

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA**Title: Friday, March 18, 1977 10:00 a.m.**

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**Bill 232****The Farm Land Ownership Act**

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Bill 232, The Farm Land Ownership Act. It's an attempt, as we've tried previously, to wake the government up to the fact that there is a problem with foreigners buying Alberta land.

[Leave granted; Bill 232 read a first time]

head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the interim report for January, February, and March, 1976, of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

MR. KROEGER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to this Assembly, a group of 25 grade 9 students from my home town of Consort, accompanied by their teacher Mr. Kjeersgaard. I think they're in the public gallery, Mr. Speaker. I'd like the House to recognize them, please.

head: MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**Department of Federal
and Intergovernmental Affairs**

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce Alberta's position with regard to our participation in the national anti-inflation program after March 31, 1977.

In December 1975, the Alberta Temporary Anti-Inflation Measures Act was passed by the Legislature. Alberta's participation was to be of a short-term duration and less than the three-year federal program, because we believe such controls tend to stifle opportunity, investment, and growth if applied over an extended period of time.

The Alberta act expires March 31, 1977, unless renewed by a resolution of the Assembly. It empowered the Alberta government to enter into an agreement with the government of Canada with respect to compensation in the Alberta public sector.

On February 18, 1976, such an agreement was

signed. It provided for the application of the federal act and the national guidelines to the public sector of Alberta, including the public service, municipalities, school boards, and hospitals.

The anti-inflation program has now been in effect for about 17 months. Over past months, we have attempted to secure information as to the future of the federal controls program. Although the federal policies on decontrol and postcontrol are uncertain at this time, it appears likely that a decontrol date may be set later this year. Phasing out of the controls would probably take place over a number of months after that date has been established. If the federal government proceeded in this way, collective agreements in the Alberta public sector would be phased out of the control program in the same order they were phased in.

Mr. Speaker, after careful consideration, and noting evidence that the damaging inflationary psychology is being brought under control, the Alberta government believes that a limited extension of the Alberta Temporary Anti-Inflation Measures Act, to December 31, 1977, is appropriate at this time.

This extension of the act will provide the basis for a new agreement between the province and the federal government. Negotiations toward such an Alberta/Canada agreement will commence immediately, and we anticipate a new agreement will be signed by the end of this month.

Mr. Speaker, for Alberta's protection, certain conditions must be fulfilled before we will agree to an extension of the agreement. First, there must be continued exclusion from the federal program of farm gate prices and energy prices. Should there be a unilateral federal change in the guidelines respecting either of these critical areas, the province will have the option to terminate the agreement on short notice.

Secondly, we will require advance consultation with respect to the postcontrol plans of the federal government, the decontrol date, the method of decontrol, and any contemplated postcontrol mechanisms.

Thirdly, the agreement will contain a provision to the effect that Alberta's extended participation in the program can be terminated at any date prior to December 31, 1977, at Alberta's option for any reason, on short notice.

It should be noted that if the federal cabinet terminates some or all of its national guidelines, Alberta's involvement will terminate similarly and automatically. Accordingly, Alberta's involvement in controls would wind down in phase with national decontrol.

If, over the next seven months, it appears that significant decontrol inequities or dislocations will be caused in Alberta by the December 31, 1977 expiration date, the Alberta government will propose appropriate amendments to the act during the 1977 fall sittings.

Pursuant to Section 42(3) of the Alberta Temporary Anti-Inflation Measures Act, a government resolution to extend the act to December 31, 1977 will be placed on the Order Paper for debate by this Assembly next week.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta's commitments to continued involvement in the national anti-inflation program is evidence of our recognition that inflation has serious adverse effects on all our citizens.

Department of the Solicitor General

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a ministerial statement on crime prevention.

During the past few years it has become apparent that communities as well as law enforcement officials have been very concerned with rising crime. They're looking to crime prevention as one way to change the trend. The Assembly will recall that in the past two years the government has contributed some \$30 million toward the support of municipal police forces and a further \$18 million is proposed this year, including what was formerly called the innovative or enhanced policing grant.

Now while it is recognized that investigation and enforcement capabilities must not be diminished, the Alberta government is most anxious to encourage Alberta police organizations, working with community groups, to perceive prevention as a viable partner with investigation and enforcement.

To this end we're encouraging them to come forward with new and innovative crime prevention proposals. The objective of the program is to develop organized preventive projects that are effective. With this in mind, during the month of October 1976 the Crime Prevention Committee was formed by the Department from the Solicitor General and is comprised of representatives of the Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Camrose, and Edmonton police departments, as well as the RCMP in Edmonton. They act as an advisory committee to the director of law enforcement recommending approval of crime prevention programs and funding proposed by police agencies, also identifying and recommending programs for promotion on a province-wide basis. All municipal forces — Redwater, Taber, Coaldale, Lacombe, Hinton, and Barrhead, in addition to those mentioned — are supplied with minutes of all meetings and may attend meetings as observers.

In order to encourage innovative programs, no hard and fast guidelines were established by the department. However, the following criteria must be followed when submitting proposals to the committee. First, the program must be oriented toward an identified and specified crime problem. Secondly, program emphasis must be of a preventive nature, not merely for public relations purposes. Thirdly, community participation in the program must be established, i.e. names of persons or organizations in the community, which would work with the police to support the program. Fourthly, no proposal will contain any request for money for salaries, fees, or honorariums. Fifthly, all programs must be capable of being evaluated and an indication given as to how this will be accomplished.

It is not the intention of the department to alter or interfere in any way with any existing crime prevention programs, but to assist with the funding of present programs and to co-ordinate efforts throughout the province so all materials such as pamphlets, posters, and films will be uniform and relay a consistent message. The department has undertaken to supply these materials. Media coverage would also be handled by the Department of the Solicitor General in the same manner as our Check Stop program.

During the month of November 1976 the committee, assisted by members of the department and the Bureau of Public Affairs, designed the following crime

prevention materials: "Lady Beware" pamphlet, "Neighborhood Watch" pamphlet, "Ski Check" pamphlet, "Business Security" pamphlet, "Home Security" pamphlet, "Operation Identification" pamphlet, and an auto theft pamphlet. This is an ongoing project, and as other programs are initiated additional material will be designed and printed. Vandalism is one subject that will be handled this year. These pamphlets and other materials are produced at government expense and distributed throughout the province to all police agencies.

Due to the heavy demand for crime prevention films, it was decided to have a film library situated in the Solicitor General's department in Edmonton. Requests for films not required frequently are supplied from here. Films used frequently are being purchased and distributed to individual police departments, as proposals are received and approved.

The following are crime prevention programs now in operation. First, auto theft: the objective is to make drivers aware of methods of safeguarding their automobiles and contents against theft. This began in the city of Calgary this spring, and this poster will be exhibited throughout the province: "Lock it or Lose it. Help Prevent Auto Theft".

Secondly, block parent: the objective is to provide a place of security for children in emergency situations and to make children aware of the help available in their neighborhood. The materials will be films and lectures to parents.

The business telephone fan-out: the objective is to make businesses aware quickly and effectively by telephone of the passing of fraudulent cheques or other crimes in the district. The materials are lectures, posters, and films.

General crime prevention: the objective is to make citizens aware of various types of crime they may encounter and methods of dealing effectively with them, by lectures, pamphlets and films.

Business security: the objective is to improve security precautions of every established business, thus discouraging break-ins. A business security check is to be filled out, and recommendations for improvements made by the police. We are in close liaison now with all convenience stores in the two metropolitan areas.

Female self-protection: the objective is to teach women over the age of 13 how to protect themselves against attack.

Fraud: the objective is to alert banks, financial institutions, and retail personnel to fraudulent practices such as the passing of bad cheques, credit card theft, and short-change artists.

Grain-fetti: the objective is to discourage the theft of grain from a farm. The material is 'grain-fetti', little slips of numbered paper which are inserted into bulk grain for identification purposes.

Neighborhood watch: I give top priority to this program. The objective is to reduce crime through co-operation between citizens and police. In addition to the pamphlet, the materials are lectures to neighborhood gatherings, films, bumper stickers, and window stickers.

Operation identification: the objective is to encourage citizens to mark their valuables with their driver's licence number or social insurance number for easy identification of stolen property, and to advertise the fact with window decals to discourage

thieves.

Residential security: to make citizens conscious of the need for effective residential security.

Shoplifting: to make businessmen and their personnel aware of the methods used by shoplifters, to enable them to recognize potential shoplifters and to deal effectively with them.

Finally, ski check: the objective is to acquaint skiers with methods of protecting their ski equipment against theft when skis are left unprotected at ski resorts or on car-top ski racks. These posters are about to be put up in all ski resorts in the province: "Ski Check, Help Prevent Ski Theft" by various recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I'd now like to table copies of the six pamphlets, the posters, and the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. Member for Edmonton Highlands revert to Introduction of Visitors before we start the question period?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

MR. KING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg leave of the House to revert to Introduction of Visitors to introduce to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of the House on behalf of my colleague from the constituency of St. Albert, 90 grade 5 students from the Sir Alexander MacKenzie school, accompanied by their teacher Mr. Mel Peters and others. There are 60 of the students seated in the members gallery, 30 in the public gallery. I'd ask that they rise to receive the recognition of the House.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

Anti-inflation Program

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs with regard to the announcement today. We certainly appreciate the copy of the announcement directed to us. I would like to ask the minister when he will be meeting with the federal government. Also, from any preliminary discussions that have taken place, has the minister had an indication from the federal authorities that they are accepting the proposal presented to us at the present time?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether I'll be meeting personally with federal officials. My officials have been and will be in contact with them over the course of the next two or three weeks.

With regard to the agreement, we've had preliminary and very informal discussions with them, and have indicated that we have certain conditions as set forth in the announcement I just made. But we will not know until the end of the month, when hopefully the agreement will be signed and evidenced by orders in council, one of the federal government and one of the government of Alberta.

