

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA**Title: **Wednesday, April 27, 1977 2:30 p.m.**

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

**PRAYERS**

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **PRESENTING PETITIONS**

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present the following petitions for private bills: Bill Pr. 1, An Act to Incorporate the Alberta Real Estate Society; Bill Pr. 2, An Act to Amend The Alberta Wheat Pool Act, 1970; Bill Pr. 3, An Act to Amend An Act Respecting the Holding of Real Property by the Alberta Command and Branches of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, 1977; Bill Pr. 4, An Act to Incorporate the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of Alberta; Bill Pr. 5, An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate the Society of Industrial Accountants of Alberta; Bill Pr. 6, An Act to Incorporate St. Mary's Hospital, Trochu.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Bill 216**  
**An Act To Amend**  
**The Alberta Energy Company Act**

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill No. 216, being An Act to Amend The Alberta Energy Company Act. The purpose of this bill would be to bring The Alberta Energy Company clearly under the jurisdiction and control of the Alberta Legislative Assembly.

[Leave granted; Bill 216 read a first time]

**Bill 43**  
**The Police Amendment Act, 1977**

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill No. 43, The Police Amendment Act, 1977. The purpose of this bill is to give full powers for police commissions in municipalities where RCMP contracts prevail, and to spell out procedures for summoning witnesses for disciplinary hearings in connection with law enforcement agencies.

[Leave granted; Bill 43 read a first time]

**Bill 38**  
**The Municipal Election**  
**Amendment Act, 1977**

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, The Municipal Election Amendment Act, 1977. The amendments to this bill are aimed at making the qualifications equitable to candidates and electors at

municipal elections the same as apply to school elections. At the present time only residents of school districts may vote in an election, whereas in a municipal election a non-resident may vote if he or she owns property in the municipality.

Another clause is: only Canadian citizens may vote at a school election. In a municipal election, a non-Canadian may vote if he or she is a property owner. The other clause is: only Canadian citizens may run for office in a school board district. In a municipal jurisdiction, a British subject may also run.

We've also stated clearly in the act who may vote on a money by-law.

[Leave granted; Bill 38 read a first time]

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 38, The Municipal Election Amendment Act, 1977, be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders.

[Motion carried]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the annual report of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the annual report of the Legal Aid Society of Alberta.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file two copies of correspondence between the Premier and the Prime Minister during the month of October 1976 with respect to Alberta's interest in expanding trade with Japan. I also wish to file two copies of correspondence, again between the Premier and the Prime Minister, being three letters relating to requests by Alberta for amendments to federal legislation to allow the provinces authority to regulate foreign ownership of land. The correspondence took place between March and September of 1976.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, there are 57 grades 8 and 9 students in the members gallery from my old junior high school, Central Junior High in Red Deer. They are visiting the Assembly and ensuring that we conduct ourselves responsibly. I take pleasure in introducing them to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of the Assembly, and would ask them to rise and be welcomed by the House.

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this Assembly, 45 students from Victoria Composite High School in the constituency of Edmonton Centre. They are accompanied by their teacher Mr. Scragg. They are seated in the public gallery, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask that they stand and be acknowledged by the members of the Assembly.

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege and point out to the Assembly that the

senior member of our Assembly, the Member for Innisfail, is celebrating a birthday today. I would ask that he rise and receive recognition from the Assembly.

#### head: **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

##### **Department of Agriculture**

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I indicated that I would report further on the current moisture situation in Alberta. I would like to report as well on planting intentions by farmers and on some of the initial steps the Department of Agriculture is undertaking during the current dry period.

Mr. Speaker, by regions, the soil moisture and water supply picture for the southern part of the province appears to be adequate for germination of crops, although those areas which did not receive any moisture during the March snowstorm or rains are dry. Fieldwork and seeding progress is normal, as planting seems to be well under way. In general, irrigation water supplies are about three-quarters of normal, except in the Oldman River system which is currently flowing at about 40 per cent of normal. This could provide some hardship to farmers in the Lethbridge northern irrigation district. Water supplies for cattle in the southern area vary from poor to fair, and success in grazing operations will depend upon good management practices until rainfall occurs.

