I'm Canadian first and foremost.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. Member for Stony Plain revert to Introduction of Visitors?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce to you and to the members of this Assembly, 25 grade 6 students from the Seba Beach School. They are accompanied by their two teachers, one a former page of this Assembly, Donna Sanborn, and Dolores Soroka and their bus driver Mr. Wickware. I would ask them to rise and be recognized by the Assembly.

head: **CONSIDERATION OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH** (*continued*)

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to join with other members in expressing my delight in the fact that the Lieutenant-Governor was able to appear before us in full regalia when he read the Speech from the Throne, particularly when we appreciate that we are now in the throes of the centennial commemoration of the signing of treaties 6 and 7.

I would also join others in complimenting the members for Lloydminster and Medicine Hat-Redcliff in their contributions to the throne speech debate.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not join all members of this Assembly in complimenting you on your leadership. I think that leadership is most important at the very beginning of the day. This morning many of the members of this Assembly attended the ninth annual Premier's Prayer Breakfast, and you were among them.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne indicates there are things that government can do but many things governments cannot do. Among those things are those that can best be wrought by prayer. It's my pleasure and, I think, my duty on this occasion in my contribution to the throne speech debate to indicate my support for the way in which you lead us in prayer every day in seeking the guidance of the Almighty in our deliberations in this House.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned when I introduced three award-winning essayists this morning, we are in Education Week; this is really the end of the week.

The theme of Education Week this year is, Education Week every week — be involved. I reflect on my week, the time I have spent during Education Week, and question myself on the most significant thing I personally have done to be involved during Education Week.

I recall that on Monday, accompanied by the president of the Alberta School Trustees' Association — who I notice is in the gallery this morning — the president of The Alberta Teachers' Association, and a representative of the Federation of Home and School Associations, I travelled by plane to visit a school at Hardisty and, following that, a school in Medicine Hat. During that visit we were able to meet with teachers and students right in the classroom and, on occasion, even participate in some of the educational experiences the children were enjoying.

I recall the debate in this Assembly on a very important resolution dealing with property tax distribution. I recall my contributions during the course of cabinet meetings, during the course of sitting here in the Legislature, during the course of caucus. I reflect on all of these, and I think that none of these was important when compared with what I did on Wednesday.

On Wednesday morning I listened to my son, and I took time from my normally busy schedule to visit him in his school. I visited with my son in grade 8 and my daughters in grades 9 and 7. I joined them in their classes. Again in the evening I visited with a son in grade 1 and a daughter in grade 4 in their school classes. Mr. Speaker, I feel that was the most significant thing I did during the past week to be involved in Education Week.

Mr. Speaker, the significance of that event is brought out by a study brought to my attention some time ago, a study done in the United States of America and reported in the professional magazine of educators, *Kappan*. The study was on the question of whether students achieve better in segregated schools or integrated schools; whether there is a difference in their achievement as a result of the color of their skin. The result, Mr. Speaker, was that it really didn't make any difference, in terms of achievement, whether the student attended a segregated or an integrated school, or whether the student's skin was black or white.

The one factor that came through as most significant in a student's achievement was the degree of parental support. Where that parental support was present and abundant, the student did well. Where that parental support was lacking, in all likelihood the student did poorly. Now that's extremely significant, Mr. Speaker, when we consider some of the concerns being expressed today about the achievement of students in our schools. Where parental support is present and abundant, students generally do well. Where it is lacking, they generally do poorly.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, the most significant thing I did to be involved during Education Week was to visit with my children in their classrooms and in their schools. I would hope that those members of this Assembly who have children in school would also take time from their busy schedules to do likewise. The teachers would be more than willing to have them in their classrooms, and I'm sure their children would be very pleased and proud that they would be there.

This takes us, Mr. Speaker, to that aspect of the Speech from the Throne which deals with libraries. I'm very pleased that we are able in this session to provide greater support for libraries, as identified in the Speech from the Throne. When we talk about literacy — after all, literacy is really the ability to read, to express yourself in writing and orally. If one cannot read, one does not have the foundation of literacy.

I'd like to pick up the thread of the remarks contained in the speech given so eloquently by the Member for Medicine Hat-Redcliff. Throughout his remarks he tied the role and responsibility of the parent and the community in terms of providing some of the needed services and discharging some of the responsibilities society has and which government can't properly discharge. Someone once said that the best place to learn to read is on your mother's knee. That again takes us back, Mr. Speaker, to how a parent should be involved in the education of his or her child by showing an interest.

With the emphasis on libraries, I would hope that people throughout the province of Alberta recognize that all reading cannot take place in the school. Parents who have certain musical ambitions for their children, whether it be in piano or any other instrument, ensure that those children receive lessons. More than likely those lessons take place on a weekly basis, perhaps half an hour to an hour a week. But I'm sure we would all be surprised if the student taking those lessons restricted practice on that instrument to the time that was taken during the lessons. It's expected, Mr. Speaker, that a student in music will continue daily to practise those lessons learnt during the half hour or hour spent with the teacher.

The same goes with reading. We can't expect that students will become proficient just by the lessons they receive in school. Parents have to ensure, have to take an interest and see that their children in fact are reading at home instead of watching television, which seems to be the norm for modern-day society. It's been said that by the time today's student has finished grade 12, he will probably have spent twice as much time before a television set as he will have in school. That time is time that's under the control of the parent, not of the teacher. It would be useful for parents in our society in Alberta perhaps to consider the reduction of that time and the use of that time in other areas, such as reading. I would hope the emphasis on libraries found in the Speech from the Throne will be brought home to parents throughout the province, making them understand some of their responsibilities and obligations in the education of their children.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne outlines that education is and continues to be a priority of this government. One of the concerns this Legislature will be dealing with over the course of the spring and fall sessions will be assessment of the goals and objectives of education and a determination of the priorities which should be attributed to some, all, or none of these goals.

Hon. members will recognize a notice of motion placed on the Order Paper in my name for debate, a discussion on goals and objectives of education. It's not my intention this morning to delve deeply into that subject. However, I would like to say I would

hope that when the motion comes up for debate all members will participate, but before they participate that they take the pains to become fully informed. If they intend to criticize, let that criticism be constructive and come from a base of knowledge which could well include a visit to some of the schools in their constituencies and attendance upon some of the classes in progress. Mr. Speaker, I hope we do not emulate those segments of society who, speaking from a large pool of ignorance, criticize the profits of the business world.

Leaving for a future debate the matter of goals of education, Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend some time this morning on the matters of student achievement and examinations, and touch a bit on the Curriculum Policies Board.

I believe the Curriculum Policies Board has met five or six times, Mr. Speaker. On the basis of its recommendations an announcement was made early this year on the revision of the elementary mathematics program, a revision which, from the comments I have read and heard from educators and parents, has been accepted widely throughout the province. Probably a great deal of the reason for that acceptance is the input by teachers and school boards that has been evidenced in the program, and the fact that the program had been piloted in a number of schools very successfully. The Curriculum Policies Board as well will be looking very deeply into the matter of goals and objectives of education, as I indicated earlier in the Assembly during the course of a question posed to me.

Perhaps I can move on now, Mr. Speaker, to the matter of examinations, which of course is of interest and is mentioned in the Speech from the Throne in the following fashion: "Further consideration will be given to the place of provincial examinations in our educational system."

The first of a series of high school achievement tests was administered on January 10, 1977, Mr. Speaker, to all Biology 30 students completing their programs at the end of the first semester. The test was written by 5,271 students. The significant thing about the number who wrote, Mr. Speaker, was that they represented approximately 94 per cent of those eligible to write. That's consistent with the percentage that existed when compulsory departmental examinations existed in this province. What's significant is that these examinations were not compulsory. So we had basically the same percentage of eligible students writing the non-compulsory high school achievement test as would write the compulsory departmental examination.

The same test was administered in the 1974-75 term to a select group of students. In that particular case the test was administered at the end of the first semester. I give you these facts so the significance in terms of the marks I will subsequently supply you with is borne out. On this occasion the students wrote the examination three weeks before the completion of the semester. So they hadn't completed all the work they would normally be doing. The reason for the early date was to ensure that the students received their marks before the expiration of the semester they were in.

Some of the significant findings are as follows: the average raw score in 1977 for this examination was 69, as compared to a lower raw score of 66 two years

previous; 70 per cent of the students this year scored above 50 per cent, whereas 63 per cent did so in 1975. In 1975, 21 per cent scored above the 65 per cent level, and this increased to 26 per cent in the 1977 examination. I will not go into other statistics but they are available should any hon. member desire them in connection with this examination. However, they seem to indicate that the achievement by students in biology has improved over the past two years.

It seems the major concern in terms of achievement of students rests with their use of the English language, the level of literacy, and the quality of English essay writing. There has been considerable criticism of essays as the exclusive test of English literacy. Perhaps hon. members saw the report in one of the eastern newspapers — I believe it was at the University of Toronto that an essay type of examination was administered to students, and the freshman student pass rate was 56 per cent.

As a result, in subsequent discussions and controversy, a number of other people decided to write the same examination. These included university English professors, high school English teachers, trustees, and newspaper and editorial writers. [interjections]

The hon. Member for Drayton Valley questions whether any MLAs wrote the examination. I'm sure that if members of this Assembly would like to write the examination, time and services could be made available so we could see the results and compare them with the results of others. [interjections]

The interesting thing, Mr. Speaker, was that the university professors averaged 71.6 per cent on this examination. That compared to 76.1 per cent for the high school English teachers. The highest were the editorial writers at 78.3 per cent. This wouldn't include Dr. Proudfoot because he is of course a professor at the university. Trustees came in at 61.4 per cent. I have the sneaking suspicion, Mr. Speaker, that if MLAs were to write the test they would probably come in around the trustee level. [interjections]

We have all heard, Mr. Speaker, the comments of the business world that essay writing isn't the most significant thing they expect of students graduating from our systems. As a matter of fact, they place much higher on the level of needed skills: verbal proficiency, telephone manner, vocal clarity, and report writing. All these come well above essay writing in terms of what's needed of a student in the business world today. And a substantial part, if not all, of our communication in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, is verbal, through our speaking and listening skills. As a matter of fact, we're aided considerably by the qualified *Hansard* staff, Mr. Speaker, in some of the corrections they make, and in providing the proper spelling and punctuation. If we were required to do this, I wonder how well we would fare.

No, Mr. Speaker, literacy is not just expressive essay writing. It includes reading, receiving the spoken and written message, and translating sounds and sights into meaning, feeling, reacting, and responding.