Rent Control

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. In light of today's announcement as such, does the government intend to introduce legislation with a similar intent with regard to rent control in the province?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, this announcement and the bill deal with the matter of anti-inflation. I'd refer the question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, the government has not reached a decision on whether or not to extend The Temporary Rent Regulation Measures Act. The matter has been discussed on a number of occasions. We expect that a decision on whether or not to extend that act will probably be made in April.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. In considering legislation that could come before us during this spring session, is the government considering the same principle — such as establishing a decontrol date, a method of decontrol, and any postcontrol mechanisms in the legislation — as is being incorporated in the anti-inflation agreement?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I'd rather wait until the final decision has been made [before] giving the details that would be considered. There will of course be an announcement at that time, and the details will appear in the bill that is presented in the House.

Home Care

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the second question to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health with regard to home care. Can the minister indicate what progress is being made with regard to the studies on home care, and can we expect a home care policy announcement in the Assembly this session?

MISS HUNLEY: We've already made the statement regarding the philosophy of home care, of which we're very supportive. I doubt it would be necessary to table any particular position paper on home care, though that's certainly a matter I could consider and discuss with my colleagues. As far as the expansion of home care is concerned, that's a budgetary matter. It can be discussed in the course of my estimates, but we are restrained of course by the guidelines.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. In the background work that was done with regard to home care, has the minister or the department completed any cost/benefit studies? I ask the question in light of the fact that there seems to be concern that this will be an additional cost rather than a cutting of costs in the health field.

MISS HUNLEY: A cost/benefit analysis as such has not been done. Our observations have been study of other provinces and other areas where they have home care. We've done evaluations of the experimental projects we've had in Alberta. My own opin-

ion is, Mr. Speaker, that it will not reduce overall costs at present. It will have a long-range payoff though in reducing the need for facilities which generate a great deal of cost. I see it at the present time as an additional layer, because as long as beds are available those beds will be full. That happens to be my particular opinion on the cost/benefits of home care. I am extremely supportive of it for its sociological as well as its economic reasons.

Provincial Park Plans, Drumheller

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife. It concerns the proposed park that the government is considering in the old Midland Mine property in Drumheller. Has the master plan for this park been completed?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, not in total yet. It's still a proposed park, as the hon. member stated, and I can't give a date when it will be totally completed and reviewed.

MR. TAYLOR: Supplementary. Will any work be done on the park this coming summer?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, again I would be more at liberty to discuss that in estimates and would be prepared to do so at that time.

Tax Discounting Services

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In light of the excellent work done by the student legal service at the University of Alberta in giving credit to T4 slips as collateral and in helping fill out income tax forms, has the minister considered extending a grant to student legal services for these services?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware there has been an application for a grant. However, there have been some discussions with student legal services concerning their ability to provide personnel for the service they're rendering with regard to discounting of tax returns. I might say that I understand they're looking for volunteers who will help with the work.

MR. STROMBERG: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware that the government of Manitoba has extended grants to community groups in order to give credit for T4 slips to these groups and . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hon. member is of course making a representation rather than asking for information.

MR. STROMBERG: I was asking if he was aware that they were spending \$40,000. But I have another supplementary. In view of the fact that the federal government has recently joined the government of Manitoba in funding community service groups for these purposes on a 50-50 cost-sharing purpose, has the minister made any representation to the federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to enter into a similar federal/provincial cost-sharing funding scheme for student legal service?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, the question became so involved that I lost the thread of it. However, I think I can say that we have not had discussions with the federal minister on the matters related to. However, I suppose the awareness of the minister depends upon his ability to read.

MR. YOUNG: A supplementary if I may, Mr. Speaker. Under the arrangements permitted by virtue of the amendments to The Credit and Loan Agreements Act, has the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs commenced checking on what rebaters are now doing? Have we a mechanism in place yet?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I think members will recall that the tax discounting situation was brought into The Credit and Loan Agreements Act. All tax discounters who are carrying on business have been registered. They have been supplied with the necessary forms to deal with their clientele. I might say that of course the T4 slips come out only toward the latter part of February. We will be commencing the auditing procedure toward the latter part of March.

MR. YOUNG: A further supplementary. Will the department be specifically checking to ascertain the charges levied for completing the tax forms, as well as the interest rate charged for advancement or purchase of rebates?

MR. HARLE: The information that will be checked will be the material required to be disclosed by virtue of the amendments to The Credit and Loan Agreements Act.

MR. YOUNG: A final supplementary to the minister, Mr. Speaker. For some years the federal department has discussed the possibility of federal legislation. Is it the policy of this government to welcome federal legislation in this field?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the member would repeat the question.

MR. YOUNG: Right. Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister: for some years the federal government has discussed — at least apparently to the news media — the possibility of federal legislation. I'm wondering if it is the policy of the government to welcome federal legislation in a field in which it is apparently the prerogative or at least the possibility of the provincial government to legislate?

MR. HARLE: Well, Mr. Speaker, the federal government did introduce in the federal House the Borrowers and Depositors Protection Act. The government did make a presentation to the House of Commons committee studying that bill. One of the matters we raised very directly was the potential interference with what we considered to be provincial jurisdiction.

Mentally Handicapped Institutions

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Premier regarding ASH/Deerhome. Recalling the Premier's reaction when he visited ASH/Deerhome several years ago, I would like clarification about the renaming of that complex and the

apparent new focus for it. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the new focus signifies a change in this government's declared intention to decentralize and reduce the capacity of that giant institution by providing smaller community settings for the mentally and multiply handicapped.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, first of all I think I would have to respond to the question by saying there is no intention to make an adjustment in our policy which is to a degree to phase down, pursuant to the Blair report on mental health, the utilization of a large institution for the mentally handicapped. We've taken a number of steps in that regard, earlier in the Cormack Centre in Edmonton and the Baker Centre in Calgary and, as the Speech from the Throne indicates, with regard to the new community resource centres for the mentally handicapped proposed here in the capital city. However, that does not mean we do not have a major institution in the Red Deer area.

I think hon. members will recall that this was one of the priorities of our first Legislature, and is continuing with regard to obligations. The Michener Centre is the integration of both the Alberta School Hospital and the Deerhome operation into one operation where the services can be provided to both, which we thought was an overdue step.

By the way, we will be there this afternoon for the official opening, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say this: I would really recommend to all members of the Legislative Assembly to take the time and trouble to read the 1971 Visitors' report on these two institutions and to now read the 1975 Visitors' report. There are a lot of people who deserve a lot of credit in this province.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Premier in his reply made reference to the Cormack plan in Edmonton. I wonder if the hon. Premier could briefly give us some idea of where we are with regard to plans for Edmonton and whether there is some consideration of escalation of the program, putting it in place, and any other information we can have briefly.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, beyond responding to the policy commitments inherent in the first question directed to me, I think in reply to the hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood I should refer the question to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health.

MISS HUNLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have announced additional facilities. We're calling them resource centres. In Edmonton there will be five. During the review of the estimates it will be made well aware that money is being committed this year and work is going ahead immediately. I am of course very excited and pleased over that particular prospect for the people of Edmonton who have been waiting so long.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health in regard to the Michener Centre in Red Deer. Would the Minister indicate whether this centre will be available to all people in the community in addition to the handicapped, on a limited basis at least.

MISS HUNLEY: Yes. I appreciate the question, Mr. Speaker, because I think an important step has been taken to bring community resources together and to make use of institutional facilities, a greater exchange of ideas, and a greater integration of those who live at Michener Centre and those who live in the surrounding area. I think it's a great step forward, and I'm looking forward with great pleasure to this afternoon.

DR. PAPROSKI: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In addition to the many varied features of the centre, would the minister indicate to the House whether in fact there is going to be a swimming pool for the use of the handicapped?

MISS HUNLEY: Yes there most certainly is. It's an exceptional plan and concept. I'm sure all Albertans will be very proud. I think it will be open tomorrow for the public, and I urge anyone possible to take advantage of the opportunity to see this facility, of which all Albertans will be very proud I'm sure.

MR. YOUNG: Supplemental, Mr. Speaker. Considering that the opening will be this afternoon and that there has been some debate in the House over the food provided by VS food services, could the minister advise who will be catering for the Rt. Hon. Roland Michener this afternoon?

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to advise this House that I have great confidence in the food that will be served for the Rt. Hon. Roland Michener, the Premier, and all the guests this afternoon. The caterers are indeed VS Services in whom I have great confidence.

Crown Land Grazing Leases

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. minister in charge of Crown lands. Could the minister indicate the basis on which the decision to limit grazing leases to a maximum of 10 years was made?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, the decision to limit the extension of grazing leases to a maximum of 10 years is an interim step pending the total review of the management of the public lands. As stated in the throne speech, the comprehensive policy statement, management, and administration provides for that ongoing total review which should be completed by late summer. Ten years is an interim period established until a new policy statement can be arrived at later this summer.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did the minister or any officials of his department have any discussion with leaseholders with regard to setting the lease limit at 10 years?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, we have had ongoing discussions with individuals and groups that are involved and interested in both Crown leases and grazing reserves. As an interim maximum, 10 years appears to be about the average. As I stated, it is interim. I'm sure that [from] the information we gain in doing the review during the summer there will be

some indications on both sides of the 10. But at the present time, 10 has been the sort of going average for an interim mark.

Land — Foreign Ownership

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the hon. Premier. This comes from an article in the Annual Review and Outlook, January 1977, by the marketing intelligence division of the Alberta Department of Agriculture. Mr. Speaker, in this article there was a conflict between what the Premier announced last fall that only 2.5 per cent of Alberta land was bought by non-Canadians and this section which goes on to say there could be transfer within the family which could indicate that non-Canadians could have purchased up to 4 or 5 per cent of the land available in the province. My question to the Premier is: has he been made aware of this new statistic, and could he report to Legislature?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I read the document, in fact I discussed it with the Minister of Agriculture. I think the operative phrase is "could have". When we presented the statistics we did recognize some difficulties with regard to those statistics. Therefore, as I said at the time, the question of foreign absentee ownership of land is still under active consideration by the government from a legislative point of view.