Moisture conditions in the Calgary area east to the Saskatchewan border are far from desirable. Moisture reserves are very low, and some soil drifting has occurred intermittently throughout that region. Fieldwork is not yet general as farmers are in somewhat of a quandary as to what they should seed. It is expected that planting intentions will depend upon moisture conditions which develop in the first two weeks of May. Many dugouts are suffering from low water levels, and it is anticipated that without immediate rains, water for livestock could become a problem.

The central region of the province is in significantly better shape in that water conditions, although not plentiful, are adequate for the majority of the area. Fieldwork has been in full swing for almost a week, and seeding is taking place in all districts. Pastures, however, are in poor condition because of lack of moisture and because of overgrazing last fall. Currently, cattlemen are feeding fodder reserves which were not used during the winter. Soil drifting is apparent in some areas. However, it is largely related [more] to poor conservation practices than to moisture conditions.

Providing farmers do not overwork the soil, the Vermilion area moisture situation appears adequate for seed germination. Although some farmers have begun work in the fields, general activity will begin in the next week. Pastures are generally in poor condition there and require rain before growth will start.

The Edmonton/Barrhead area is relatively dry, although fieldwork is now becoming general. Surface water supplies are low and could create problems as farmers encounter dry dugouts and dry sloughs.

The Peace River area is in a considerably better position than most other parts of the province as last fall's high moisture levels have led to excellent mois-

ture reserves in most fields. Fieldwork is now quite general throughout the region, and it is anticipated that seeding will be quite general by next week. Moisture reserves and pastures are also adequate to good.

Mr. Speaker, in anticipation of the drought situation, the most significant effort that can be made is by farmers themselves practising good cultural techniques to minimize the effects of prolonged dry spells. An example would be minimizing tillage operations and controlling weeds by the use of herbicides rather than tillage which can significantly conserve moisture for germination and crop growth. In addition, Mr. Speaker, farmers can consider planting more drought-tolerant varieties of grain than they might otherwise do. The Department of Agriculture is available on a continual basis through the district agriculturists' offices to assist farmers in selecting the right crops or herbicides for their particular area.

In view of the fact that it is very difficult to forecast what growing conditions will occur throughout the summer, it is extremely important for all farmers to consider purchasing all-risk crop insurance. All-risk crop insurance is available to all farmers throughout the province, and is available for cereal and oilseed crops as well as for contracted forage production. Typically the deadline for application for new coverage or for renewal or election of coverage has been April 30 of each year.

Because of the situation facing Alberta's farmers, I am announcing today that the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation will be extending the deadline for applications or renewal to May 6, 1977. All applications, either received in the district offices or post-marked no later than May 6, will be eligible for coverage. Application forms are available from the Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation head offices in Calgary or from 53 district offices throughout the province.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the very comprehensive and well-funded Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Program, farmers of this province will have adequate opportunity to protect themselves from financial hardship because of crop loss. Also, Mr. Speaker, the crop insurance program negates a necessity of emergency government assistance to individuals suffering crop loss. Hopefully, all farmers will recognize the importance of the program and take advantage of it.

Mr. Speaker, as indicated yesterday by the hon. Premier, further consideration of assistance which may be provided to drought-stricken areas will be reviewed over the next few weeks.

We are currently assessing the provision of adequate water supplies for livestock, and would expect to provide some assistance in this area.

#### head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

##### **Psychiatric Facilities**

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. It flows from questions we've asked the minister the last two days concerning the CMHA report on psychiatric care in Alberta. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the House this

afternoon the results of the meetings she has had with her officials concerning psychiatric care?

MISS HUNLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I specifically dealt with the one issue, and that was the question of the hon. Leader of the Opposition about the availability of space in Alberta Hospital, Ponoka. I'm pleased to advise the hon. member — I have two sets of figures, one is from during the month of April, to the 26th, which I think interests us particularly at this time: admissions voluntarily to Ponoka — which was the substance of the hon. leader's question, as I recall — were 7 from Calgary and from "other" were 15. The involuntary patients for the same period of time were 9 from Calgary and 18 from "other". So obviously there is opportunity for a person to go there for treatment. That's about the same as it has been over the past year; it's about normal. Up to February 1977 — and this is in Alberta Hospital, Ponoka, again — 38 per cent of the admissions were voluntary and 62 per cent were involuntary. To compare them with Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, 28 per cent were voluntary for that same period of time.