The Department of Education is working on a comprehensive test of English literacy. Preparation of the test has been given highest priority. There are already over 80 teachers and educators working on items that must be included. The pretesting of a large

number of prospective items will involve from 300 to 500 classrooms in Alberta this spring. From these pretests, final items will be selected.

Last fall I announced in this Assembly the commencement of the high school achievement tests. At that time I indicated that four tests — biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics — were ready and would be administered, probably two a year. I also indicated at that time that the tests which were then in the process of being prepared were social studies, French, and English, and that we expected the English examination to be ready for the 1978-79 or perhaps 1979-80 year. As a result of concerns expressed to me in this area, I've asked the department to shorten the time line on the preparation of this examination, and to give priority to the English literacy examination over all others. We expect as a result to have a high school achievement examination in English available in all likelihood for June 1978.

There are other considerations of course that we will have to face in terms of proficiency in language arts. Such concerns are: should English be taught on a semester basis, or is it more proper to teach it on a year-round basis? In other words, is the semester system, which may be good for some subjects, the proper system to use in the teaching of English? Should we be considering a return to the situation of a few years ago where, to obtain a high school diploma, 20 credits in English were required, as opposed to 15 credits? What is the role of second languages in terms of proficiency in English? As hon. members appreciate, there is no longer a necessity for a second language in terms of the high school diploma. Does the studying of another language improve one's proficiency in English? Or can it be said about languages as about history, that one cannot know Canada if one only knows Canada? Maybe the same applies to the English language, that one cannot really know English if one only knows English. Because in the comparative work of studying Latin, French, and other languages, one strengthens knowledge and ability in the English language.

Last fall, Mr. Speaker, I announced the establishment of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Student Achievement. The committee is comprised of representatives from teacher, trustee, superintendent, home and school associations, and has members from labor, commerce, advanced education, and the university community. The committee has been charged with the responsibility of identifying solid evidence as to the achievement of students in our schools. The committee has met three times to date and has established a number of working groups.

Last fall in this Assembly a resolution was passed requesting the government to consider the effect of the non-compulsory nature of grade 12 departmental examinations on the quality of education in Alberta today. This resolution was referred to the committee and has received immediate attention. Their study is presently under way, and I expect that the results of that study will be available for your deliberation this fall.

Concurrently, a resolution of the Alberta School Trustees' Association in annual convention, to make compulsory a test in the basic skills of English before issuing a high school diploma, is also being considered by this committee.

I'm pleased that this morning I was able to approve

a study by this committee in connection with student achievement in grade 3. We are very fortunate that two well-known educators, former Dean Coutts and Dr. Clarke, were able to secure grade 3 examinations given in 1956 in the city of Edmonton — I believe approximately 3,600 in number — in mathematics, reading, and language. Through this study we will be able to replicate an examination to administer to grade 3 students not only in Edmonton but throughout the province, and be able as a result to make a comparison of the achievement of students today with students 21 years ago under similar circumstances.

The Minister's Advisory Committee on Student Achievement will be studying the levels of achievement of students at levels 3, 6, 9, and 12 in all of these areas. During the course of the two years in which they will be working in these areas, we expect to receive reports on an ongoing basis.

Talking about the level of achievement of students in Alberta, I note that the hon. Member for Lethbridge West in his comments on the throne speech debate took pride in the level of achievement of the students in his area of the province. The information that comes to me is that in the administration of a similar examination, a test of basic skills given in British Columbia and in Lethbridge, students in Lethbridge were almost a grade ahead of similar students in British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, we've long been aware of the disadvantage that some in our schools have. Social background, economic deprivation, cultural differences of some of the parts that make up the mosaic of Alberta society have created for some children a serious educational disadvantage. The government has countered such disadvantage by differential treatment. In 1973 the compensatory component of the educational opportunities fund was established. The Speech from the Throne announced further details and further attention to the program. I'd like to give you additional details this morning.

But before doing so, perhaps a brief description of some of the programs available throughout the province might interest hon. members. In Lac La Biche, for example, some beginners arrive at school so shy of the white culture that the teacher is unable to coax them to state their names. A native-speaking teacher's aide and a full-time special teacher provide instruction to a group of 13 beginners to develop reading readiness, oral language, and willingness to participate actively. At the Dr. Swift Junior High School, small groups of grades 7 and 8 pupils use the specially-equipped learning assistance centre to improve basic skills and reading mathematics. At Caslan, 18 students are organized into five small groups for special instruction.

These go on and on. In the High Prairie School Division, a compensatory project for over \$300,000 provided special reading instruction packages for seven schools. Selected pupils were assigned to resource rooms for intensive corrective exercises using these materials. In Edmonton, teachers have provided basic English to over 240 immigrant children at Alex Taylor over the past three years. It might be of interest to members of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, to know that collectively the 219 students attending Alex Taylor this year speak over 30 non-English languages. At eight other inner-city schools, the com-

pensatory language arts reading program for grades 1 and 2 students resulted in dramatic gains in language arts and reading achievement. The list of the successes of this particular program goes on and on, Mr. Speaker: Calgary, the Northland School Division.

Mr. Speaker, we are reinforcing our priorities by extending the compensatory education program for a further four-year period. Two million dollars will be available for the 1977-78 school term for approximately 20 school systems, mostly northern, to operate compensatory programs. The projects will be for selected students in grades 1 to 12 who are achieving levels appreciably below the average.

In rural areas a per-pupil assessment for tax purposes of under \$6,000 will be one of the factors. This compares with the provincial average of approximately \$12,000 per student. The provisions of the fund provide for special inner-city schools in Edmonton and Calgary. A total of \$5.5 million is made available for these systems in these two cities.

The emphasis of the compensatory portion of the program, Mr. Speaker, will continue to be on direct assistance to pupils through teaching staff, aides, and materials. The thrust will be in the area of basic skills. When we get into the secondary educational system, the thrust may also include attention to personal attitudes and vocational skills.

I believe I have knowledge of the contents of that note, Mr. Speaker, and I'll move along quickly. I'm not clairvoyant, but I can tell time.

On the topic of educational disadvantage, Mr. Speaker: in 1971 when this government took office, 551 special education teaching positions were in place. This represented approximately 2.5 per cent of the 22,000 teachers then teaching in the province. I'll quickly move on, Mr. Speaker, without going through the years in between, to say that that's been increased, as indicated in the Speech from the Throne, to the point where this year we expect the total to be 1,500; in other words, an increase of three times over that five-year period.

I know how anxious the other members are to contribute to this throne speech debate. I'll take no further time but will just confirm again my personal feeling that in the area of the disadvantaged we have made long strides over the past number of years, strides that maybe don't show today in terms of the results given for grade 12 students, but over the long period of time will show excellent results of which all of us in this Assembly can justly be proud.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to rise during this wind-up of the throne speech debate and talk a bit about the Stony Plain constituency, the province as I see it, and a couple of other issues. First of all I'd like to offer my congratulations to the hon. Member for Lloydminster and the hon. Member for Medicine Hat-Redcliff for their contributions in moving and seconding the throne speech.

When the Lieutenant-Governor entered the Chamber on February 24 dressed in his Indian regalia, it made me feel quite proud to be an Albertan and to be involved in this Assembly. I guess one of the main reasons for that, Mr. Speaker, is that I represent three Indian reserves in the Stony Plain constituency.

In the last four or five months we've heard comments aired by the members of the opposition and by

other people that our cabinet ministers and other people of the government are inaccessible. In January before leaving on holidays, I was doing some travelling in the constituency and listening to a talk-back show on my car radio. On three mornings in a row, I heard the Minister of Transportation one day, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs one day, and the Minister of Labour the following day. There are others I've probably missed. I think the hon. Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower was on too. I'm sure a number of ministers have been on this particular talk-back show. The people of Alberta have certainly had a chance to air their views in this way.

They've made some comments that the Premier is not accessible. That's so much nonsense, because he is as accessible as any of the other cabinet ministers. I think he was on a talk-back show just before Christmas, when he spent two hours by the telephone to get the views of people. Then he always has various TV talk-back shows on the different TV channels.

I'd just like to relate a story to this Assembly about a meeting we had with the Minister of Housing and Public Works in the latter part of January. It was with regard to a proposed provincial building the town of Spruce Grove wants. The chamber of commerce asked me if I could set up a meeting with the minister so we could discuss the proposals. I said, well, I can't see any problem. Right now the minister is away in Miami vacationing; he won't be back until the latter part of January, but I'll see what we can do. So I phoned them back a day later and said, we have the meeting set up — I think it was for January 26. This person said to me, how could you get it set up so quickly when this is January 15? I said, well, the minister keeps contact with his office back in Edmonton, and when he phoned, he advised them to go ahead and set up the meeting.

I'm sorry to see that the Member for Clover Bar is not in his place. The other day during his contribution to the throne speech he talked about the Game Farm. I take a different attitude than he does on the Game Farm, because I feel the Game Farm is not part of Alberta. How can you say a camel or a giraffe is part of Alberta's history? I'm opposed to the government buying the Game Farm outright. I think there are other ways it can be done.

I couldn't see spending \$8 million to purchase the Game Farm outright. How could I go back to my constituents and say, that school proposed for one of the towns out there, or that overpass we hope to get at Onoway some day, or the addition to the hospital at Stony Plain has been cut out of the budget, because the opposition wants to buy the Game Farm?

So I'd like to ask the hon. member where his priorities are. At one time they talk about government restraints and cutting back on the size of the civil service. Then he said the other day, let's take over the Game Farm, hire another 40 or 50 people to look after it. I just can't see the validity of some of his statements.

The other day in the House the Minister of Housing and Public Works made the announcement in regard to phase two of the senior citizen home improvement program. It's apparent that the Leader of the Opposition was not listening in 1975 when the program was first announced, because it was quite clear to me

when the program was announced that anybody on the assured income plan would be eligible for it. He rose in the House the other day and said, I remember the minister making the statement in 1975 that all people over 65 would be eligible at that time, why are we going ahead with phase two? I think when announcements are made, members of the opposition should look at them and get their facts straight.

The other day the Minister of Agriculture announced that the government would have to get more involved with the lamb processing plant at Innisfree. The Leader of the Opposition made the following statement, Mr. Speaker:

I think the co-op has little alternative other than to accept the government's offer, and I would hope that in the future we wouldn't get involved in [any] more of these kinds of endeavors.

Now I just don't know what he's talking about, "these kinds of endeavors". The development corporation has done a lot for agribusiness in this province. If he's saying we should cut out these types of endeavors, I think we would go back into the bleak economic picture we had in Alberta in the 1960s in regard to agriculture. By the year ending December 31, 1976, ADC made available loans amounting to \$43 million for a 154 different agribusinesses.