With due respect to hon. members, I presume when they're looking at the legislative aspects, they'll recognize the high degree of complexity that is involved.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member, but in view of the concern indicated by a number of hon. members, as happens on occasion time is standing still during the question period. The clock has stopped without a resolution of the Assembly to that effect. [laughter]

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, time seems to be standing still on the issue of foreign land buying, too.

Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary to the hon. Premier. In the same publication a recommendation is made that further improvement of the current monitoring system is needed in order that the cabinet could keep ahead of any possible implications from foreign purchases, as well as non-agricultural uses of rural land. I'd to know, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier or the cabinet is considering a better system than we have now to monitor these changes?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, the answer to that is in the affirmative. Again though, there are complexities. They involve both legislation and a monitoring system, and being able to effectively trace the actual ownership. With either monitoring or legislation you have the difficulty of tracing the ultimate purchaser with regard to property. That's one of the complexities which has arisen.

Hon. members are aware that we've said on a number of occasions that this matter is under active consideration by the government. During the course of that consideration, we're looking at the effectiveness of a monitoring system. Obviously if we move

toward legislation, it would be structured in a much different way, tied into the legislative package that may be presented.

I only suggest, hon. members, we keep in mind that in matters of this nature we are considering a very fundamental situation by way of policy. That is one, even though bills have been presented in this House recognizing that we're changing the traditional position, whereby an owner of property is entitled to sell that property to whomever he or she wishes.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. In the same report is an article which says that upward pressure on rural real estate prices can be expected to continue. In light of the fact that it says some of this pressure raising the price of land could be coming from non-agricultural interests, including foreigners, I'd like to know if the minister can indicate what mechanism the Department of Agriculture has to monitor if the non-Canadian buying of land is increasing the price for farmers who are trying to buy it.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, first of all I think the trend with respect to land prices over the course of the past six months has been steady. Since last fall we haven't seen the average increases we saw the previous two to three years.

As for any monitoring of what type of buying affects the price of farmland in Alberta, probably the best we can do is only compare similar provinces. The best comparison, one which I think I gave in this Legislature some time ago, was the average land values in Saskatchewan in 1975 and the increases that occurred there during that year, as compared with the province of Alberta. In fact, on average the percentage increase in the price of farmland in Saskatchewan in 1975 was higher than in Alberta. That was in face of the fact that the province of Saskatchewan had, supposedly, very rigid and strict legislation with regard to the purchasing of agricultural land by foreigners.

I think one has to conclude that while indeed foreign purchases in certain selected areas of this province have probably had some considerable upward effect on the price of land, the general economy of the prairie agricultural industry — good grain and wheat prices over the period from 1973 to 1976 — has probably been the major determining factor in increasing agricultural land prices.

Marijuana — Legal Status

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Premier. It concerns the discussions taking place in Ottawa and Ontario about making the sale of marijuana legal and putting it under the control of the provincial government. Has the provincial government had any discussions with federal officials in regard to making legal the use of marijuana and taking over the control of its distribution?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we've had no such discussions, and have no such intentions.

Anti-inflation Program
(continued)

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a further question of the Minister of Federal and Inter-governmental Affairs with regard to the announcement. On page 2 of the announcement the minister indicates a decontrol date may be set later this year. I wonder if the minister can indicate in a general way what month is being considered at the present time and when he feels this decontrol date will come about.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the federal plans are. A number of suggested decontrol dates have been indicated publicly by the Minister of Finance. We should know more on March 31 because the Minister of Finance of Canada has indicated he will be making a statement and hopefully giving more details in the federal budget at that date. What appears though from the public pronouncements and statements of the federal government is that they are thinking of a decontrol date somewhere between October 14, the second anniversary of the program, and December 31, 1977. That, in the suggestions put forth by the federal government, would of course be only the start of a phase-out of decontrol. It appears they are leaning toward a mechanism which would result in those collective agreements and companies which were first in the program being the first out, similarly those last in being the last out. We don't know definitively, but this is one reason the date of December 31, 1977 was chosen.

Rent Control
(continued)

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs regarding The Temporary Rent Regulation Measures Act. In the answer to the question from the Member for Little Bow, I wonder if the minister implied he would in fact be presenting a bill to extend The Temporary Rent Regulation Measures Act.

MR. HARLE: No, Mr. Speaker. The government has not reached a decision on that. If in fact the decision is taken to extend, I intend it be extended by a bill. Of course if the decision is not to extend, no bill would be presented.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, one supplementary on that item. To give assurance to renters who have already received notices of some 24 per cent increase, would the minister indicate to the House whether landlords at this time may give notice of an increase beyond the rent control measures in anticipation of the rent regulations being removed, which would of course not be so if the rent regulations were not removed?

MR. SPEAKER: With respect to the hon. member, he's asking for an opinion concerning the present state of the law. Perhaps that might be sought elsewhere.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, with your permission maybe I can reframe the question. I wonder if the

minister could give information to the House whether at this time increases in rent beyond the rent control measures could be made to the tenants.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member is struggling with the same difficulty.

Suffield Exploration

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Could the minister indicate whether the deep-hole evaluation program being carried out through the Alberta Energy Company at Suffield has been completed?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I would take the question to be: has the exploration program being carried on in the Suffield area generally on lands now held by the Alberta Energy Company been completed? No, it has not. The exploration program can only proceed under the access arrangements with the military operations over a phased basis. I believe it will take a period of three to four years before a complete exploration program can be completed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake revert to Introduction of Visitors?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, may I introduce to you, and the members of the Assembly, a group of students from one of the most beautiful parts of our province. These students are from the Mistassiniy School in Wabasca/Desmarais. They are accompanied by their teachers Les Hansen, Jerel Gibbs, Sharon Russell, and Karen Scott. Prior to the sitting of the House, the hon. Minister of Utilities and Telephones and I had an opportunity to discuss a number of matters with them, and they expressed a great deal of interest in the activities of the House. May I ask them now to rise — they are seated in the members gallery — and receive the customary welcome of the Legislature.

head: **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**

1. Moved by Mr. Leitch:
Be it resolved that this Assembly approve in general the fiscal policies of the government.

[Adjourned debate: Mr. Bogle]

MR. BOGLE: I would like to begin my remarks, Mr. Speaker, by congratulating our Provincial Treasurer on the substance and quality of his Budget Address, delivered last Friday, March 11. I believe the budget accurately reflects the exciting and unique position

we as Albertans find ourselves in today.

One of the most significant aspects of the Third Session of the 18th Legislature of the province of Alberta, in my opinion, is that it began with our Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Ralph Steinhauer, opening the session in full native regalia. This is a reminder to us all of the contribution and heritage of our native people. Our Lieutenant-Governor has been a hard-working Albertan all his life, and combines a good balance of strength and character with humility. He is a tribute to his own people as well as to all Albertans.

The growth which has taken place in this province during recent years is unparalleled in our nation. Mr. Speaker, I thought I might reflect back over some statistics on what has happened in this province.

First I'd like to examine our population, which increased 10.6 per cent between 1971 and 1976, while the Canadian increase over that same period was 4.8 per cent. In other words Alberta's population grew by more than double the Canadian average. Between 1975 and 1976 alone, our population grew by 28,000 or 3.3 per cent. Coupled with this large population growth was the creation of 45,000 new jobs, or an increase of over 6 per cent.

In the area of housing, it was announced that there have been 39,000 new dwellings, which is up 150 per cent over the previous year, and more than double the Canadian average.

Our economy, which grew by 28 per cent between 1975 and 1976, is a reflection of the growth. A total of \$6.3 billion has been invested. With a population of only 8 per cent of the Canadian total, we account for 15 per cent of the investment. Our average weekly wages and salaries are up 13 per cent, which again is well above the national average, and our retail sales are up 17 per cent.

In the area of agriculture, our largest and most important industry, we have experienced some difficulties. During 1976, net farm incomes may be down [from] the past bumper year. Mr. Speaker, this is due primarily to world grain conditions, where a substantially better crop has caused a lower price for our Canadian product.

The beef industry has suffered from low-cost imports of Australian beef and poor agricultural agreements with our U.S. markets. In an attempt to assist our cow-calf operators, this government introduced a program, at a total cost of \$43 million, which gave assistance to nearly 26,000 farmers and ranchers in this province.

Mr. Speaker, it would be remiss of me in reviewing Alberta today if I did not also look at what's happening with our native residents. I think the best way I can do that is to review briefly some of the activities over the past week and a half.

I'd like to begin by relating a visit to the Saddle Lake Reserve, made a week ago Wednesday by the hon. Minister of Utilities and Telephones and the MLA for St. Paul. The purpose of the visit was to take part in the reserve's flaring-in ceremony. Natural gas has been brought to that reserve. Our Lieutenant-Governor, a former chief and council member for the reserve, related a short story to those assembled.

He reminded us that some 45 years ago when he attended his first council meeting he listened to the then chief talk to his council about ways in which the Saddle Lake Reserve might improve their economic

position. They decided that their first move would be to develop a grazing area and lease it to non-residents. From that lease they would derive \$600 rent per year. The Saddle Lake Reserve and the other 41 bands in this province have come a long way since that time.

Again last week, the hon. Member for Stony Plain took part with the Enoch Band in sod-turning ceremonies for a new school which will house both native children from that reserve and non-native children from the county of Parkland, a development which will combine the cultures and values of both our native and non-native Albertans.

Saturday past, a new sports facility was opened on the Sarcee Reserve. The hon. Member for Banff was able to advise his constituents on the reserve that they will be entitled to an agricultural society grant of \$50,000. In other words the reserve is being treated the same as other agricultural societies throughout the province.