So there is opportunity for people to present themselves or be admitted to the hospital when they're seeking admission as an informal or voluntary patient, which is one and the same.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. In light of the sizable reduction in patient population at Ponoka, is there an in-house master plan to phase out the institution at Ponoka?

MISS HUNLEY: No, Mr. Speaker, there is not. We're doing long-range planning in the area of mental health, but we have not reached that type of decision.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could rephrase the question to the minister. Has a proposition been put forward by officials of the department to the minister which, included in that overall master plan or proposal, would call for the phasing out of the Ponoka hospital?

MISS HUNLEY: Any proposal that has been suggested to me, Mr. Speaker, does not call for the total phasing out of Ponoka. It does call for an expansion of treating of mental illnesses in general hospitals, but that plan has not yet been fully accepted.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. It flows from the matter of reduction of the beds at Ponoka. What facilities are presently under construction in the city of Calgary with regard to either group homes or the kinds of facilities needed to take the place of the reduction of beds at Ponoka?

MISS HUNLEY: We've recently advertised for approved homes. We've had some good results. As of yesterday we had 12 vacancies in approved homes in Calgary. It's an ongoing thing for us, Mr. Speaker, the same as in any area where we are moving out of institutions and into either approved group homes or foster homes. We were able to attract some people who were interested in providing that type of accommodation for us. As of yesterday, there were 12 vacancies.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. How prevalent is the situation in Calgary in which patients are retained in hospital using acute care beds because of a shortage of shelter accommodation?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure I understand the import of the hon. leader's question. Maybe he'd clarify further.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to rephrase the question: is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly how much use is being made of active beds in Calgary by people who could be in sheltered accommodations if sheltered accommodations were available? When I talk about sheltered accommodations, I'm thinking in terms of psychiatric care.

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, that's a matter of detail that I would have to examine and report back to the House.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly whether funding will be available for the day program at the Foothills Hospital in 1977?

MR. MINIELY: With respect to the Foothills Hospital, Mr. Speaker, they have had psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services as a pilot project in Calgary for some time. The province has been funding that project through the total budget of the Foothills Hospital. This will be continued, and the program is fully operational.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a similar question to the minister with regard to the expanded day program at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly if funding will be available for the Holy Cross day program this year?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, any funds in place at this time in hospitals, whether in Calgary or in Edmonton, inpatient or outpatient — continuous funding is being provided within the total budget in that particular hospital.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, can the minister then give the same type of guarantee to the Assembly with regard to the day program which was to start in the new psychiatric wing of the Calgary General Hospital?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, the Calgary General Hospital has operated psychiatric beds for some years. The hon. leader may not be aware of the fact that the new psychiatric wing is, in the largest part, a replacement of older psychiatric beds in the Calgary General Hospital. I'm advised the actual increment in additional numbers of beds is approximately 20.

With respect to the funding of the psychiatric wing, Mr. Speaker, I've made some preliminary examination of our records. I would be pleased to report to the House today on my preliminary findings, pending a final report, if I could have unanimous leave of the House.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, is it agreeable to members of the House that the minister be able to report briefly his findings with regard to the problems of the psychiatric ward at the Calgary General Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: I wasn't aware that he wanted to do it now. Is the intention to do it now? It's going to be a matter of some length, I take it.

MR. CLARK: Very short.

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, not of great length, but a preliminary report to the House on the matter of the funding of the new Calgary General psychiatric wing.

MR. SPEAKER: The minister is obviously in a better position than I to know just how long it may be, and whether it's of sufficient length to warrant a ministerial statement on another occasion perhaps, or an answer in the question period.

DR. BUCK: It's short.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, in answer to a question yesterday, I indicated to the Legislature that I had asked officials to meet with the Calgary General Hospital relative to the matter of the new Calgary General psychiatric wing and, in particular, with respect to the equipping of that wing and the ongoing program funding for the wing. My officials are now meeting with the Calgary General Hospital with respect to that matter.

But on examining the history of the matter in information that's available in my office, I had met quite recently with the Calgary General Hospital board in Calgary, on April 2. In addition to discussing general budgetary matters, we discussed the matter of the psychiatric wing. At that time we had already approved a core staff for the development of the new psychiatric wing at the Calgary General Hospital. At that meeting, I indicated to the board and the administration that we required further details with respect to the funding of the full program, the ultimate development or phasing in of the full program of the Calgary General psychiatric wing.