Just to acquaint the members with what these loans do:

These agribusiness, because of their developmental nature and an above average level of risk, could not secure reasonable financing from conventional lenders. However, as the concept of their ventures had merit in relation to the overall agricultural industry, the corporation assisted them to secure the required financing by supplying a guarantee of their borrowings.

As I say, we have loaned to 154 organizations. Twenty-six haven't been paid back in full. A couple are in trouble right now. Figuring this out, I come down to about 5 per cent failure. That's not bad for high-risk capital. Chartered banks in this country look at 5 per cent failure, not including high-risk.

We only have to look at some of the agribusinesses that are doing quite well in this province right now. Maybe the hon. Leader of the Opposition should look at Didsbury Feeders Ltd. It's a feedlot that had been set up in Didsbury. This person in Didsbury is making money on this venture, even when we have depressed cattle prices at the present time.

There's a potato-processing plant at Taber that's doing real well; an alfalfa plant at Falher; Foothills Veterinary Clinic at Cardston; Hyland Producers Limited, the egg processors at Two Hills; Hood Manufacturing Enterprises at Evansburg, who are doing peat moss; High Point Cleaning, a Seed-cleaning processor at Hussar; Northland Feed & Farm Supplies, another feed mill at Grande Prairie; pig improvement for breeding purposes at Acme; a cheese factory at Glenwood; Wings Foods of Alberta in Edmonton; Big Red Industries, a sod farm at St. Albert; Alberta Bean Growers at Bow Island. I've just picked a number of these that show we have an expanded type of agribusiness for the people of Alberta. It's also interesting to note, looking at the 154 businesses, that only two or three are located in the metropolitan areas. The rest are out in the farming communities, where they should be.

With regard to farm lending, this program is going

over real well too. Farmers have borrowed directly from banks, with no guarantee of the government — under \$50,000 per operation — a total of \$76 million which is equivalent to 11,375 farmers. The Agricultural Development Corporation has also lent starter farmers \$3.5 million. There has been \$8 million for [specific] loans. So I think the Agricultural Development Corporation is doing its rightful [job] in the agricultural industry in this province.

We also look at the Alberta Opportunity Company. I saw a write-up the other day:

The AOC, a provincial lending agency that transcends the limitation of private-sector financing institutions says the loans will help establish 19 new Alberta businesses, renovate or expand 36 existing businesses, and create an estimated 128 new jobs.

They were discussing the 49 loans, totalling \$2,875 million, for the months of December and January.

I know the people of rural Alberta especially are appreciative of the Alberta Opportunity Company and the Agricultural Development Corporation for their contribution in the field of agriculture and economic diversification of this province.

The hon. Minister of Education spoke before me about education. I will be involved more in this debate when the resolution comes before us.

During the month of December, Mr. Speaker, I sent a questionnaire to the people of my constituency. I would just like to take a couple of minutes to share the results of this questionnaire with the members of this Assembly. Six questions were asked. The participation was excellent, in my view. It was broken down into yes or no, and I've had my research staff in the constituency break it into percentages.

The first one was in regard to farm policy:

In view of the fact that the federal government is reluctant to introduce any stabilization programs for the cow-calf operator or the hog producer do you feel that:

(a) the provincial government should increase subsidies so that the farmer can keep up to the cost of production?

Yes was 43, and against, 57.

(b) dairy quotas should be increased to allow a suitable market condition within Alberta?

Eighty-three of the people said yes, and 17 were against.

(c) the government should be involved in any type of stabilization programs for the farming industry?

Forty-six per cent said yes, 54 per cent said no.

Now here's another difficult one that we've got to come to grips with fairly soon and that is land use:

Our government has to make some decisions next spring with regard to:

(A) Subdivision of agricultural land.

(a) Do you agree with the present policy that will permit subdivision of grazing land and grey-wooded areas for country residential purposes?

Seventy per cent of the constituents said yes, 30 per cent said no.

(b) Do you agree with the policy of urban annexation into 1, 2 and 3 soils?

Here it must have been a split between the urban and the farm communities, because it was 50-50.

(B) Foreign Ownership.

Should the government introduce legislation to

prevent:

- (a) ownership of agricultural-recreational lands by Canadians other than Albertans?

It was 15 per cent yes, 85 per cent no.

LENGTH 200

- (b) ownership of agricultural or recreational lands by non-Canadians?

It was 77 per cent yes, and 23 per cent no. So I think we've got the feeling from that constituency on foreign ownership.

Housing

- (a) Do you favor a speculation tax being introduced in an attempt to reduce the cost of serviceable lots for housing?

Fifty-fifty, Mr. Speaker. There was a write-in question here: "What would you recommend [to reduce] the cost of affordable housing?" They talk about a varied number here. Some of them talk about relaxing the subdivision and planning time. Some of them say that government should stay out of the market place and let the developers look after it.

Number 4 was in regard to the gas rebate plan:

At the present time the provincial government, through the natural gas rebate plan, has sheltered Alberta gas consumers by an average of \$60 per customer per year. In view of the fact that the price of natural gas will increase in 1977, do you agree with [the continuation of] this plan at a cost of upwards of \$70 million to you, the taxpayer?

Sixty-seven per cent said yes, 23 per cent said no.

I'm sorry to see the Attorney General is out, because this is in regard to matrimonial property:

Our government is considering legislation pertaining to community property settlement in cases of complete marriage breakdown. With a view to formulating legislation, do you favor:

- (a) "no fault" divorce?

Seventy-five per cent, yes; 25 per cent, no.

"Equal division of community property": 54 per cent, yes; 46 per cent, no. "Child support payments to the parent gaining custody": 86 per cent, yes; 14 per cent, no. "Adjustment of alimony payments in accordance with a change in the financial status of either party": 62 per cent, yes; 28 per cent, no. "A cost of living clause incorporated into the settlement": 92 per cent, yes; 8 per cent, no. "Marriage counselling prior to issuing a marriage licence": 83 per cent, yes; 17 per cent, no.

Here's one for the Minister of Transportation: "Highway Safety — do you favor: (a) reducing the speed limit on highways?" Forty-three per cent said yes, 57 per cent said no. For "legislation which would require the use of seat belts": 29 per cent, yes; 71 per cent, no. "Safety inspection of used vehicles prior to resale": 84 per cent, yes; 16 per cent, no. "Safety inspection extended to periodic inspection of all vehicles": 71 per cent, yes; 29 per cent, no. So I think the results of that particular questionnaire have given me some guidance on the views of the constituents.

When the hon. Member for Drayton Valley spoke in this House last Thursday, [he] was still speaking about a new county of Drayton Valley, cutting up the counties of Leduc, Wetaskiwin, and Parkland. This has been a topic for discussion in the constituency. I oppose this for a number of obvious reasons. I guess the most obvious reason is that when the first boundaries were drawn, I guess it was December 1973,

they stated the area should include an area approximately west of Tomahawk.

All of a sudden, they changed the boundaries to include the Sundance generating station and two gas plants in the county of Leduc. In my submission to the Municipal and School Boundaries Advisory Committee, I said it was obvious that assessment was a criterion in the change of these boundaries. With the proposed plant coming into the Keephills area, I wouldn't be a bit surprised if they bring in an amendment to have the boundary shifted further east to include this area.

The Drayton Valley area ratepayers stated five reasons for creation of a new county. They said, "(1) general dissatisfaction with road conditions". They may have that in the counties of Leduc or Wetaskiwin, but it certainly isn't true in the Drayton Valley area.

- (2) services directed from location[s] too far from the economic and cultural centre of the community:

- (3) present school boundaries outdated:

- (4) agricultural services inadequate:

- (5) lack of recreational facilities.

I oppose this, being in the county of Parkland as an elected representative and as a taxpayer. I commented on the five points in a brief I submitted to the boundaries commission two years ago. I stated:

- (1) In travelling the County of Parkland, the question of road conditions is always a topic for discussion. As a ratepayer of the County of Parkland and as a provincial elected representative, I feel that all areas of the County get a fair share of monies available, either through the mill rate assessment or provincial grants.

Number two was the question about services too far from the community:

Any services directed from locations too far from the economic and cultural centre of the community is no fault of the elected ... Council [of Parkland] but [is] a problem of poor planning by local people.

The third one was "school boundaries outdated". I think we have proven with the tuition agreement signed about 10 years ago by the county of Parkland and the town of Devon that school boundaries can be changed to look after existing situations.

The number 4 point was "agricultural services inadequate", and I stated:

I do not understand that agricultural services are presently inadequate as the Province has a D.A. and the County has an Agricultural Fieldman located in Drayton Valley ...

They are there to look after the people's needs.

Number 5 was "lack of recreational facilities", and I responded:

The lack of recreational facilities is no fault of the County of Parkland ... In 1971, a grant system was structured where monies were made available on a matching basis. Some communities in ... Parkland have taken advantage of this plan.

So I still question the formation of a new county in this area. As my summation to the boundaries commission said:

At the present time, the residents of the County of Parkland enjoy a low mill rate because of high industrial tax assessment. If the boundaries are changed and a new county is formed, it will

include the Sundance Generating Station with an approximate assessment of \$30 million which will increase to between \$80 million and \$100 million by the time all units are commissioned. The residents of the new county will enjoy a [new] mill rate while the residents of the County of Parkland will see an increased mill rate. By comparing estimates for the two counties involved, with the proposed new County of Drayton Valley and the remainder of the County of Parkland, I think it is like robbing Peter to pay Paul. We have the proposed new County of Drayton Valley with an estimated assessment in the neighbourhood of [\$52 million] while the County of Parkland [would] have an assessment of approximately [\$26 million].

There are recent ongoing discussions in regard to the Enoch Band proposal on the Enoch Indian Reserve located just outside the city of Edmonton. I support the Enoch Band in what they are trying to do. I think it's a new venture in development on Indian reserves, and the sooner we can get amendments brought in by the federal government and the provincial government to allow this to go ahead, it will be a lot better for everybody concerned. I think they could probably make affordable housing available on the Indian reserve which some people now cannot afford. We have the city of Edmonton opposing this because it is too close to their boundaries. I then question, why did we put a restricted development area in? Because this is on the west side of that restricted development area.

I'd just like to share with the members what's happening on the Enoch Reserve right now. They have just recently commissioned a trailer factory, which is making a number of trailers of different sizes. They have a very healthy potato industry. They are involved in grain farming. They have the oil and gas royalties. They also have many, many new homes coming up on the reserve. They also have the office — I had the pleasure of participating in the opening of it just after Christmas — funded through AADAC, where their counsellors are trained and sent out into the other areas to look after native drinking problems.