I'm extremely pleased today that we have with us students from Wabasca/Desmarais to see their government in action. In the area of isolated communities, we work very closely with the Isolated Communities Advisory Board and the MLA for the area, the MLA from Lesser Slave Lake, in an attempt to assist in the development of those communities.

I'm pleased that Prince Charles will be in Alberta this year to help in the program commemorating two very important and historic events, the signing of Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 in 1876 and 1877 respectively. Along with the MLAs for Cardston and Drumheller, where the original treaty signing took place at Blackfoot Crossing in 1877 — at Stand Off, on the Blood Reserve near Cardston, Prince Charles will be made an honorary chief of that reserve.

I would like to switch my attention for the moment to the kinds of commitments this government has made and is making to its municipalities. I think the programs announced in the Budget Address truly reflect our concern and desire to strengthen our local governments. The increased unconditional assistance to municipalities, with special assistance for those areas experiencing rapid growth, is but one example of that. A new industrial land bank program for small urban communities will be established. If we were to combine the unconditional grants with the Municipal Financing Corporation's 8 per cent shelter for municipalities, the assistance provided to our local governments throughout the province increased 20 per cent over the past year.

For individual Albertans, one of the most significant announcements in our Budget Address was the natural gas price protection plan. This program was formerly known as the natural gas rebate plan and is so very important to little Albertans. It helps to shelter our residents and small businesses against increasing costs of natural gas. By increasing the amount of dollars in the program by 50 per cent, an increase from \$70 million to \$105 million, solid proof of this government's commitment to Albertans is recognized.

When you have an economy as buoyant as ours, there are bound to be some problems. Our government shares its citizens' concerns over the increasing cost of social assistance, which is up 30 per cent over the previous year. Seventy-one per cent of this increase, or \$26 million out of \$36.6 million, is to

provide additional support for single-parent families. We will be reviewing maintenance and recovery procedures through the Department of Social Services and Community Health and the Attorney General's Department. Delinquent parent payments for support and alimony will be given high priority.

It should be remembered, Mr. Speaker, that some social problems occur along with our greatly increased population, new jobs, and buoyant economy. I note that the income from the Alberta Liquor Control Board is expected to increase this year from \$120 million to \$131 million, a 9.2 per cent increase. There's an ever-increasing need for strong family units. Support by this government and by the members of this Assembly for strengthening the close family concept must continue.

Our development of leisure-time activities and facilities such as the Capital City Provincial Park in Edmonton and Fish Creek Provincial Park in Calgary is important. These two urban provincial parks, which will serve over 50 per cent of our total population, are unique developments in Canada. There will be continued emphasis on developing new and expanded provincial parks throughout Alberta. New facilities such as the Kananaskis Provincial Park near Canmore have been announced. An expansion of existing parks: Beauvais Lake near Pincher Creek, William A. Switzer near Hinton, and Gregoire Lake near Fort McMurray are but three of the 21 parks to receive expanded help.

Mr. Speaker, the way of life in our more remote communities of northern Alberta is indeed difficult. Along with the MLAs for Athabasca, Lesser Slave Lake, Lac La Biche-McMurray, and Peace River, I have visited and spoken with many residents in these areas. We as a government share their concerns, which are not unique to native people in these communities as both native and non-native face the same problems. Mr. Speaker, we cannot promise to solve all the problems of these sparsely populated and isolated areas. The harsh realities of the north were capably enumerated by the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray in this Assembly on Monday when he made his speech on the Budget Address. We will not promote a handout or giveaway system.

We do and we will continue to assist native and non-native residents in these communities who wish to improve their own way of life. Programs such as the electrification of northern communities, health care facilities, and the telephone and radio-telephone systems which now link all northern communities are examples of this. The newly announced water and sewer program for northern communities and the new self-help program to facilitate initiative at the local level will be expanded under the Metis housing program.

The moral commitment by our government to provide land title for the purpose of establishing homes and land for residences for people in the northern areas is well under way through the auspices of the land tenure secretariat.

The government of Alberta will continue to address the question of land entitlement and aboriginal claims. A subcommittee of cabinet has been established to recommend policy decisions to cabinet and the government. Support is provided by a committee of senior government officials. The task before us is very complicated. I need not remind the members of

this Assembly that this government is the trustee for all public lands for all Albertans. While we wish to be fair and equitable, it is not our intention to take these responsibilities lightly.

During the next year we will be making decisions on both the entitlement and aboriginal claims issues in an attempt to satisfy our legal obligations. As well, we will examine our moral obligation in an effort to ensure Indian people receive just and equal consideration of their aspirations. I fully anticipate that some of our decisions will not please some people. However, the best interests of all Albertans must be maintained.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, my greatest concern is with our ever-increasing dependency upon our non-renewable natural resource income, which now represents 47.9 per cent of all government revenue. Last year 45.4 per cent of our revenue came from this same depleting non-renewable resource, whereas in 1971 the figure was 24.9 per cent. We have almost doubled our reliance on this form of revenue between 1971 and today.

We must accelerate our processing of natural resources within Alberta, agricultural as well as fossil fuel. I would like to draw to the attention of hon. members of this Assembly that we use 70 per cent of the revenue from non-renewable resources for our general government purposes. In other words, 70 cents out of every dollar earned from oil, natural gas, and coal accounts for 48 cents out of every dollar we use as a government. The remaining 30 per cent goes to the heritage savings trust fund.

The real challenge will be to see if we are able to retain the 30 per cent for investment purposes so future generations may benefit from the same standards we now enjoy once the oil and gas for sale outside Alberta is gone.

In speaking with John Cardinal, a member from the Saddle Lake Reserve band council, I was informed that the Saddle Lake Band places 50 per cent of the revenue it receives from the sale of its natural gas and oil in a fund to meet current needs. Those funds are distributed to band members. The remaining 50 per cent is put into a fund for economic development to provide jobs for band members and to develop the reserve in preparation for the day when the oil and gas are gone.

If I may recap: an Indian reserve with high unemployment and related social and living concerns is putting aside 50 per cent of the revenue it now receives from a depleting resource in an attempt to prepare for the future. We, a province with one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation and the highest standard of living, are using 70 per cent of our revenue from the same non-renewable resources for our current needs and setting aside 30 per cent for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the sceptics and pundits who are constantly putting native people down take note of what the Indian people of Saddle Lake are doing to help themselves.

Thank you.

MR. LITTLE: Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to speak today to the Budget Address, 1977, presented by the hon. Provincial Treasurer. May I, sir, offer my personal congratulations for an outstanding budget.

As I listened last Friday evening, the budget

seemed almost too good to be true. An 11.1 increase in spending in a year of restraint with no additional taxes is most encouraging.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Provincial Treasurer's statement,

... 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 ...

would sound almost boastful if it weren't true. Our present affluent situation, however, should cause all of us to pause and reflect, to be thankful for our many blessings and bounties, but also to ask ourselves how long this can continue.

During that address, I believe I heard the Provincial Treasurer issue a caution that all these good times won't last forever. We've had our seven or more good years. Are the lean years ahead of us?

Mr. Speaker, I believe the economy of this province is altogether too dependent on our fast-depleting natural resources. However, all of us should find comfort in the foresight of this government in creating the heritage savings trust fund in order to provide our standard of living to future generations in this province. This year these non-renewable resources will account for 48 per cent of Alberta's budgetary revenue and at the same time contribute over \$900 million to the heritage savings trust fund. In spite of the size of this fund, it seems to me that a mere 30 per cent of these revenues is little enough to put away for the future. I'm quite sure that if a businessman had a particular article [with] which he knew he would saturate the market in a short time, and his revenues would no longer come in, he would select a much higher figure than 30 per cent.

However, practising restraint and savings is not a popular position to take. Significant pressures have been placed on this government to initiate new social and recreational programs by dipping into the fund. It takes courage and foresight to resist these pressures. But if we have problems in resisting these pressures, the forecast of the oil and gas production of this province for the future should persuade us.

These figures should have a sobering effect on all Albertans. We have a forecast that by 1985 oil production will be a mere half of what it was in 1973, that natural gas production will peak in 1981 and then very swiftly decline.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are living in the most affluent period, and probably the most affluent area of this continent, if not the world. But there are some by-products of our affluent society that we don't brag about, by-products that are, to say the least, disquieting. We lead the country in per capita consumption of alcohol. Last year Albertans spent \$320 million on alcohol. We lead the country in divorce. If we were to find the untold statistics, I suppose we would lead in family breakdown also. Some surveys indicate we lead the country in per capita suicide.

It's encouraging, however, to find the government is cognizant of these problems. Our support of such programs such as AADAC, the study of suicides by Dr. Boldt, and the McKenzie study into accidents in the province — all of these commissioned by the government — indicates that we are concerned and hope to cope with them.

Just a few words, Mr. Speaker, on the economy. Most predictions don't place Canada in a particularly

enviable economic position. Growth next year is forecast at a mere 3 to 4 per cent, well below most western countries. It is expected that unemployment will average 8 per cent in this country in 1977. Taking into account regional diversity, some provinces may yet experience unemployment rates of 10 to 15 per cent or even higher. The figures presented in the House of Commons just last week indicate we have the most people unemployed in this country since the great Depression of the '30s. Therefore it should be of real concern to all Canadians that our high wage rates and our low productivity levels are making it increasingly difficult to compete in world markets.

Very recently I discussed this problem with a Calgary businessman who had lost a government contract because of his inability to meet the bid. This particular company has a counterpart in the United States, so they submitted the same specs to the American counterpart or subsidiary. The price came in \$150,000 less than the Canadian price. I think this is a clear indication of the problems we are facing.

However, to the present time Alberta has been able to resist the national trends, by and large. A recent article described Alberta as the new economic giant. In the coming year total investment in this province is expected to be twice the national average. In Alberta, housing starts for '76 more than doubled the national average. Total employment in Alberta grew by 6 per cent last year, an increase of over 45,000 new jobs, while the unemployment rate was reduced by 3.9 per cent. Last week we were just over 4. I think it's rather significant that Saskatchewan now has the lowest rate of unemployment in the country, possibly at the same time as their population is depleting.