The matter of equipment was raised at that meeting, and I indicated to the board that we were prepared to approve equipment immediately, not in the full amount but a large portion of the equipment they had requested. They also had capacity to utilize existing equipment from a psychiatric wing which has operated at the Calgary General for some years.

I also indicated that, as with any hospital in Alberta, the board of course [has] the option to reassign priorities within the total budget granted to the individual hospitals. In the case of the Calgary General it's somewhat in excess of \$32 million, and they were not precluded from doing this.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I have asked my officials to meet with the board and to present a final report and recommendations to me as soon as possible. But I have to conclude, at least subject to this final report and recommendations which will be forthcoming from my officials, that there appears to be no reason the new psychiatric wing at the Calgary

General Hospital cannot be operational as soon as construction is completed.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Can the minister confirm that construction will be completed and, if the financial problems can be worked out between the board and the province, that the wing should be operational in the middle portion of 1977?

MR. MINIELY: Well, Mr. Speaker, what I've said in my report today to the Legislature is that in examining the history of the matter in my meeting with the board in Calgary on April 2 there appears to be no reason relative to the province's actions that would delay the opening and operation of the new psychiatric wing of the Calgary General Hospital. Decisions of the hospital may have some impact on that, but I can find no reason it should not be operational at the decision of the board.

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be the last supplementary by the hon. Leader of the Opposition on this topic, followed by a final supplementary by the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, when will the construction at the psychiatric wing of the Calgary General Hospital be finished?

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, the construction of the hospital is within the control of the board, their architects and engineers, and the administration . . .

MR. CLARK: You're putting up the money for it. Just tell us when it is.

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, we do not manage the construction of the projects. Once the budgetary parameters are determined, the hospital board is responsible for the carrying out and completion of construction. The hon. leader might not like that answer, Mr. Speaker, but that is the factual answer: the board is responsible for completion of the construction.

MR. KUSHNER: A supplementary question to the minister. I asked a question of the minister a week or so ago and the minister at that time informed me that the financial problem as far as the psychiatric ward and buying the equipment are concerned has been resolved. Now I'm further informed — and I wonder if the minister . . . [interjection] I'm quite capable to ask the question, brother member. Can the minister inform this Assembly when the furniture will be ordered? I understand, Mr. Minister — you can confirm it — that it'll be about six months before the furniture will be ready to be used or to be ordered. Is this correct? So when the wing is opened, even if it's opened tomorrow, the furniture will not be available because the funding was not available.

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View, I have to say that the matter of the furniture precluding the opening and operation of the facility is nonsense. The Calgary General has operated a psychiatric wing and has existing furniture and equipment. But even in recognition of that fact, we have approved some new

equipment and furniture to a certain level. I indicated in the meeting on April 2 that we're prepared to approve that immediately. It appears as though the board wants everything and is not prepared to economize in terms of using some existing equipment and furniture that should be utilized and moved into the new facility.

I repeat — and we indicated on April 2 — that we're prepared immediately to approve new furniture and equipment. We indicated we would like them to use that equipment which is in reasonably good shape and move it into the new facility. The board feels they want all they requested. But I think we in this House would understand there was absolutely no reason that that should preclude the opening of the facility. I think that's what is at issue here.

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, that may be nonsense. But I talked to the director of the General Hospital as late as yesterday. He informed me that at this point not a single piece of furniture has been ordered for that wing.

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, the reason no furniture has been ordered is that the board was not prepared to accept the approval on April 2 of a part of their request . . .

MR. CLARK: Ultimatum.

MR. MINIELY: . . . which we were prepared to immediately approve for the board on April 2. The hon. leader says "ultimatum". That was not the case either. We said we were prepared to consider the excess amount to their request, to reconsider that. But we were prepared to immediately approve new equipment and furniture in addition to furniture and equipment they already have.

MR. KUSHNER: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I realize that only about three of the supplementaries have been those of the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View, but we've had just about a dozen on this topic which it would seem is really not unduly restrictive. I would suggest that the Chair is not authorized to preside over a debate during the question period.

DR. BUCK: Come and join us, John. We've got lots of room over here. [laughter]

MR. KING: Sorry, Walt, Albert wouldn't like it.