The Indian chiefs held a meeting in Edmonton, which concluded two weeks ago today. I followed that meeting with some interest in that I know a number of Indian chiefs throughout the province of Alberta. In some of the things they were doing, I think they have a solid background in what they're trying to propose.

The one area I really concurred with them — and I've stated it to this government on a couple of different occasions — is in regard to policing on Indian reserves and bringing in the constables as they did. When they had the supernumerary constable under the RCMP, I think they were a lot better off than they are right now. The Indians are saying they're being harassed and so on. There were charges from the Alexander Reserve, and there have been charges from other reserves. To have a functional police force, I think we have to go the way Enoch did and have members of whatever force it is — the RCMP or a special force — on that reserve. They cannot police it from 20 miles out as some areas are trying to do.

Another point I'd like to speak on very quickly is the two summer villages in the constituency; namely,

Alberta Beach and Seba Beach. Their populations are about 1,200 for Alberta Beach and probably 300 for Seba Beach. Both villages attract thousands of people in the summer time. Through the Department of Municipal Affairs, we have been instrumental in getting extra grants for these villages, starting in 1972, because of the extra costs incurred.

But we've got to look very seriously at sewage problems that are happening. Mind you, we've come in with regulations under The Public Health Act saying they have to have pump-out septic tanks and so on. But as far as I'm concerned, when you're using outdoor toilets and so on, you're going to get groundwater contamination. We have the sewage programs available to our villages, but I don't feel they fit the bill for our summer villages that haven't got that assessment base so they can obtain grants on a per capita basis.

The constituency of Stony Plain has thrived quite a bit in the last year. Industrial development is going ahead every day. We now have in front of the Energy Resources Conservation Board, starting on March 15, a proposal for a new thermal generating station located in the Keephills area. Because of the impending hearings, I will not make any comment on them at this time.

But an article I received the other day says approximately 30 million tons of coal are mined in Canada right now. It's interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that 10 million tons of this comes from the Stony Plain constituency, for power generation being at the Sundance generating station at Wabamun. I think a lot of other areas of Canada are looking at what's happening in regard to reclamation at the Sundance plant at Lake Wabamun.

Calgary Power recently undertook, I guess it was in 1963, to do the first reclamation. In 1976 they decided to experiment with some of the alfalfa they had seeded and also to plough up about 5 acres of land to see if it would return any type of crop. In 1976 they seeded 5 acres to barley in five different plots. Each plot had a different concentration of fertilizer. The average yield for the barley was 35.5 bushels to the acre. The field wasn't seeded until June 14, and we had a very dry year until some time in August, when we did get some rain. They also undertook to cut and bale 258 acres of alfalfa. The alfalfa went from 1.75 to 2 tons an acre, which I think is pretty significant. I have a number of brochures I'd like to table with the Assembly. I think there should be one for every member, and they can see exactly what's taking place out there.

The other thing that concerns me in the little hamlet of Wabamun where I live is the recent groups who have been out there recently attempting to tell the utility company that it should stop putting hot water into the lake, trying to force it into a cooling tower situation. As a resident of the area — and I'm sure the other 700 people feel the same as I do — if we were forced to cooling towers in that hamlet, in the winter when the temperature dropped to zero Celsius we would live in nothing but a fog bank. In summer the noise from these cooling towers would be horrendous. The main group trying to do this is local cottage owners who are not full-time residents. They live in the city of Edmonton and come out to the Wabamun area and spend three or four months there.

In 1971 Calgary Power started a weed harvesting program on Lake Wabamun. In 1973 they removed 3,600 tons of weeds from the lake; in 1974 they removed 5,200 tons; in 1975, and this is a significant figure, only 330 tons; and in 1976, only 280 tons. So we now have the biologists baffled. They don't know what's taking place. But regarding the lake, I can relate to other people, as I did on Wednesday night at a senior citizens' do at Wabamun — they said, we remember the weeds out here 50 years ago.

Just to wind up, Mr. Speaker, anything forced to be done such as cooling towers, cooling ponds, or environmental control is [in] direct relationship to the consumer in the province. It's a direct result of the rate base these companies claim for expenses.

My last and final comment, Mr. Speaker, is that I had the opportunity to speak to a group of school children in the hamlet of Duffield on Saturday morning, starting off Education Week. One of the students asked me, do you favor the Mackenzie Valley pipeline? I said that because of the situation in the United States, I would like to see the line go through. At that time I said, it's no reflection upon what the thinking may be in our caucus, but that's my own opinion. I said, if you look out that window you can see the CN line that runs from eastern Canada to Vancouver. If we'd had these environmental groups around in 1908, that line probably wouldn't be running through there.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member would permit a question for clarification.

MR. PURDY: Certainly.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the comments about the Alberta Game Farm, I wonder if the hon. member would indicate to the House whether he agrees with the set direction of the government; that is, to provide partial positive support to buy the land and lease it back at \$1 per year to a non-profit community or foundation that has . . .

DR. BUCK: You already made your speech, Ken.

DR. PAPROSKI: . . . financial and managerial capability.

MR. PURDY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I more or less said that when I was winding up in regard to the remarks of the Member for Clover Bar. I don't want to see the government go out and buy that Game Farm completely. If some other organization wants to do it, they can do it, but not for 100 per cent government subsidization.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, one final question, and I agree with the hon. member. Does the member agree that this Alberta Game Farm has substantial value with respect to . . . [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: It's difficult at this time to revert to a question period type of interrogation.

DR. PAPROSKI: Well, Mr. Speaker, with respect . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I would respectfully suggest to the hon. member that perhaps he and the hon. Member for Stony Plain might avail themselves of another occasion.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, as this debate closes on this subject, I as the Member for Wainwright welcome the opportunity to express a few views of my constituents.

To start with, I would like to congratulate the mover and seconder who started off this great debate, the Member for Lloydminster and the Member for Medicine Hat-Redcliff. I think they set a very high tone, and I've been very pleased to sit and listen to the many viewpoints that have been expressed. I think the parliamentary system of allowing each member his opportunity to stand and express himself in debate on current subjects is very precious. While sometimes we feel that debate can be long and tiresome, I think a real function takes place in this House. I think we should be proud of the high calibre we have maintained here.

I would like to start, Mr. Speaker, with the opening paragraphs from the Speech from the Throne:

My government recognizes that there is a developing consensus [among] Albertans that they may be asking too much of the government, that expectations must be reduced, and that desirable but non-essential activities must be the personal responsibility of the citizen, the parent, the family, and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I heard one member of the opposition take exception to this statement. I feel a large number of people believe our government has got to recognize — and we are recognizing — there is a limit to how much government involvement can take place while still retaining the philosophy we stand for: that this is a free-enterprise country and certain basic things are the responsibility of the family.

I think our schools are a prime example. We are hearing that there is a return to the basics. There is a time and a place where family responsibility has to take priority. I believe that although we have drifted away, in the last few years, from the realization that more responsibilities have to be at a family level rather than under the jurisdiction of government or any other phase of society, it is coming back.

I believe the five basic priorities you've all read in the Speech from the Throne are very timely, and I can certainly agree that they should be the five priorities in this coming session. I won't take any more time on that subject, because I would like an opportunity at a later date to discuss some of these in greater length.

The Alberta economy has been heated up with our natural resource development. I think we have to recognize that our basic agricultural economy has not enjoyed that same sort of economic stability. Our prices in both livestock and grain have been at such a depressed point that our agricultural economy is now riding a very tight rein to compete for goods, services, and manpower at a time when our oil industry and other developments are demanding and able to offer more money than our agricultural industry can compete with. I think this is something we have to live with. I don't think it's something that can be legislated.

I think it should be recognized that our basic industry could be in jeopardy at the same time the rest of

our province is riding on a very high plane. I think this government does recognize this fact. Any way we as legislators can ease the pressure and carry the thought to the whole country that agriculture is basic, does not set its own prices, and has to compete for manpower, goods, and services with a buoyant economy, is certainly a worth-while effort.

I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, that in this province we have a high mortgage load developing on our whole economy. I think we should recognize the fact, with inflated prices, inflation in land values, that possibly we could be getting into a very tight money situation where adverse weather conditions could suddenly tip the balance and some of our economy could not survive a period of resulting drought and depression.

Going on, Mr. Speaker, I think the restraint program our government initiated in last year's budget was wholly supported. I think we've got to recognize that certain priorities [cannot] be held under the complete control of an established rate of expenditure. But I'm pleased with the results. I think curbing inflation with controls is sometimes a very necessary measure. I think that setting the policy and establishing the precedent at the governmental level is one way to express to industry, to the rest of the province, and to the country that there is a meaningful reason for holding government expenditures down.

At a particular time when this province has the financial resources to do otherwise, the establishment of the heritage savings trust fund was a very significant way of saying to the rest of Canada, we're not going to heat the economy up any more than the rest of the provinces can stand. We're trying to live with the rest of Canada at a basic level. We're not in a position to say we have accomplished 100 per cent of the things we started to do, but certainly our programs have been designed to show the rest of Canada that our economy is not going to be allowed to get completely at a difference with the rest of the provinces.

On the matter of education, Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to listen to the minister's address this morning. I would like an opportunity at a later date to have some part in the debate, because it's a very fundamental part of our society. I think we're recognizing some changes are necessary, and we're reacting to the needs of the time. A considerable increase in financing promised to the library system will certainly be welcomed in all parts of our society.

Housing is a very major part of our program. Phase two of the senior citizens' housing program, recently announced, will certainly be welcomed in all areas. The initial phase was certainly one of the things that I felt restored our senior citizens' faith in the fact that this government recognizes that increasing costs of inflation are a difficult thing for people on fixed incomes. People in that calibre and in those circumstances certainly welcomed the opportunity of having a program like this that would help them specifically.

Land banking and development of programs of this nature — expansion in our towns and cities — has had a real value and been a major thrust as far as this government is concerned. I only wish the cities of Edmonton and Calgary could have taken advantage of the same opportunities some of our rural towns and villages have. They have land-banked and put land on the market for the home-owner practically at cost.

In my particular town, I'm very pleased to say that lots have been available for private people to buy to develop their own homes at a significantly lower cost because the town is not particularly making a profit on this land. They are practically putting it on the market at cost. Seven thousand to \$7,500 for a good developed lot in the town of Wainwright is standard. I think this is a significant way of getting housing at an affordable price. I think this type of land development should be a municipal responsibility. I'm sorry the cities of Edmonton and Calgary haven't been able to do the same.