It is this buoyant economy, Mr. Speaker, which makes it possible for this province to support the most commendable social and people programs. The natural gas rebate plan provides Albertans with the lowest residential gas prices in the country; \$113.4 million went to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Commission, a 50 per cent increase. The senior citizen home improvement program has already benefited 26,000 of our senior citizens, and it is expected that 20,000 more will benefit in the coming year.

Unconditional grants to municipalities preserve local autonomy, an extremely important point. Alberta leads the country in unconditional grants to municipal police forces. And if mere dollars could solve the rising crime rates — and I wish to God they could — Alberta would be in good shape. I'm most happy to see the substantial increase in grants to public libraries in this province. In my own city this means an increase from \$25,000 to over \$470,000. If Calgary McCall keeps increasing at its present rate, it will be even higher. We Albertans still spend more money on pheasants and alcohol than we do on books, but I hope this trend is reversing and that the latest grants are the forerunners of better things to come.

Funds for social assistance and social services have been increased 30 per cent. We have been identified as a free-enterprise government with a social conscience, a reputation I'm proud to be associated with. However, I'm also pleased to see an appropriation in the minister's budget to identify possible abuses of social assistance and to examine preventive techniques. I think this was a very commendable item in

our budget.

Mr. Speaker, I'm most happy to be part of a government that can provide this high quality of social and recreational services and at the same time practise restraint. We enjoy the lowest taxes in the country. I doubt that a more buoyant budget has ever been presented in this country; it certainly hasn't been in this Legislature. But we all have a responsibility to exercise good stewardship over these vast sums of money that have been entrusted to our care. It is only by a co-operative effort of citizens, labor, and government that we can perpetuate our high economic growth and cope with the problems ahead. But, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we Albertans are going to prove equal to this task.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to make a few remarks on this Budget Address. I always consider it a privilege really, not a pleasure, to speak in this House. I've been here since 1967, and it appears that I am never able to get over my nervousness. I think one of the reasons I feel nervous in the House is that I appreciate and realize the importance of the business of this House to the citizens of this province. I think another reason I feel uneasy when I'm on the floor is the numbers we have to face. There are three of us on this side of the House, and we have to face all the rest in the House. I think those are some of the reasons I can't get over my fear in the House.

I want to congratulate the Provincial Treasurer for the budget he brought down last Friday — I thought he did a very good job presenting the budget — and all those who have spoken to date.

Mr. Speaker, there are some areas of the budget that I agree with and some I don't agree with. I think we certainly have to commend our Minister of Housing and Public Works. He is doing a tremendous job in the area of housing. He is putting money into programs to build houses for people. In what area can we spend money more beneficially than in providing housing for the citizens of this province. I certainly appreciate the amount of money that goes into the heritage of building homes for this province, and I think it's a really good area to be spending money. I approve of most of the programs, and the one I especially appreciate is the program we have for senior citizens. The first phase is in the process of being completed, and I'm certain the second phase is appreciated very much by the senior citizens of this province.

There is one area under the Department of Housing that I think we could excel a little in or spend a little more money in; that is, the area of rental accommodation. If we could do this and bring up the supply of rental accommodation, I think it would give the government an opportunity to get out of rent controls. However, while we don't have the supply at this time, I hope the government sees fit to keep the rent regulations for a period of time, since we have them in place. I didn't agree with them at the time we put them in, but since they're in place I certainly hope we keep them until we get a supply of rental accommodation.

The farm home program has not been working that successfully. [If] the Minister of Agriculture would have some input to the program so it would be more adaptable or more acceptable to our farmers, I think

this program would be used much more. In the last year we approved six applications in this department for \$166,000. I'm sure many more farmers who would like to build homes don't get involved in the program. I appreciate the changes that have been made in the program. However, they're not significant enough to get our farmers to build homes under this particular program.

Now for one of the areas I'm not so pleased with — I think it's an area we should have more emphasis on — the Department of Transportation. I'm just beginning to wonder if our Minister of Transportation is losing a little of his vigor. I can recall when he used to sit in this chair, right here where I'm sitting. He would hammer the past Minister of Highways, the hon. Member for Drumheller, and indicate that he didn't spend all his budget, that he'd get this money in the budget and wouldn't spend it.

I would suggest that the hon. Minister of Transportation should try to get more money out of the budget for transportation. I can see this year's budget is \$271 million. It's down \$23 million from last year's budget, which was \$294 million. What would be better for the people of this province, [as] another area to put money in the heritage, than a network of highways? I certainly think this is an area we shouldn't be cutting back on.

I would like to see us put more emphasis on Highway 1. We're a rich province, and we haven't done very much in the last few years as far as twinning Highway 1 is concerned. I would certainly like to see us expand and have as much twin highway in Alberta as our neighboring province to the east and some other provinces. I think this would be a good place to invest some of our heritage fund money.

However, I very much enjoyed the speech of the hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Transportation on freight rates. I believe he had a good suggestion when he said he thought the governments should take over the rail beds in this province. Because, Mr. Speaker, they're getting into a condition — we know the CPR is not going to keep the beds up because they say they're losing money on the Crowsnest rates. Someone has to keep up our rail beds. If they don't, we're going to have a hard time moving grain in this province and in western Canada.

However, I would like to see this government put more emphasis on equalizing freight rates for western Canada. I think this is the biggest discrimination we have between the west and the east. As long as we have freight rates that are not equal — when we can ship a manufactured product cheaper than we can ship a raw product — we're going to have a hard time promoting industry in the province of Alberta.

While I'm on Transportation, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say the Minister of Transportation indicated to me it was the policy of the government that when contractors are awarded a contract, they hire local trucks. I had a situation in my constituency where a contractor out of Edmonton got the contract to work on Highway 1 for 20 miles. The contractor sublet the gravel hauling to a trucking firm in Edmonton. They came down, and they're hauling all the gravel exclusively and not letting one local trucker onto the job. This certainly causes a lot of confusion with the local truckers.

Another area where I do have some concern is the Department of the Environment. The concern is not

that they're down 15 per cent on their budget for this year. I don't quarrel with this. I think we should have restraints in some of these areas. But I do have concern that some of the decisions his department makes are certainly questionable.

One that comes to mind right now is in my own constituency; that is, for a lagoon for the town of Brooks. To me it's a very poor decision, a bad decision. They're putting a lagoon 700 feet from a domestic canal that supplies water to a lot of the citizens of the eastern irrigation district. Mr. Speaker, the serious problem is not that it's 700 feet from this canal. The serious problem is a rise of 28 feet in that 700 feet. There is a terrific siphoning effect from the lagoon to this canal. The one situation I see, and the engineers tell me, is that it's not all going to be clay-lined as well. A lot of coal seams run through the area. If the coal seams are there, they could certainly siphon water out of this lagoon into the canal. Burrowing animals could cause a problem as far as this lagoon is concerned.

Again, with that 28 feet of height in 700 feet, what would happen if there was an overflow of that lagoon? There's no other place for it to go, Mr. Speaker, than into the canal. We could have a torrential rain or something of that nature that could overflow this lagoon into the canal.

It concerns me for the simple reason that a canal is there. If we go ahead with the lagoon on this particular site and the eastern irrigation district ever wanted to raise this canal, they would have to get a permit from the Department of the Environment to move the canal. I know the minister has many letters, because I have copies of letters that he has got, and I've got many letters myself opposing this lagoon from people in the Tilley area and from the town of Brooks.

I think the part that annoys me most of all is the fact that there are lots of alternatives. They can move this lagoon 1,200 feet farther east, farther away from the canal, and have a different terrain, a different grade on the land. The flow is in a different direction, and the land is available farther away from the canal. Why would a permit be approved for a site such as this when there are many alternatives?

In the question period the other day — another instance is the Innisfail lagoon, where they're running the sewage or the lagoon intake into the river 1 mile upstream from where Innisfail takes water out of the Red Deer River. I think that if the Department of the Environment would be more restrictive in some of these areas and possibly not so restrictive in the area of controlling industry, it would be accepted much better by the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, another area really gives me concern. As a matter of fact it gives me more concern than anything else that's happened in recent years; that is, the awarding of the contract for the pipelines from Fort McMurray to Edmonton. To me this is very appalling. And it's not only me who's concerned. I talk to many people who are very concerned. They're not concerned with the amount of money or with economics as much as with the principle. The concern they show me and the concern I have is the principle and the way the tender was awarded.

I understand it was an invitational tender. An invitation went out to Henuset Bros., and they came in with the lowest bid as far as these pipelines were concerned. It's hard to explain to the citizens of this

province, when it's an Alberta-based contractor, why we would give this to some American firm at approximately another \$5 million cost. If they didn't intend a non-union contractor to bid on this contract, why was an invitation sent to Henuset Bros.? I'd have to say this contractor must have a good supply of labor or else they wouldn't be able to bid on such a contract as this. So they must treat their help properly, they must pay the standard wage, and they must support their employees. I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that I think our Alberta-based industry, our unions, would have to be concerned with the way this particular contract was handled.

I know the Minister of Energy possibly feels the Energy Company should be responsible for making these decisions. But with the province's equity position in Syncrude we certainly should have something to say about the transmission line that's going to transport oil from Fort McMurray to Edmonton, especially when 51 per cent of the Energy Company is owned by the government and the majority of the other shares is owned by the citizens of this province.

MR. R. SPEAKER. Or at least have a discussion.

DR. BUCK: Getty's pretty busy.

MR. MANDEVILLE: However, I don't think the government has as much input or as much concern as far as the gas line to supply Syncrude is concerned. There is, however, enough government equity in this particular project that they should be really concerned.