#### Land Ownership Regulations

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs is with regard to the temporary regulations passed under the agricultural and recreational land ownership bill. Are these regulations comparable to the initial set, and will they have the same protection as the original set of regulations tabled last week?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, those regulations passed by order in council on Tuesday contain nothing that is not in the draft regulations. They are a

shortened form, a digest, of the draft regulations. They are for the purpose of preventing the risk of a run on Alberta land until the regulations are passed in the fall. As the hon. member would note, those temporary regulations expire on December 31.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Could the minister indicate why the sections dealing with the three-year time period which allow parties to divest their interest were omitted from the regulations?

MR. SPEAKER: I hesitate to interrupt but if I understand the situation correctly, the hon. member is inquiring concerning the content of regulations which were passed last Tuesday and would therefore be a matter of public knowledge and really need not be explored in the question period.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I was asking for the reason the minister in his recommendation to cabinet left out a certain aspect of the regulations.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, that was in order to simplify regulation and monitoring during the course of the summer before the finalized regulations are arranged and passed by cabinet. It's not of course intended that all the fine points and fine tuning in terms of administration will be done during the course of the summer. Therefore a simplified version was put forward in the regulations. We don't anticipate that three-year provision will come up during the summer. If it does come up, though, there would still be a method under the fall regulations to deal with it. Those who are affected would have to wait until the fall.

#### Pollution Control — Medicine Hat

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Medicine Hat, followed by the hon. Member for Hanna-Oyen.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, as a preface to my question, may I remind the House that the redistribution act has not yet been passed, and my constituency is Medicine Hat-Redcliff until after the next election. I wouldn't want anybody to be . . . [interjections] Maybe the hon. Member for Clover Bar can speak for himself.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that a certificate of variance has been granted to Cancarb Limited of Medicine Hat to continue their operations while solving a technical air pollution problem, I wonder if the minister can advise the Assembly what assurances have been made by the company to his department that the problem now faced by the company and the people of Medicine Hat and district will be resolved by December 31 of this year.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the matter the hon. member raises deals with the first certificate of variance issued in Alberta under legislation passed last fall and deals with an industry in Medicine Hat we've been working on for the past year and a half in order to arrive at a technical solution to an air pollution problem. We now feel we have commitments from manufacturers of thermal pollution control

devices in the United States that can be delivered and installed by late this fall in Medicine Hat. We therefore issued the certificate of variance, good until the end of the year. The cost of this equipment is about 30 per cent of the original cost of the entire plant.

MR. HORSMAN: A supplementary question. Could the minister advise the Assembly what the estimated cost of this new equipment is to the company and whether in the meantime any health or property damage is possible as a result of the continuance of the operation of this company during this interim period?

MR. RUSSELL: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm assured that the conditions attached to the certificate meet very well the conditions that were outlined in the legislation the House passed last fall. There is no danger, health or otherwise, to any residents of the region. The cost of these thermal controls to correct an air pollution problem will be in the order of \$1.5 million.

#### **Fire Hazard — Rail Rights of Way**

MR. BUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I have a short preamble to qualify the question. Between March 16 and April 27 the special area fire trucks were called out eight times to fight grass fires started by the railroad. Two of these fires have covered from 400 to 500 acres each. My question is: are there any regulations under The Railway Act that require the railroad to fireguard their right of way?

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect to the hon. member, if the question was directed to finding out something which is actually a matter of law and of public knowledge, perhaps it should be looked up in the library rather than be asked in the question period.

#### **Blackfoot Grazing Association**

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the minister responsible for Crown lands, the Associate Minister Mr. Schmidt. I would like to know if the minister has had an opportunity to assess the brief submitted to the minister by the Blackfoot Grazing Association in North Cooking Lake area in respect to the fact that much of that land is being put to multiple use. Can the minister indicate if he has had an opportunity to assess the brief, and will he be in contact with the grazing association?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, I have had an opportunity to assess the brief. No decisions have been made. As soon as we can arrive at some of the solutions to the problems that exist within the grazing association, we will be in direct contact with them.

DR. BUCK: Is the minister in a position to indicate if the department is considering turning this into a provincial grazing pasture or community pasture rather than the grazing association?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, that's one of the aspects that could be considered, but no decision has been made.