Our hospitals and medicare program, while we got some criticism last year of our 10 per cent restraint, has certainly brought to all parts of Alberta one of the highest standards of medical services anywhere in Canada. I am very proud of the fact that in my constituency a very beautiful health facility is about to be officially opened in the town of Provost. It will probably be a model for anywhere in rural Alberta. There's an extension under consideration for our auxiliary hospital in Wainwright, to meet that particular need.

I think the announcement of our cancer and heart research program is something all Albertans will benefit from regardless of where they live. I believe this is a very fundamental part of any health program. If we can have the research development in Alberta, I think we should be proud of the opportunity of taking advantage of it. I think Alberta should be recognized as a progressive place where these types of things can happen, and I'm very proud of the fact we've initiated this part of our program as part of our heritage savings trust fund thrust towards developing something better for Alberta.

In our agricultural program, Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of being part of a caucus committee that reviewed irrigation in southern Alberta. I think the \$200 million from the heritage savings trust fund that is going to be the initial thrust in rebuilding our irrigation in southern Alberta is something all Alberta should be aware of and proud of. It is a very fundamental part of our agricultural program and as far as I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, something that's taken the dry land of this province and made it the garden land. I believe that anything we can do to encourage the expansion, improvement, and continuous operation of that part of Alberta as the garden of agriculture as far as this province is concerned, is something we should all be proud of and should all support.

Our energy and natural resources have seen some of the greatest expansion and development of any time. Our Alberta petroleum exploration incentive program is bringing on stream some of the oil and natural gas it wasn't feasible to develop until the price of natural gas and crude oil came to this level. I'm pleased to say that in eastern Alberta — where it's not a heavily producing field, but it's expansive — development is now possible with our increased prices. As it comes on stream, the part of this province that has not seen too much expansion in the past is going to benefit.

In Transportation, I had the pleasure to sit on the select legislative committee studying trucking regulations. They will be studied in this Legislature at a later date. I was pleased at the opportunity of being able to see first-hand what the problems of the truck-

ing industry were. As the rest of the people have the opportunity to read the results of this committee's findings, I think these people who have felt they were being done an injustice will be pleased with some of our recommendations.

In Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, I'm very pleased that a new system of classification of parks and park areas has been announced. I think there are a lot of smaller park prospects in the province that could very well serve the local communities as well as our tourist industry and be a great asset. I hope this program will be accelerated. It's something that I don't believe is a very expensive program, and those types of facilities would be welcomed in any part of the country that are not adjacent to well-developed facilities at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the hour I think I'll terminate my debate. I've welcomed this opportunity to speak to this Legislature.

[Motion carried]

head: **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**
(*reversion*)

2. Moved by Mr. Lougheed:

Be it resolved that the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne be engrossed and presented to His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor by such members of the Assembly as are members of the Executive Council.

[Motion carried]

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the reports of the special committee, presented to the Assembly on March 8 and March 9, be received and concurred in.

[Motion carried]

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move the Assembly do now adjourn until 8 p.m.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Assembly stands adjourned until 8 o'clock this evening.

[The House recessed at 12:31 p.m.]

[The House met at 8:07 p.m.]

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

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to you, sir, and to members of the Assembly the former Provincial Treasurer for the province of Alberta, the hon. E.

W. Hinman, who this evening is in the Speaker's gallery.

head: **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**
(*reversion*)

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I've received certain messages from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which I now transmit to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Please stand.

I have certain messages from His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor. The Lieutenant-Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31, 1977, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

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Be seated.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to table a copy of the Estimates of Expenditure and move that the messages of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the estimates, and all matters connected therewith be referred to the Committee of Supply.

[Motion carried]

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I move that this Assembly approve in general the fiscal policies of the government.

head: **BUDGET ADDRESS**

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present this evening the seventh budget of our administration. This budget reflects our continuing efforts to strike a responsible fiscal balance in order to maintain this province's current strong financial position during the transition from a resource-based economy to a more permanent self-sustaining diversified structure.

As I announced on November 17, 1976, an integral part of our budget plan for the next fiscal year is the continuation of a general attitude of restraint in the growth of provincial government expenditure. I would like to stress that our policy is one of controlling the growth of expenditure while maintaining and in some instances increasing the high level of government services Albertans are now receiving.

With the reduction that has occurred in the inflation rate over the past year, it is our belief the guidelines adopted for 1977-78 are well within our capacity to achieve, while still providing for improvement in the quality of government service to people.

In our judgment there are two compelling reasons why it is necessary to continue the restraint policy. Foremost, we must continue to guard against the danger of building in unrealistically high levels of government expenditure based on our depleting resource revenues. Mr. Speaker, I think it is instructive to here reflect on some of the history of government spending in Canada. Slightly more than 10

years ago, in 1965, all levels of government in Canada combined collected and spent an equivalent of about 26 per cent of the total economic output of the country. By 1975 this figure had surpassed 42 per cent. While much of this increase was due to programs which redistributed income among individuals, the growing presence of government is all too apparent.

In Alberta we have not experienced this same relative expansion of the government sector. By 1975 the equivalent of about 33 per cent of total output was spent by all three levels of government, compared to 29 per cent 10 years earlier. In part, the lower proportion of Alberta output collected and spent by governments is a reflection of the much more rapid growth of the Alberta economy than had been achieved by the national economy.

Mr. Speaker, we believe the lessons to be learned from the examples around us are clear. The major source of Alberta's past rapid growth — our conventional crude oil and natural gas — is depleting. As this process occurs we will experience an inevitable shift in government revenues toward those sources such as personal and corporate income tax, which future Albertans will be called upon to provide. If we do not take the longer view and maintain expenditures at a realistic level, then the future tax burden on Albertans will be extremely onerous.

As well as this government's direct responsibility to Albertans, we have a broader responsibility, which is fulfilled by our commitment to expenditure restraint. In our view the partial success in reducing the inflation rate over the past year has been aided considerably by controlling government expenditure growth. Full co-operation of all governments in Canada is necessary for a further reduction in the inflation rate. Alberta has a vital interest in achieving this goal. If we are to diversify our economic base, we must be able to compete in both national and international markets. In large measure our ability to compete will be determined by our success in reducing inflation.

Mr. Speaker, major changes in the financing of health care, hospitals, and postsecondary education have been negotiated recently by the federal and provincial governments. I will be outlining the new arrangements in more detail later in this address, but I would now like to highlight their significance.

In essence, the new agreement involves the change from a 50-50 sharing of the costs of these programs between the provincial and federal governments to one where the province is responsible for financing a much higher proportion of the total cost. The major advantage to the province of this new arrangement is a greatly expanded ability to determine its own priorities. The shift to greater provincial financial responsibility will be accompanied without extra burden on Alberta taxpayers by a change in the share of total personal income tax revenue collected by Alberta and the federal government.

I am satisfied that we will now be able to respond more effectively to the needs of Albertans in the areas of hospital care, medical care, and postsecondary education, without the artificial financial constraints imposed under the previous system. Our government has been seeking this type of change for some time, and I am pleased to be able to outline the contents of the new arrangements this evening.

Mr. Speaker, before reporting on the financial plans of the government for 1977-78, I would like to provide a brief review of the economic situation.

Economic activity in the major western industrialized countries has been strengthening since the trough of the world recession in late 1974 and early 1975. The recovery has been slow by historical standards, however, and there is a significant possibility that the modest growth of 1976 will weaken in 1977. The United States, Japan, and West Germany have been leading the recovery, but there is some concern that the momentum built up in 1976 in these countries will not be sufficient to propel the rest of the world economy on a sustained growth path. While inflation has moderated significantly throughout the world, unemployment remains high. There is little likelihood of a resurgence of rapid inflation at this time, but current conditions suggest that without some form of stimulus unemployment rates may rise in 1977. A common problem of many countries is a lack of business confidence, reflected in the slow response of investment to the improving economic situation.

While the Canadian economic situation parallels that of the international economy in many respects, it is deeply disturbing to see the majority of economic forecasts for 1977 point to a worsening economic future. During 1976 real growth in Canadian output was 4.6 per cent. While this was certainly an improvement over 1975, it was a disappointment relative to previous recoveries from recessions.

Since relatively few new job opportunities were provided at this rate of growth, the unemployment rate in Canada rose to 7.2 per cent. With growth next year forecast at only 3 to 4 per cent, it is widely expected that unemployment will average close to 8 per cent in 1977. Given the regional diversity and economic performance, for a number of provinces this means unemployment rates of 10 per cent to 15 per cent, or even higher.

One of the contributing factors to the slow growth in 1976 was a poor investment performance. Investment in new housing was buoyant, but real business investment was stagnant in 1976. Current forecasts indicate little improvement in 1977. Policies are required at the national level to restore the business confidence needed to stimulate this most important economic activity. It is only through a process of investment that Canada will achieve the productivity gains necessary to allow us to compete on an equal footing in world markets, and hence provide meaningful employment opportunities for an expanding labor force. We must also view with apprehension the fact that our wage rates and production levels are making Canada increasingly non-competitive in many important trading commodities, forest products being a disturbing example.

An area of considerable concern to this government as we review Canada's economic performance is the balance of trade position. While the deficit in the current account balance improved slightly for the first three quarters of 1976 compared to 1975, the net result was still a deficit of close to \$5 billion. Furthermore, the underlying trends in our dealings with other nations are disturbing. Our traditional surplus on merchandise trade was much smaller in 1976 than in previous years — about \$1 billion compared to the more usual \$2 to \$3 billion. In the past we

have relied on this surplus from our sales of wheat, crude oil, and other commodities to largely offset our typical deficit for services — items such as foreign travel and interest payments on public and private debt held by non-residents of Canada. This deficit for services, however, has grown by about 60 per cent in the past three years to nearly \$6 billion. With projected foreign sales of our crude oil declining rapidly in the future and imports of crude oil increasing, the outlook for growth in the merchandise trade balance is of considerable concern.

Under these conditions, Mr. Speaker, Canada faces a situation of continued extensive foreign borrowing, or further foreign equity investment, to maintain our current standard of living. Continued borrowing against our future production leaves Canada in a position of exposure to sudden changes in the cost and availability of foreign capital.

We believe that policies aimed at steadily reversing the trends I have just outlined would help avoid the potential of more painful, rapid adjustments, which are a real possibility if the existing situation persists.

The major force behind the growth the Canadian economy did manage to achieve in 1976 was consumer spending. With inflation at rates below the general level of wage and salary increases, real disposable income increased significantly leading to the strength in this category.