Henuset were asked three times to extend their time for expiry on the bids on this particular project. I think it's a very dangerous precedent to allow unions to direct the way in which tenders are going to be let in this province. On the same note, Mr. Speaker, I'm not condemning our unions, because I think they've served a purpose in business as far as protection of their employees, bargaining power, working conditions, wages, employee benefits, job security, and so on are concerned. They've certainly served a purpose in the province and in the Dominion of Canada.

But I'm certainly not pleased with American-based unions calling the shots in the province of Alberta. I can recall so many times when the dock workers on the west coast crippled the western economy. How did they cripple it? Whenever we went to move grain or had an order for grain, what would they do? They would go on strike. That's another example of American-based unions controlling the economy of western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, another concern I have is in the Alberta Energy Company developing Suffield. I certainly hope this precedent doesn't carry on to the Suffield Block hindering its development.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few comments on an industry that's important to the economy of Alberta, of Canada, of the world for that matter, and that is agriculture. I am very pleased with the input we get in this Legislature as far as agriculture is concerned. I've got to commend the Minister of Agriculture for the job he is doing, for the simple reason that he doesn't get involved in agriculture . . .

DR. BUCK: Because his budget's been slashed.

MR. MANDEVILLE: . . . as far as grants and such are concerned. I think this is commendable. I'm not disappointed in the cut in the Agriculture budget. I realize it's down. However, I still appreciate the \$43 million going into the cattle economy. I think this is good, because it's \$43 million going right into the economy. I think it's going to help a really depressed economy.

Some of the problems we've had with agriculture in the past are programs like the federal government one where they paid \$10 to seed grass. This is promoting the supply of livestock. Or the program the Alberta government had, where we had \$10,000 for farmers to buy cattle. These are programs I don't like. They hurt the agricultural economy. I'm very pleased we are getting out of these types of programs.

As far as the cow-calf program is concerned, I appreciate it very much. I supported the program. I don't really believe in subsidies, but with the depressed economy we had in the cattle business I had to go along with it, because it would help hold together some of our small operators and keep them in cattle production. I don't think it's a good time for our people to go out of the cattle business and into the grain industry, because the cycle could change and the cattlemen would get hurt again.

However, I hope we don't have to continue with this program. If we do, I would like to suggest to the minister that in future we raise the limit. The limit now is 100 head and the maximum you could get was 70 head. Well, anyone today with 100 head of cattle doesn't have an economic operation. If you have 100 head of cattle, you've got to be growing cereal grains or have a job some place to supplement your operation. If we were going into another program, the only complaint I have is that we should increase the number to where it's economical for a rancher, around 200 to 250 head of cattle.

As far as the cereal grain problem is concerned, I think we've got to look forward to a depression in the agricultural economy. The hon. Member for Medicine Hat-Redcliff is looking at me. It's bad to be a pessimist, but I think we've got to face the fact that prices on our cereal grains have been good for the past two or three years and the cattle industry has been down. The cycle is going to change. I don't want to see our government promote people getting into cereal grain production and out of the cattle business. If they do, these people are going to be facing very serious problems.

Input into agriculture is terrifically high: ever-escalating gas prices, fertilizer prices going up from year to year. However, I'd look for an increase in the price of fertilizer this year. Prospects look like it's going to be dry, and there won't be much fertilizer used. Possibly we won't have an increase in fertilizer prices. However, our machinery is escalating, labor is escalating. So the input, Mr. Speaker, is terrifically high in comparison with the return that farmers get for their produce.

One area that really gives me concern is our young farmers. As the minister indicated in the Oral Question Period, it's really not foreign purchases escalating the price of land; it's the inflated price of our products. As far as the high price of land is concerned, it's money available to buy land that's causing high prices and high interest rates. I can see our young farmers with this high debt load having a real

problem to make payments on high cost of land, high input, and high interest rates. They're going to be facing very serious problems if the price of our cereal grains drops. If we have a dry year and crop failure this could be very serious, because the amount of input we have for production of a bushel of grain or anything on the farm is so high that they certainly can't afford to lose a crop.

One bright spot in agriculture, if you can call it a bright spot, is the announcement by the minister in charge of the Wheat Board of \$3 a bushel for wheat and \$1.80 a bushel for barley advance payments. However, Mr. Speaker, this is just going to be an advance. We've still got to sell this grain. There's a possibility that we're not going to be able to sell it, and \$3 a bushel is not advantageous to the agricultural industry unless we can market the grain. If we're kept on a restricted quota, \$3 is not that significant.

For this particular reason — and I hope the minister has some input on the cartel that Canada, the United States, and Australia are talking about at the present time — it really gives me concern to think we would get involved in a cartel. Because it seems to me when we get involved in situations such as this, it sounds good but we usually come out with the short end of the stick. I'm afraid the Americans could undercut our \$3 wheat and \$1.80 barley on the world market and bring the world markets down. We'd be stuck, unable to market our grain. I think this cartel is something to be looked over very closely. I know the federal government is looking at getting into one with the United States and Australia for marketing our cereal grains.

The one really dark spot in the agricultural economy over the past four years — and I hope it's on the upswing — is our beef prices. They have certainly been depressed over the past four years, and the people who have stayed in the industry and are still there have sharpened up their management. When the market levels out and the situation straightens out, they certainly should be able to go ahead by leaps and bounds as a result of sharpening up their management methods as far as the cattle industry is concerned.

The reason I am optimistic and think we're over the hump as far as the cattle situation is concerned is that our cattle population on the North American continent is down by 6 per cent. However, our feedlot cattle are up. That tells me there are more cattle going into the feedlot and into processing. Also with our cattle numbers down on the North American continent, our tonnage has dropped dramatically as a result of the grading system in the United States; and the fact that they've been slaughtering so much low-yielding beef throughout the North American continent really reduces our tonnage in North America.

Our beef consumption also went up dramatically. In the United States consumption is up to 128 pounds; in Canada it's up to 110 pounds. But that is a result of beef being the cheapest protein anyone can eat. We are also slaughtering a great number of cows and heifers, which is going to help solve our problem as far as the cattle economy is concerned.

I would have to say the program the federal government has announced for cow-calf operators, at 90 per cent of the last five-year average return on calves, is unrealistic, Mr. Speaker. The reason I say that is

that for four of the last five years the cost of production has been a lot higher than the return they've been getting on calves. So it's unrealistic to say we're going to have a stabilized price at 90 per cent of the last five years, which has been at a loss to the producer. I've got to agree with the minister — we've got to stabilize payments on the cost of production for that particular year.

Another area that I think has been good as far as the cattle industry is concerned is the reduction on the quota of oceanic beef coming into Canada. They've reduced it from 190 million to 120 million pounds. I think this is going to help our cattle situation considerably. However, we do have in store at the present time 32 million pounds of beef that has been imported into Canada.

As far as the Anti-Inflation Board is concerned — and was pleased to hear the minister announce today that they're going to make certain the anti-inflation extension is not going to affect farm gate prices — I must still say, at the same time we've been controlling inflation to a certain extent, mostly in the area of foods, I think the anti-inflation program certainly hasn't helped as far as agriculture prices are concerned.

I would like to ask the minister to oppose one other area, the marketing board the federal government is trying to promote as far as beef cattle are concerned. I certainly don't think the answer is to have a marketing board in Canada as far as our beef is concerned. This is certainly the message I get from cattle producers in areas I have seen.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I have to say this is a pretty good budget. I say that because of some areas where the restraints are, and I think that's great. Just because our revenue is good, I don't think we should be spending it all at this particular time.

I would like to caution the government as far as the heritage fund is concerned. We realize there are going to be many pressures put on the government as far as demands to dip into the heritage fund are concerned. I would say it's going to be one of the hardest areas to control.

Just before closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say I hope we never get into the situation again, as far as awarding a contract in Alberta, that we faced as far as Syncrude was concerned on the pipeline from Fort McMurray to Alberta.

Just before sitting down, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say, if the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care was in his seat, that I appreciate very much the \$9.6 million hospital approved for Brooks. It was needed for a long time.

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I'm indeed honored and privileged to have this opportunity to reflect on a few remarks on the budget. Our Treasurer, the Hon. Merv Leitch, presented a strong and well-planned record budget last Friday. I am sure it's the envy of the rest of Canada. Perhaps most significant is the fact that it has brought down very extensive additional benefits to the citizens of Alberta without an increase in taxes, and an addition of \$900 million that will be placed in the Alberta heritage trust fund. What other province has been able to do this? This, of course, is due to good strong management and leadership provided by the hon. Premier Peter Lougheed. There is no one in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, who works harder than

the Premier on behalf of the citizens of Alberta. I know the budget will be acted [upon] favorably and will affect all Albertans.

The timing of our government seriously assessing the education needs of our province is most appropriate. Over the past few years we have witnessed a wide selection of options and teaching programs, as high as over 200. I am not going to list them at this time, but I do have a record of them. Standards of examinations for students have been dropped. Things have reached [a point] in the education system where a student can no longer be transferred from one school to another during a school year without a serious disruption in his studies, because of the programs that vary so much from school to school in this province. For example, the students taking French by mandatory . . . They are taking French in elementary schools with no assurance that that course will be followed up in a junior high school. Of course, inconsistency applies as well to the universities across Canada.

In light of this, it is time we started to get educational studies in our schools with closer direction from the Department of Education in establishing examinations to gauge not only the performance of the students, but also to help ensure that teachers themselves cover the required courses of study during the school year.

I am indeed proud of the progress made in the area of providing cultural and recreational facilities for the province, and particularly my constituency. Two excellent facilities under construction in my constituency are a result of the provincial and recreational grant.

Earlier this year, as a result of the efforts of the Kinsmen Club, matching dollar for dollar with the provincial government, an excellent arena was constructed in Renfrew in my constituency. The blind institute workshop, also in my constituency, has been constructed through the efforts of the Lions Club and the help of the Calgary people and the provincial government.

We have not forgotten the senior citizens in my constituency either. The Bow Valley Lodge, one of the finest and most modern facilities in Calgary, has just been completed and was officially opened this fall. We have a similar senior citizens' complex nearing completion on 16 Avenue containing recreational, lodging, and nursing care facilities, which will be among the finest in North America.

Also under way is a \$750,000 cultural centre being built by the Ukrainian architects' community in Bridgeland. Another over \$500,000 centre is being built by the Italian community. Both of those would have had difficulty getting off the ground without provincial help.

I recall not too long ago we couldn't get enough money from the government to buy poles or lighting for an outdoor skating rink so we could use the ice at night. In light of recent developments, the record of our government has been outstanding in the field of cultural and recreational facilities and development. Our government has responded very effectively to the needs of Albertans. I try to understand and share the feeling that it's very hard to be a member of the opposition. It would have been just as hard to be a member of the opposition at the time when Social Credit gave good government to Albertans. And they

did. I believe in democracy. I believe in free enterprise, and I believe in good opposition. And I listen to their speeches and their opinions very, very carefully. Maybe some say the opposition is small, but when the Lougheed team was in the opposition they were not any bigger, but they were very effective.

This is not to say that we in Calgary are without problems. High on our list of problems are inadequate urban transportation facilities that do not meet the growing needs of an expanding economy. Transportation needs fall into three basic categories, each of which is of equal importance. Besides moving people to and from work, there are two other areas that are important: the moving of huge volumes of goods to all parts of the city, and the moving of services within the city, medical or professional trade services. They cannot be provided without adequate urban highways. Calgary is faced with a serious access problem in the south part of the city where the present roads are overloaded and on the north side, on 16 Avenue, where a remedy is long overdue. This year our government proceeded with the south extension of the Deerfoot Trail and also preserved the greenbelt for a future ring road around Calgary. Furthermore, providing better access to downtown and to our industrial areas is urgent to lend greater efficiency to our city.

Labor problems in Alberta, as in any part of Canada, are serious. In 1976 Canada exceeded Italy in the number of work stoppages. The right to strike is being demanded by those public servants who still do not have this right. It is only fair that if one group . . . The other group must have equal rights. I certainly respect that. Workers need better protection from loss of wages in case of employer bankruptcies.

There's a limit to what governments can or even should do for people without interfering in their personal freedom. People themselves have to assess if government programs are worthwhile and do not interfere with their own priorities. Yet despite these members of the labor force needing more favorable treatment, there are those members of the labor force who are unionized and are too powerful an influence through their strike weapon. We have to provide better means of working out settlements on those workers' demands without having to resort to the highly damaging strike weapon.

I also would like to touch on the question of unity. This country has not been worse off since the Depression. Over one million people are unemployed. Over 50 per cent of them are below the age of 24. This country is in a bad way. It would be bad for any government to call an election at this time, unless of course the government no longer wished to govern. In some areas over 25 per cent are unemployed. It is a very serious situation. I'm sure at this time the Prime Minister has more important things to do than call a general election this spring. I think the Prime Minister is probably right. I believe him. It will not be called this spring. The reason people voted for Rene Levesque's government in Quebec was to get the Liberals out. They had no other alternative but to follow this line of action because of the bad job they had done. The Liberal government did not give good government in that province.

The federal government needs to prepare a strong budget to restore confidence in national unity. The labor economical struggle is serious. As we are

aware, they have given us our share of crash programs, resulting in hash and trash programs. The public knows they are gimmick programs — the LIP, the SIP, the HIP, and the NIP . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: And the DRIP.

MR. KUSHNER: . . . and the DRIP. Citizens will no longer be fooled by this type of action. We know it, the public knows it, and you can't fool the people any longer. You can fool some people sometimes and some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time.

It is not a question of pulling a bunch of tricks out of a bag and tricking people in: The Just Society; The Land Is Strong; United We Stand, Divided We Fall; and now, The New Society. I believe the time has come for him to regain strength and confidence. The days of Houdini magicians are gone. People are looking for sincerity and strong leadership. Fancy speeches without action are not good enough. In fact results of the recent survey by businessmen across Canada show they have lost confidence in the government's administration and in the government itself.

In two elections the Prime Minister has run on the idea of unity. He gave Canadians the impression that he could do it if he were given the opportunity. The Canadian people have given him this opportunity. Can you see the Premier of Quebec, Rene Levesque, and our Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Pierre Trudeau, working shoulder to shoulder trying to solve the economic situation and bring about unity in this country? Of course not. I don't think people believe you have to be French to be elected Prime Minister. The people of Quebec, the same as the people across this country, don't believe you have to be French to be a good prime minister or to be elected prime minister.

I think people strongly believe in law and order, and capital punishment. They want to see law and order enforced. They don't want to see — most of all, is to be free. They're fed up with the courts. In fact they are beginning to wonder who is running our jails. With unions being formed and negotiations taking place between jails and the authorities, the criminals are demanding equal rights as free individuals. Next they will be demanding the right to vote. The problem has started with the Liberal government deciding to experiment with the just society in our prisons. We must return to the basic positive deterrent that punishment must not be eliminated.

The efficiency of the government has already been proven by failure of price controls, the language question, one minister after another resigning over dissatisfaction with the Prime Minister's policies and leadership. Therefore he no longer has a foundation to build from. One scandal after another: the Sky Shops affair, the CANDU reactors, a better deal for the west — we're still waiting — some of the main topics discussed at the western conference.

The time has come for this great country of ours to give a bright young leader of the Conservative party, a farm boy, the chance to prove himself and set this country on a proper course. Maybe you don't have to be a millionaire to become the prime minister of this country. I do believe this young man is a great organizer. He has demonstrated his talents and abilities at our national convention. He has the foresight

and the courage. I believe the people of this country will give him the chance to be our next prime minister. This young man is a sound alternative for the prime minister of our country. He is as bright as a whip and honest as the day is long.

The Prime Minister made a great speech in Washington. It cost us two cents on the Canadian dollar. He also made a great speech in Cuba. Let us not forget some of the promises he made in the last election, and of course he did. Should the federal Liberal government be re-elected to govern this country, the country would be in jeopardy, Quebec separating from the rest of Canada.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege for me to enter the budget debate to offer my congratulations to the Provincial Treasurer on both the content and manner in which he presented a well-prepared and responsible financial year for the province of Alberta. Speakers before me have presented the various percentage increases, areas of deletion and of increase that affect those members and all Albertans. But what does a budget of controlled growth mean to each of us as individuals: a belt tightening, a loss of some of our financial freedoms, giving up some of the pleasures we have been accustomed to? Not at all, Mr. Speaker. [It means] a chance to continue to enjoy all the amenities of life to which we have become accustomed and to continue to grow.

Being involved some years ago with rural municipal politics, if one picks up the manual as to how a budget is to be prepared and starts at page one and goes through the many pages of expenditure, one finally arrives at the last page which states the amount of money that must be raised to meet that expenditure. For many years, Mr. Speaker, rural municipalities started at the last page. They found out the amount we could afford and then worked backwards. One year ago, with the announcement of the controlled growth budget by this government, many local governments and those included within my constituency, having practised the "last page first", still pressed the panic button. I suppose it took a period to pause and reflect, to reassess. Within a short six weeks to two months, the services were back to normal. The pauses to reflect in most cases were the pauses that refreshed, and many of those budgets ended the year by being balanced and, in some cases, at a surplus. They had learned to live within their means.

Mr. Speaker, two aspects that fall within the budget that has been presented I am sure will be of prime importance to the members of my constituency. Not unlike the others, they certainly welcome the increase in the library grant. Certainly every urban form of government that falls within my constituency is looking forward to the increase in grants in recognizing growth. There are seven urban centres within the constituency; seven will qualify in varying degrees. One could argue the priorities and allocations of budget. I suppose the percentage increases in various departments will always be viewed with some indifference, certainly dependent upon the eyes of those who are viewing them and with the direction of their basic responsibilities.

But, Mr. Speaker, what does the budget presented to this House and to this province that will govern us

for the coming year mean to the average Albertan, an individual who really lives in the province and can witness economic growth and employment on an ongoing basis? He has his total rights, his liberties, his freedom of choice, the availability of family homes, and lives in the home of the free-enterprise system.

I know an individual who is really no different from many others, whether it be in the country of Canada or others beyond. But because he is an Albertan, he's an individual who enjoys the lowest form of taxes. He has the availability of the best health facilities, enjoys the lowest fuel prices and heating costs, enjoys the highest standards of education, and pays the lowest income taxes. I suppose he has the tops in rec facilities in the availability of all the beauties of this province. Restraint, controlled growth. The budget is \$3.5 billion, Mr. Speaker — to spend and to save through investment in the heritage savings and trust fund. Surely, Mr. Speaker, we must be the envy not only of the other provinces that fall within Canada but of many, many countries as well.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituency, I commend Treasury and the government for the budget and what it contains in maintaining the preferred position all Albertans enjoy: a balanced expenditure with a balanced growth.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Speaker, in participating in the budget debate, I suppose we will all commend some, perhaps all, the areas. There is no need to continue to itemize them or to make those impressions in the House, because we are concerned with getting the message out to the citizens of Alberta. If the performance of reporting from this Legislature in recent times is any example, I doubt very much that any of it will be conveyed from remarks we make here in the Assembly, except where they may appear to be somewhat controversial and negative. So I'll not take the opportunity here to enumerate the important items of this Budget Address, in hopes of getting the message through to the citizens of Alberta in order that they might in fact have the information at hand to determine for themselves whether this government truly reflects interest and concern for the citizens of Alberta.

In my remarks I would like to identify certain areas of concern I have in regard to an attitude that appears to be developing in certain sectors of our society as to what those sectors are entitled or what the government should provide in the way of funds and services; and also to suggest where we might examine programs we have developed or areas in which we are striving to develop greater efficiency, in order that we might get quality rather than quantity for the dollars made available.