The substantial reduction in the rate of inflation achieved during 1976 is the most encouraging fact to emerge from a review of last year's performance.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that in recent months Canada's economic thinking has matured. We appreciate more than ever before how rampant inflation stifles economic growth, job creation, productivity, and consequently improved living standards. But more important than that appreciation is the growing awareness that higher living standards come from increasing the supply of goods and services and not by increasing prices or salaries. Increases in prices or salaries may yield temporary advantages to those who achieve them, but over time the only way we can improve our standard of living is by producing more goods and services.

I believe also, Mr. Speaker, that during the past year we have come to the realization that high inflation rates are not inevitable and that labor, management, and government, acting in concert, can take effective action to reduce inflation.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the national and international problems described above have had little effect on the Alberta economy. It appears that there was only a moderate slowing of real economic growth in 1975, and the figures for 1976 indicate a resurgence of strength.

Investment plays a major role in the Alberta economy and, following a number of years of record increases, total investment in new capital during 1976 is expected to be about \$6.3 billion — an increase of about 28 per cent over 1975. This growth rate is more than double that of the rest of the Canadian economy. Alberta now accounts for 15 per cent of all investment in Canada, although our population is only 8 per cent of the total. This is the type of performance which must be sustained if we are to achieve the productivity gains which will yield tomorrow's high-skill job opportunities and allow us to compete favorably in world markets.

A new record was set for housing starts in Alberta last year. Total starts during 1976 reached a record level of almost 39,000 dwellings, more than one and a half times the 1975 figure and well above the previous peak reached in 1971. Although housing starts have grown strongly in other parts of Canada, the growth rate in Alberta during 1976 was more than double the Canadian average. The large commitment made by this government to the programs of the Alberta Housing Corporation and the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation have been instrumental in this improvement in the supply of housing. We fully expect that this increased supply will help to curb the rapid increases experienced in housing costs in past years. Furthermore a substantial number of these new starts is for rental accommodation, which should help alleviate the shortage of this type of dwelling.

Buoyant business conditions in Alberta have also led to an above-average growth rate in new jobs. Total employment grew by almost 6 per cent in this province in 1976, representing a creation of 45,000 jobs on a year-over-year basis. The number of people entering the labor force also grew rapidly, but the unemployment rate was reduced to 3.9 per cent in 1976, at a time when the national unemployment rate was rising.

With these prosperous conditions, incomes in Alberta have grown substantially. Average weekly wages and salaries were 13 per cent above the previous year by December of 1976, well above the national increase of 11.8 per cent for the corresponding period.

Propelled by the rapid growth in personal income, retail sales increased by 17 per cent in 1976, providing a strong basis for growth in business income, particularly for many of Alberta's small businesses operating in the retail trade sector.

Alberta's large and important agricultural sector experienced some difficulties during 1976, and preliminary indications are that net farm income declined. In the grain sector, a substantial worldwide improvement in crop harvests has led to lower grain prices. With the record wheat crop harvested in Alberta in 1976, however, the effect of the lower prices was offset to some degree. The livestock sector continues to experience unrealistically low prices for beef. Part of this problem stems from low-cost imports to Canada. The government, in recognition of the problems experienced by this industry, has responded by initiating a \$43 million program designed to prevent large losses by cow-calf operators in Alberta. In the absence of such a program, it was our judgment that many producers would have been forced out of the business.

Mr. Speaker, the prospects for the agricultural industry in 1977 are somewhat mixed. With lower prices prevailing for grains, net income in this part of the industry is likely to be lower than in 1976. However, some strengthening of livestock prices is expected to improve net income from livestock production.

Inflation rates in Alberta have declined significantly following the national trend, but generally more buoyant economic conditions in Alberta have been a contributing factor in keeping the rate of growth in the consumer price indices for Edmonton and Calgary somewhat above the national average.

The outlook for Alberta in 1977 is for continued strong growth. With construction continuing on the Syncrude project, the quickening pace of construction on the petrochemical projects, and a continued high level of exploration for and development of new oil and gas reserves, investment is again expected to be a major contributor to Alberta's economic growth. We expect most major economic indicators for Alberta to outperform those of other provinces.

Mr. Speaker, prior to discussing the 1977-78 revenue estimates, I wish to review briefly the results of some very important federal/provincial negotiations on financial matters which occupied a considerable amount of time over the past year. These negotiations culminated at the meeting of first ministers on December 13 and 14, 1976, when agreement was reached in two key areas — new financing arrangements for three major programs which until now have operated on a shared-cost basis, and a new formula for determining federal equalization payments to those provinces with below-average taxing capacity. The new arrangements will commence on April 1, 1977.

The purpose of the provincial revenue equalization payments is to ensure that all provinces are able to provide an average level of services at reasonably comparable rates of taxation. This is a key program in federal/provincial fiscal relations. The new formula is an attempt to provide a better estimate of each province's fiscal capabilities and deficiencies. While Alberta neither receives nor directly contributes to equalization payments, we maintain a strong interest in ensuring that the principles of this program are efficiently served because of its important implications for equality of opportunity among Canadians.

The new financial arrangements for established programs is of more direct concern to Alberta. Until now hospital insurance, medical care, and postsecondary education — referred to as established programs because they have been in place for sufficient time to have matured in the sense of approaching national standards — have been financed on a shared-cost basis by the provinces and the federal government. Also included in the established programs financing is the federal contributions for extended health care services, namely nursing home intensive care, adult residential care, converted mental hospitals, health aspects of home care, and ambulatory health care services. This area was previously conditionally cost-shared under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Under the new arrangements the 50 per cent share contributed in the past by the federal government in the form of conditional cash transfers will be replaced by two roughly equal components, to which no specific expenditure conditions have been attached. Approximately one half will be in the form of an equal per capita cash grant to each province. Each year the grant will be increased to reflect recent changes in overall growth in the Canadian economy. The other half will be in the form of a transfer of income tax room to the provinces. This transfer will be accomplished by the federal government reducing its personal income tax rates and the provinces increasing their own rates to take up the vacated room. The revenue generated by the combined federal and provincial income taxes will not change. The net tax transfer in respect of established programs financing

will be 8.143 points of personal income tax. This transfer is additional to the 4.357 points of personal income tax and 1 point of corporation income tax transferred to the provinces in respect of the former postsecondary education cost-sharing arrangements.

During the negotiations on these issues, a major provincial concern was the loss of provincial revenue which would occur due to the termination of the revenue guarantee on December 31, 1976. This program had been in effect since 1972, the year of tax reform. It was designed to ensure all provinces participating in the tax collection agreements with the federal government that their revenues would not be adversely affected by the significant changes made to the income tax system at that time. Expiration of the guarantee meant a significant financial loss to the provinces. Alberta will receive about \$75 million in respect of this program in 1976-77. The negotiations resulted in one additional personal income tax point, bringing the net additional tax transfer to 9.143 points, and a parallel amount of cash being included in the cash grant side of the established programs financing arrangements.

As a result of the transfer of personal income tax room, we will be proposing that Alberta's personal income tax rate increase from 26 per cent to 38.5 per cent of federal basic tax. I wish to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that the new tax rate is only a reflection of the increased share of the tax dollar which will go to the provincial government. In principle, the combined federal plus provincial income tax payable by individual taxpayers is not changed; in practice, some taxpayers will experience relatively small increases or decreases because of the mechanics of the transfer. For those taxpayers reporting taxable income of less than \$3,958, we propose to expand the benefits of the Alberta selective rate reduction, which has been in place since the 1975 taxation year. The proposed modification will ensure that the program's original objectives are maintained; that is, no Alberta tax will be payable where there is no federal tax payable and, for each taxpayer, Alberta tax payable will not exceed federal tax payable. I estimate the cost of this expanded selective rate reduction will be about \$4 million. The effect of the new income tax rates on the individual taxpayer is illustrated in Appendix B.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta has been critical of cost sharing for several years because it distorts provincial spending priorities and reduces provincial flexibility in developing programs. These distortions tend to increase program costs. Under the new arrangements, Alberta and other provinces will have greater autonomy in designing, financing, and delivering these programs. The only conditions attached to the established program financing arrangements are general in nature. First, the provinces must ensure that the expenditure in each of the three program areas is at least equal to the federal cash contribution in the respective area. Second, the broad conditions of portability, accessibility, comprehensiveness, and universality, which are contained in the federal Medical Care Act, will apply to hospital insurance, to medicare, and to extended health care services. No program conditions are to be imposed on postsecondary education, in recognition of provincial constitutional responsibility. We are confident, Mr. Speaker, that the new arrangements will enable us to better satisfy the special needs and preferences of Alber-

tans, and to improve the cost effectiveness of health and postsecondary education programs.

In addition to the program benefits, these new arrangements have a definite and favorable impact on the Alberta budgetary revenue structure. Chart 1 illustrates the composition of revenues in 1977-78 with comparable information for 1971-72. In 1977-78 almost 17 per cent of budgetary revenue will be in the form of personal income tax receipts. This compares to only 13 per cent for 1976-77, and restores personal income tax to about the same relative importance as in 1971-72. Concurrently, the share of revenues provided by government of Canada transfers will drop from about 17 per cent of total revenue in 1976-77 to 13.5 per cent in 1977-78. As Chart 1 indicates, the relative importance of federal transfers in the revenue structure has declined sharply since 1971-72. This change is important since it means that our flexibility in determining the overall revenue level, as well as its composition, is enhanced. Furthermore our overall revenue position is less subject to unilateral changes in federal policy.

Turning now to other revenues, Mr. Speaker, a major revenue source which has shown tremendous growth since this government first took office is corporate income tax. I estimate that this source will yield \$188 million on a net basis for 1977-78. This represents almost three times as much revenue as was collected in 1971-72. Chart 2 illustrates the growth rate of this revenue category is expected to be the highest of any category in 1977-78. This growth in revenue stems from a rapid acceleration of the Alberta economy during the 1970s, relative to our historical trend and to the growth which prevailed in other provinces. Between 1971-72 and 1977-78, corporate income tax revenues have grown at an annual average rate of 18.5 per cent, only slightly less rapidly than personal income tax revenues, which annually have grown at 21.2 per cent.

Non-renewable resource revenues continue to form the single highest budgetary revenue source for the province, contributing about 48 per cent of the total. The estimates of crude oil and natural gas related revenues are, as in past years, based on existing prices.

Mr. Speaker, Chart 1 illustrates forcefully the importance of non-renewable resource revenues to Alberta. I would point out that this share does not include the estimated \$735 million to be transferred to the Alberta heritage savings trust fund. As a result of the magnitude of non-renewable resource revenues, Albertans continue to enjoy the lowest tax burden of all Canadians. We have the lowest personal income tax rate in Canada, and have no retail sales taxes, estate taxes, or gift taxes.

I would like to remind the members of this Assembly and all Albertans, however, that the 18 per cent increase in non-renewable resource revenue estimated for 1977-78 is due almost entirely to increased prices for oil and natural gas. Crude oil production in 1976 was 27 per cent below the peak level recorded in 1973. Long-term forecasts indicate that by 1985 production will only be about one-half of the 1973 level. Natural gas production is forecast to peak in 1981 and then decline more slowly than oil production. Price increases cannot continue at a rate sufficient to make up for this decline. As revenues from this source first grow more slowly and then begin to

decline, pressures will build to make greater use of conventional tax sources.

The budget I'm presenting this evening does not involve any change in tax rates, with the exception of the personal income tax rate which, as I've explained earlier, will not affect appreciably individual Albertans.

The details of the revenue estimates are provided in the supplementary information contained in Appendix A. With the changes I've outlined in the personal income tax rate and in federal government transfers, 1977-78 budgetary revenues are estimated to be \$3,577 million, an increase of about 14 per cent over the current forecast of revenues for this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. members will note that the 1977-78 Programme Estimates are presented in the format which is very similar to that used last year. We believe that program budgeting is a very effective way of highlighting the services provided to Albertans by government expenditures, and we are developing it further as a resource allocation tool. These further developments will improve processes involved in determining budgetary allotments, both within and between program areas, but should not materially affect the style of estimates presentation established last year.

As an aid to members in reviewing our 1977-78 expenditure plan, we have included in the Programme Estimates a portion of each vote that represents cost of acquiring fixed assets, both by the province itself and by local authorities. These capital estimates are included for the members' information as a bottom-line addendum after the subprogram summary in each vote, and are summarized by department on page 9 in the Programme Estimates. As in 1976-77, a further breakdown of capital-related expenditures and a listing of program element details are provided in supplementary documents. It should also be noted, Mr. Speaker, that for the first time the Programme Estimates contain information on expenditures and manpower utilization for departmental stock advance operations.

On November 17, 1976, I announced that 1977-78 would be a year of continued restraint in provincial expenditures and that, with the possible exception of certain high-priority programs, the 1977-78 estimates would show an increase of no more than 10 per cent over the current year's expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, there are two elements in the expenditure proposals I am presenting tonight which increased the target to 12.4 per cent over the 1976-77 estimates. However, the first element which accounts for 1.3 per cent of that increase is not in fact an increase in expenditure, but rather flows from a different treatment of medical expenditures, arising out of the new federal/provincial fiscal arrangements. In the past, certain federal payments in respect of medicare have been paid directly to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Commission and were not shown in either budgetary revenues or the estimates of expenditure. As a result of the new arrangements such payments, which this year will amount to approximately \$40 million, will be shown as an increase in budgetary revenue as well as an increase in the estimate for the Alberta Health Care Insurance Commission. However, the commission is in fact operating within the 10 per cent guideline increase, and the apparent large increase to that

commission is due solely to the different treatment in this year's estimates of payments received from the federal government.

The second element, which is an exception to the 10 per cent guideline and which accounts for the remaining 1.1 per cent increase over the 10 per cent guideline, is the allocation of funds to the natural gas price protection plan, formerly the natural gas rebate plan. In the 1976-77 estimates, \$70 million was provided for this plan. In reviewing our 1977-78 expenditure plans, we decided that this program was of such vital importance to Albertans that it ought to be dramatically expanded and exempted from the 10 per cent guideline. In addition, Mr. Speaker, payments under the plan are not really expenditures resulting from government operations, but rather are transfer payments to the users of natural gas and electricity made from natural gas within the province of Alberta. Consequently we propose to increase the price protection under the plan by 50 per cent to a total of \$105 million.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, on a comparable basis, the 1977-78 Programme Estimates call for an expenditure of \$3,289 million, an 11.1 per cent increase in expenditures from the 1976-77 estimates. The 1.1 per cent variation from the 10 per cent guideline is wholly accounted for by the natural gas price protection plan. On an actual basis — that is, when the new medicare arrangements are added in — total expenditures amount to \$3,329.1 million, an increase of 12.4 per cent from the 1976-77 estimates.

The 1977-78 expenditure program provides for operating or non-capital expenditures of \$2,917.8 million, which represents a 14 per cent increase over the 1976-77 operating estimates totalling \$2,560 million. The 1977-78 capital component, or the costs associated with acquiring fixed assets, amounts to \$411.3 million, and represents only a 2.5 per cent increase over the 1976-77 capital estimates totalling \$401.4 million. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that we should not unduly expend our own capital activities in 1977-78, given the buoyant outlook for private construction in the province and our policy of continued restraint. The entire \$9.9 million increase in the capital budget is to provide additional support to local jurisdictions for their capital programs.

Of the total 1977-78 expenditure proposals, \$2,213 million, or 66 per cent, is for provincial support in the form of grants to individuals, private agencies, and local authorities such as schools, hospitals, universities, and municipalities. In the 1976-77 Programme Estimates, the comparable figure was \$1,925 million, or 65 per cent of the total. Mr. Speaker, the provision of an additional \$258 million in 1977-78 represents a 15 per cent increase over 1976-77, and reflects this government's continuing priority in its direct support of local jurisdictions, private agencies, and individual Albertans.

The remaining third of the 1977-78 budgetary proposals, or \$1,116 million, is for the government's own operations, and represents only a 7.7 per cent increase over the comparable 1976-77 estimate figure of \$1,036 million. In addition, I would like to point out that we are providing for only a 1.2 per cent increase in the civil service for 1977-78, or 341 additional permanent full-time employees. This rate of increase is substantially lower than the growth in the

civil service for the past year, which amounted to 2.7 per cent.

These facts, Mr. Speaker, clearly demonstrate that we have applied the restraint program most severely to our own operations, thereby allowing proportionally greater increases in the provincial support programs.

I would now like to highlight the priority areas in the 1977-78 expenditure programs.

Mr. Speaker, during our term of office we have pressed vigorously and successfully for increased prices for the natural gas produced in Alberta. This policy has been of immense benefit to the people of Alberta because approximately 84 per cent of the natural gas produced in Alberta is exported from this province, all of it at prices equal to or above the prices paid for natural gas used in Alberta. The increased prices for natural gas have benefited Albertans in two ways: firstly, by providing a healthier, more vigorous natural gas exploration [and] development industry and consequently more jobs in the province. But more importantly, the higher prices have provided very large royalty revenues to the people of Alberta which have, in part, enabled us to maintain in Alberta the lowest level of taxation in Canada, and to establish the Alberta heritage savings trust fund. However, Mr. Speaker, we appreciated that these increased prices for natural gas had a significant direct impact on home and small-business utility costs within the province. To reduce the effect of that impact we introduced some years ago the natural gas rebate plan, which has now become the natural gas [price] protection plan and which ensures that Albertans will pay less per thousand cubic feet of natural gas used to heat their homes than people in other parts of Canada.

The following table compares the rates Albertans will pay in 1977-78 for natural gas as compared with natural gas users in other major cities in Canada: Vancouver, \$2.24 per MCF; Edmonton, \$1.23 per MCF; Calgary, \$1.15 per MCF; Regina, \$1.49 per MCF; Winnipeg, \$1.87 per MCF; Toronto, \$2.38 per MCF. Based on these prices and consumption of 17.25 thousand cubic feet of natural gas for a month, an Edmonton resident would pay about \$21 per month, while a resident of Toronto would pay almost twice as much, \$41, to heat their respective homes.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. members will notice in the Programme Estimates that \$113.4 million is provided for the Alberta Health Care Insurance Commission — an increase of 59 per cent over the 1976-77 forecast. This very large increase is almost entirely due to the effects of the new established programs financing arrangements. In direct terms, \$40.2 million of the increase results from lower federal cash transfers. Abstracting from this change in financing, the discretionary increase in provincial financing of the commission is only 2.9 per cent above the 1976-77 forecast.

I might also note that the new financing arrangements have enabled us to transfer the funding of diagnostic services from the Alberta Hospital Services Commission to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Commission. The 1976-77 forecast and estimates of the commissions have been adjusted to make them comparable with the 1977-78 estimates in this regard.

Adequate housing for Albertans continues to be a

major priority of this government.

The Alberta Housing Corporation has commitment authority for up to \$168 million for approximately 2,700 housing units. Included in this program is \$41 million for public housing, \$14 million for rural and native housing, \$30 million for land assembly and development, and \$5 million for an industrial land assistance program.

The Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation has commitment authority for up to \$318 million for mortgage lending programs to be directed at 9,300 housing units, 2,500 lots, and 750 mobile-home stalls. The lending programs include \$75 million for the core housing incentive program, \$50 million for the starter home ownership program, \$20 million for the modest apartment program, and \$25 million for the residential lot development program. Another \$75 million will be used for direct lending activities related to the financing of new construction, existing homes, and builder loans.

We estimate that together the corporations will require financing of \$386 million to carry out their capital programs in 1977-78. About \$150 million of this amount will be funded from the Alberta heritage savings trust fund, as a result of previous investment decisions. Pending further decisions by the investment committee of the heritage fund, the remainder is shown as part of the non-budgetary financing requirements [for] the general revenue fund. The grants of \$24.9 million and \$3.1 million required to finance the operating deficits of the Alberta Housing Corporation and the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation, respectively, are to be funded in the usual manner from the general revenue fund.

Our government has initiated several programs to ensure that senior citizens are provided with an adequate standard of accommodation. An example of direct financial assistance is the senior citizen home improvement program, which provides senior citizens earning \$6,000 or less a grant of up to \$1,000 which may be utilized for improvements to existing homes. To date our government has committed \$26.2 million to over 26,000 senior citizens in Alberta. This program will be extended to senior citizens with limited income, up to \$9,000 per year, thereby providing assistance to an additional 20,000 senior citizen households.

To assist senior citizens residing in rental accommodation, we are providing \$3.9 million to continue the senior citizens renters assistance program.

The Alberta Housing Corporation has authority to commit \$40 million for 1,200 units of self-contained housing for senior citizens. This program provides independent senior citizens with apartment-style accommodation. In addition, \$6.1 million, for approximately 220 units, will be invested in senior citizens' lodge construction. The lodge program provides a homelike environment for senior citizens who would otherwise experience difficulty in trying to maintain an independent household. Total 1977-78 commitments for the self-contained housing and senior citizens' lodge program represent a 16 per cent increase over the 1976-77 budgetary level. This budget also provides \$125,000 for grants to sponsoring municipalities for the operational costs of these lodges.