Mr. Speaker, it has long been a contention of many citizens in the province that in Alberta we have a very inadequate day care service. That criticism might be valid. Certainly I think this government recognizes it is in some respects. But to put in place a fair and adequate day care service that will discriminate in a necessary way to provide assistance where assistance is specifically needed to citizens who require it, and require citizens [to pay] who are at an income level which should enable them to pay for the service they may desire, and to recognize that discrimination of this nature should in fact be expected on the part

of citizens.

I have some real concern with regard to facilities that are in existence in the province, and those to be developed in the future, that the standards might be somewhat unrealistic in the sense that the basic requirement may be higher than necessary to give fair and adequate services to the young children who are in fact the benefactors of those services. I think it's important to recognize that the higher we set a standard beyond what is basically a responsibility of the parent, the greater the contribution out of the public purse will have to be. In this regard I have no objection to contributions out of public funds, because I certainly can see the benefits down the road in minimizing the inequities in our social standards.

We must not raise those standards so high that we will put into the numbers a greater percentage of parents who could not carry on or cope with the responsibility that truly is theirs in the development of their children. Day care is no substitute for the responsibilities parents have to their children. Day care is a necessity to aid parents who have problems of survival with respect to the income levels they have. So once again I would urge the Minister of Social Services and Community Health to be extremely careful in her final decisions on the kind of program and standards that will be set in place.

With regard to our home care program, I'm sure this is one applauded by the government. But there is concern that the service can be so widely spread, so inefficient, that the dollars would not reflect the quality of service that in fact is needed. I know that many senior citizens and handicapped people in the younger age group would be better off in their homes if they could only get some basic level of home support. To expand the home care program at this time will not minimize our overall health costs. I suppose that is one of the real problems we as a government face when we try to maintain a reasonable level of budgetary cost or budgetary allocation in services to people in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is the responsibility of all health professionals who provide service under a home care program to assist in developing a system or mechanism that would function efficiently, minimize the cost with regard to hourly wasted time or that aspect of service that really does not contribute to quality of care. I think joint co-operation with all these health professionals may enable us to expand our home care program and put in place an efficient one.

Mr. Speaker, in the throne speech our Premier expressed the concern and desire that we re-address ourselves to the basic goals and objectives of education. That is an ongoing consideration at this time. In our budget we have allocated substantial funds toward basic education. But it seems that the system as it is now operating expects a bottomless pit to the amount of funding that can be made available. We can boast the highest per capita cost for education in this country, and I really don't think that should be the criterion. In our educational institutions I wonder if we have not gone too far afield in what they ought to be providing, with the costs being supported out of the public purse.

Perhaps the time has come for us to re-examine, in the areas of basic education and postsecondary edu-

cation, the breadth of the courses under the sponsorship of the public purse and perhaps delineate more clearly what their mandate is or ought to be. We cannot continue each year to cry for additional funds toward education without examining the manner in which these funds are being distributed, the quality of the service being provided for the dollar that is being spent. I know our postsecondary institutions, particularly the universities, have been given a great degree of autonomy, if not total autonomy, in the administration and the service they provide. Each year we have had the same criticism, that the provincial government simply holds too tight a purse string with regard to support for these institutions.

I can't help but be critical of these very institutions in many of their demands. Surely many citizens of this province are continually being given examples or cited areas of sheer waste of dollars. The protectiveness of existing programs within certain faculties because those programs mean dollars for their budgets: to me that is just a very poor rationalization of their existence. I think times are changing. Unless the educational institutions are updated with respect to the manner in which they apply the dollars they receive, and reflect the real need, it would be regrettable if the public put their government in the position where they would require the government to become more involved in the distribution of the funding.

That leads me to a comment I made with respect to the two-tier tuition fees set for foreign students. To my mind that policy is now in place and shall take effect in September 1977. To my mind there is no question of that. If there is a question of that in the mind of the institutions, perhaps they have been too far removed from the true feeling of the citizens of Alberta. I would like to say that if there is concern that the decision and the policy that have been announced will have any effect on the number of foreign students attending our postsecondary educational institutions, surely there are alternatives in place.

Perhaps we need to list some of the alternatives currently available that need to be looked at. In this province and indeed in this country we have a student finance program. When I last read the mandate under that legislation, it seems to me it left sufficient flexibility to be able to provide assistance to those foreign students if the need is there, where the governments of those countries make the selection of students qualifying for foreign studies. Certainly we can have a program available if our fees are such that they determine those students cannot attend here.

Another alternative is in place. Currently in Alberta there is a foreign aid program initiated by the private sector which is matched on a dollar-per-dollar basis in the province. That program puts the province of Alberta, through both the government and the private sector, at the highest contribution level of any province in Canada. I have no doubt that applications for consideration can be made to that Alberta Committee of International Agencies if a need is found to sponsor foreign students.

There is another alternative. The immigration of students into this country or the exchange of students is surely under federal jurisdiction. For all those who do not reside in this country, who are not citizens of this country, who enter under the immigration laws of the country, the federal government has in place

substantive foreign aid programs in the millions of dollars. Surely there is an area where representations can be made to ask the federal government to allocate some specific plan and funding toward the promotion of bringing to this country for education students who might return to their countries and assist in the development of their countries, in order that over a period of time foreign aid might be minimized because of a healthier economic development in their own homeland.

These are all possibilities for consideration and for thought. So it's not simply a matter of adding dollars. It's a matter of how those dollars that are already available are being utilized.

There is a great deal of concern about the rising cost of oil and gas. Our budget very closely reflects the revenues Albertans are fortunate to be able to amass toward a healthier economic development for the future. Surely our memories cannot be so short as to reflect on the economic status of this province less than a decade ago, the percentage that Alberta was receiving as one of the perhaps have-not provinces. We now have found the possibility to build our province into an economic base that would perhaps prevent us from ever returning to a have-not province. I think it was only last night or this morning that a federal minister commented, if I heard the news report correctly, that Alberta should play its part in contributing to the unity of this country and Confederation by keeping its prices down on its natural resources.

Well, Mr. Speaker, since the provinces joined Confederation, it's not the price of oil and gas that created the inequities existing in Atlantic Canada and the western regions. It wasn't the western province of Alberta that created the inequities in transportation rates, in agricultural policies which discriminate against the western and Atlantic regions. It wasn't Alberta's policies that lacked such initiative in the development of foreign trade — where we now find ourselves — that the only way the federal government will pay any heed or feel any sensitivity is by recognizing that perhaps in Alberta there is some expertise in negotiations, in bringing about a communication of understanding, in bringing them to listen. All of these are relevant to the status of our budget today; I must say perhaps even more relevant to the budgets of tomorrow, not only for Alberta but for other provinces.

Our contribution and the contribution of other provinces to Confederation has indeed been great — by the inequities we have continued to pay through the years. I can't help but feel, Mr. Speaker, that the costs in these inequities, the interpretation by the federal government of the jurisdictions and the responsibilities under the constitution, served only to build a strong central Canada with the Atlantic and the western provinces — and perhaps Alberta in particular — being treated as feeder provinces. I'm confident that Albertans never understood this to be the price tag for Confederation.

I'm extremely pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the Capital City Park — its development, and the funds being allocated it toward a hopeful completion by the summer of 1978 — is on target, and perhaps in that respect will save Albertans a fair amount of dollars. I know there has been a lack of understanding on the part of the citizens of Edmonton and the province of

how the development of Capital City Park and Fish Creek Park really benefit the citizens. That misunderstanding, Mr. Speaker, is probably due to the fact that this government saw the need to develop the program, made the decision to commit the funds. And because of the majority that is enjoyed by this government, somehow the media feel it is sacrilege to carry an honest message. It is difficult to have to pay for every word one must convey to its citizens, to simply inform them of basically what is being done in their interest.

Time and time again, we find through the summer months that the carnage on our highways has caused us some real concern. It is hoped that citizens of Edmonton, and those visiting the city, will find that they no longer have to travel the many miles they currently do for much of their recreational enjoyment to reach the facilities outside the city.

Mr. Speaker, one of the very important and long-awaited programs and monetary allocations is for library assistance. I know that when the budget was announced allocating one dollar per capita for library support in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, there was criticism that this wasn't nearly enough. I think the point was made previously, but it bears being made again. Although this budget specifically allocates one dollar per capita for libraries in Edmonton, it by no means reflects the numbers of dollars that currently, and in the past, have been made available for libraries in the schools within our educational system. I think perhaps the best utilization of those dollars has not been made. Although the funds were being made available through our educational system and the school boards, a more equitable application might have been realized if some of the funding could have been directed to libraries in various districts or regions, particularly where there are cultural inequities, with the schools utilizing such funds as are necessary for their immediate day to day requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I have to commend the Minister of Housing and Public Works on the funds he has provided for senior citizen housing. For the first time in the history of the city of Edmonton and the constituency of Edmonton Norwood, we're beginning to realize some equity in the services and facilities being provided for citizens in that area.

I suppose, Mr. Speaker, I have used up my time. I haven't really covered all the points I would like to bring forward, but that will give me some fruit for a later date.

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

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. member adjourn the debate?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to outline the tentative business for the House next week as contemplated by the government.

On Orders of the Day Monday afternoon, Committee of Supply study of the Treasury estimates. In the evening we will probably proceed to the budget debate, Government Motion No. 1. On Wednesday we will call the resolution in respect of which I have

given notice to the Clerk and which will appear on Votes and Proceedings Monday, the resolution to extend the Alberta Temporary Anti-inflation Measures Act. That will be up for debate on Wednesday afternoon.

On Thursday evening the subcommittees of the Committee of Supply will meet. There will be two of them. The first one will commence review of the Department of Social Services and Community Health, and the second, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife. Details with regard to locations for the meetings of those two subcommittees will be available Monday or Tuesday. Next Friday we will probably proceed to Committee of Supply, with

further departmental study of the estimates in the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I move we call it 1 o'clock.

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 12:45 p.m.]