This budget provides \$60.1 million, or an increase of 18.1 per cent over the 1976-77 estimates, for unconditional assistance grants to municipalities in

recognition of the needs of local governments. Despite this major increase in assistance, we recognize that there are municipalities which are experiencing extraordinary financial difficulty in coping with unprecedented growth. Included in this budget is \$3 million for special assistance to such growth centres. This demonstrates that our government is continuing its efforts to assist local governments in the provision of essential services.

The budget also provides \$9.1 million, or 65.5 per cent over the 1976-77 estimates of \$5.5 million, to continue the municipal debenture interest rebate program initiated in 1974. Under this program, certain debenture borrowings from the Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation, and advances under The New Towns Act and municipal land loans, are subsidized by rebating to municipalities interest charges in excess of 8 per cent. Since the inception of this program in 1974, our government has rebated nearly \$7 million to municipalities.

In recognizing the important role that Alberta's libraries play in developing our cultural heritage, additional funds are provided in 1977-78 to raise the level of provincial support to \$1 per capita for libraries in Edmonton and Calgary and to \$1.50 per capita for other libraries in Alberta. In addition, the existing population limitations as to the size of an individual grant will be removed.

Provision is also made for the establishment of a multilingual biblioservice to serve the needs of ethno-cultural groups; and to ensure that public input is received in the development of public library services, the Alberta library board will be reactivated. In all, more than \$2 million in additional funding will be provided to bolster library services in the province, representing a 350 per cent increase over the 1976-77 estimates.

The provincial contribution to the school foundation program fund will be \$456.9 million, an increase of \$41.5 million or 10 per cent over the 1976-77 forecast expenditures. We are also proposing to increase grants to private schools by 33.1 per cent. This increase will raise grants to private schools to 50 per cent of the SFPP per pupil grants. Total provincial assistance to schools increases by 10.2 per cent to \$548,035,000, an increase of \$50,885,000 over the 1976-77 forecast expenditures.

The budget also provides funding for several new and expanded programs including: an increase of \$920,000 or 124.5 per cent in small schools assistance grants to school jurisdictions with fewer than 6,000 students, providing additional financial assistance for small schools at the elementary, junior high, and senior high school levels; continuation of the Ukrainian/English bilingual program and the extension of this program to other languages, in accordance with our policy of supporting the principle that Albertans should be provided with the opportunity to learn and to use other languages; extension of the early childhood services program to assist the hearing handicapped between the ages of two and one-half and three and one-half years; and provision of an additional \$385,000 in direct grants to school boards for teachers' location allowances.

An additional \$36.6 million, or 30 per cent over the 1976-77 estimates, has been included for social assistance in the 1977-78 estimates for Alberta Social Services and Community Health. Twenty-six million

dollars, or 71 per cent of the increase, is to provide additional support for single-parent families. Mr. Speaker, we are very concerned with this area of social assistance, and will be reviewing maintenance and recovery procedures in the next year to ensure greater enforcement of maintenance orders.

Also included in the 1977-78 estimates for Social Services and Community Health are the following:

- (1) \$125,000 to conduct an eligibility study to identify possible abuses of social assistance and to examine preventative techniques;
- (2) a grant of \$225,000 to the Com-Serv Association of southwestern Alberta, Lethbridge, to allow expansion of the existing pilot project establishing comprehensive community services for the mentally retarded;
- (3) additional funding to private agencies, amounting to \$210,000, to provide for 50 per cent of the capital cost for construction of vocational training centres accommodating 60 mentally retarded people; and
- (4) supplementary funding to local health units, totalling \$75,000, for the provision of additional speech, language, and hearing services to handicapped individuals.

Continuation of our government's commitment to diversify, decentralize, and maintain Alberta's economy as the strongest in Canada is reflected in the provincial financial support to local governments for various new capital projects.

Although it is not a budgetary item and does not appear in the Programme Estimates, \$50 million will be provided in the 1977-78 fiscal year through the Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation for the construction of new and replacement hospital facilities. Of the total, \$20 million is for projects currently under construction, including the Calgary General Hospital psychiatric facility, the Dr. Vernon Fanning Extended Care Centre in Calgary, Dickinsonfield Extended Care Centre in Edmonton, and a new hospital in Brooks. Thirty million dollars has been provided for projects in their final planning stages, including \$20 million for hospital construction in the province's high-growth areas of Fort McMurray, Red Deer, and Hinton. The remaining \$10 million will be applied to several projects throughout the province, furthering the government's efforts to provide the best health care available to all Albertans.

Ten million dollars will be provided for the urban thoroughway program, whereby the cities of Calgary and Edmonton will be eligible for financial assistance in the construction of major thoroughfares to accommodate volumes of traffic in these two major urban centres.

An additional \$1.2 million will be provided to municipalities to expand the Alberta municipal sewage treatment program. This special assistance will be provided to municipalities installing complete sewage treatment systems. This budget also provides \$500,000 for one-time grants to isolated northern communities for the construction of water and sewer facilities.

To ensure safety and continuing power services in rural areas of the province, we are proposing to provide \$1 million to rural electrification associations for the reconstruction of power distribution systems in need of repair.

For the 1977-78 fiscal year, we have provided a

budget of \$229.4 million for our own provincial capital works projects. This includes \$6.2 million for construction of parks, campsites, and rest areas; \$10.2 million for water resources management projects; and \$119.8 million for the construction and improvement of approximately 650 miles of primary and secondary highways in the province.

Now let me highlight the new capital works anticipated during the next fiscal year.

This budget provides \$2 million to plan and commence the construction of a new \$13.2 million, 150-bed forensic unit to be constructed on the Alberta Hospital site at Edmonton. When completed, this building will replace the existing 90-bed temporary facility, which is considered architecturally and functionally obsolete. Services provided at the new facility will include psychiatric assessment services for persons remanded by the courts, as well as treatment and rehabilitative services.

We have provided for new residential facilities for the dependent handicapped as outlined in the Cormack plan, and have included \$3.2 million in this budget to plan and commence five new resource centres in the Edmonton area.

We are also proposing substantial improvements in postsecondary educational facilities, with the provision of \$709,000 to plan and complete construction of a new permanent instructional facility to accommodate approximately 500 students at Keyano College, Fort McMurray, and \$594,000 to plan for the provision of new instructional facilities at NAIT to accommodate increasing enrolments, particularly in apprenticeship training.

Our commitment to decentralize provincial government operations and to promote the economy in all areas of the province is reflected in the budgetary provision for the construction of provincial buildings in 27 centres throughout Alberta.

To continue our priority in the improvement of the justice system, we are providing for the planning and construction of 48 provincial courts and circuit court points at locations throughout the province.

To facilitate the development of Alberta's resources, we are providing \$2.5 million for resource road construction for the Joffre gas plant, the Hinton/Edson coal development area, and the Quirk Creek gas plant.

Mr. Speaker, the financial position of the province resulting from this budget is presented in the accompanying table.

Before commenting on the 1977-78 financial plan, I would like to mention that the increase in revenues now forecast for 1976-77, as compared to the original budget estimates, is due mainly to the increased prices for crude oil and natural gas which took effect on July 1, 1976, and subsequently on January 1 of this year. With expenditures forecast to be within 2 per cent of the original estimates, the budget deficit originally estimated for 1976-77 is now forecast to change to a significant surplus.

In addition, the non-budgetary requirements first estimated at \$454 million last year have been substantially reduced due to the investments undertaken by the Alberta heritage savings trust fund. These investments include the Syncrude project equity, Alberta Housing Corporation debentures, Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation debentures, and funding for the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research

Authority.

The increase in revenues allocated to the Alberta heritage savings trust fund in 1976-77 is due to the rise in crude oil and natural gas prices I've just outlined.

For the 1977-78 fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, I estimate the budgetary surplus to be \$248 million. Again I would like to point out that this estimate is based on existing prices for non-renewable resources.

Non-budgetary financing requirements are estimated at \$288 million. Of this total, \$234 million is for the Alberta Housing Corporation and the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation. These requirements are the amounts needed by these two agencies in excess of the currently authorized level of investment by the Alberta heritage savings trust fund.

The net result obtained by combining budgetary and non-budgetary accounts is a projected overall cash requirement of \$40 million.

Mr. Speaker, I estimate the Alberta heritage savings trust fund will increase in value by \$900 million during 1977-78. Of that amount, \$735 million is due to an allocation of 30 per cent of total non-renewable resource revenues to the fund. The remainder is attributable to earnings of the fund.

At the present time, \$416 million in commitments have been made by the fund for 1978. Housing investments account for \$153 million. Energy resource investments related to the Syncrude project account for \$140 million. The remaining \$122 million is taken up by the capital projects division of the fund for the projects in health facilities and research, energy research, irrigation, renewable resources improvement, and recreational facilities, which were approved by this Assembly last fall. This leaves, then, \$484 million of the increase of \$900 million not specifically committed at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight the recent decision by the investment committee of the Alberta heritage savings trust fund to invest in province of Newfoundland debentures in the principal amount of \$50 million. As the Premier indicated to the hon. members on February 28, 1977, this first investment under the Canada investment division of the fund not only provides a sound investment for the fund but also represents a strong commitment to interprovincial co-operation and national unity.

This budget plan for 1977-78 reflects our commitment to maintain the highest level of government services to today's Albertans, while reserving a significant portion of the current wealth for the benefit of present and future Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, this government's current financial position is the strongest of any provincial government in Canada, and the strongest at any time in Alberta's history.

Mr. Speaker, the budget I have presented tonight

demonstrates our fiscal responsibility — our responsibility to the people of this province, our responsibility for providing for the future, and our responsibility to be cognizant of our impact on the national and provincial economies.

In summary, the major features of this budget are:

- less than 8 per cent increase in the cost of the government's own operations;
- a nominal increase in the civil service;
- a 50 per cent increase in the natural gas price protection plan to shelter home-owners and small businesses from rising natural gas prices;
- increased funding for housing in Alberta, particularly for senior citizens;
- increased unconditional assistance to municipalities, with special provisions for those experiencing rapid growth;
- more than tripled grants to assist in the provision of library services;
- new and expanded programs in the field of education, with particular emphasis on smaller schools; and
- no increase in taxes for Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this budget represents sound and responsible financial management by this government but, more important, it also expresses the concern and empathy Albertans have for those among us who need our help. It also underlines the opportunities the people of this fortunate province now have and, Mr. Speaker, I know of no people more endowed than Albertans with the talent, skills, vigor, and determination to take advantage of those opportunities.

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 that this Assembly do now adjourn until Monday afternoon at half past 2.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

[The House adjourned at 9:17 p.m.]