#### **Unemployment Insurance**

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. It flows from changes announced in the unemployment insurance program the other day by the federal government, from 12 weeks to 10 to 14 weeks depending on the region of Canada. Is it the government's intention to make any representation to the federal government with respect to the proposed amendments, in view of the fact that under these amendments Alberta claimants will have to wait 14 weeks?

DR. HOHOL: Well, Mr. Speaker, only this forenoon did I become aware of the change the Minister of Manpower and Immigration announced, probably yesterday. It is his custom to release official statements to the ministers responsible for manpower across the nation. When I get the document from the hon. Mr. Cullen, we will assess it. In light of his information, as I see it, we will make some determination. I'll certainly be in touch with him to say either this looks reasonable or, on behalf of Alberta, we would present some alternative position.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. What discussions have occurred between the hon. federal minister and provincial officials with respect to changes being proposed in the operation of the unemployment insurance program in the country?

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Speaker, I believe in January — I forget the exact date — I discussed the matter of unemployment insurance, unemployment, employment programs, manpower programs, a whole inventory of significant kinds of relationships that the department of the hon. minister and I have. Since then, our officials and his have been in contact by actual visit, by correspondence, and so have the Hon. Mr. Cullen and I personally.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the hon. minister. In view of the importance of these changes to Alberta residents, has the minister had an opportunity to assess the impact of the proposed change — that is, the 10 to 14 week variation — as it relates to those areas of the province that have a high concentration of unemployment? In an area like Alberta where there is relatively low unemployment, people would still be stuck with guidelines for high employment areas when in fact there may be a heavy pocket of unemployment.

DR. HOHOL: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the point is well made. We made that kind of assessment when the initial change was made by the hon. minister in Ottawa. But, while I am certain the senior officials of my department are making the assessment, it is only today that we got the information. As soon as we get the assessment — and I'm certain it will affect certain regions in Alberta negatively, though not the average

of Alberta, if I can put it that way — I will share the information with the House.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, one final supplementary question to the hon. minister. In view of the fact that the changes relating to the 8 to 12 weeks have been before the federal House for some time, has the Alberta Department of Advanced Education and Manpower or any other agency of the Alberta government assessed the impact to Alberta taxpayers? People who would otherwise qualify for unemployment insurance may well have to seek assistance. Do we have any up-to-date statistics as to what the estimate might be of a shift from federal to provincial funds?

DR. HOHOL: Yes we do, in my own department and in other departments as well. But those figures relate to the initial change, which is about three or four months old. Again, we will have to assess the impact of today's announcement. But we do have figures with respect to the actual possible loss of dollars to Alberta with respect to the initial change. There is no question that the second change will increase that amount. We will ascertain the increase and make that information available to the House.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may just ask one post-final supplementary question. Is the minister in a position to advise us of the ballpark estimate of the cost of the shift, or would the Minister of Social Services and Community Health have that information?

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have had no notice whatsoever about the change. I heard only a brief mention of it on the radio this morning so I haven't had any opportunity to determine what, if any, effect it might have on the low-income groups in particular, which are of special but not exclusive interest to my portfolio.

I've already answered the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview regarding our assessment of the previous changes announced which we had had time to direct our minds to, and that was we felt that probably the greatest number of those affected might be the second earners in a family or students, in which case they would not have any impact upon my estimates from the social assistance point of view. It's premature to make those statements, because we won't know until we have an opportunity to assess hard data and what effect it does have on it. So at the moment we're estimating.

#### **Amateur Sport Lottery Funds**

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife. Now that the summer and winter games branches have been separated from Sport Alberta, how will the lottery money be allotted between those two organizations?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, Sport Alberta did receive some funds from the western Canada lottery, and I would assume that if there are any funds they would still be going to Sport Alberta for the use of the amateur sport organizations of the province. I would have to ask my colleague the Hon. Horst Schmid. I believe they received around \$10,000 as a share of

the western Canada lottery funds. They received none from the Olympic lottery fund.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary. Would either hon. minister know offhand when this money is allotted? Is it twice a year, at the end of each year, or when?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, the amount Sport Alberta is about to receive this year in fact should be sent to them presently.

#### **Metric Conversion**

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Would the minister comment on the effect metric conversion will have on Alberta's petroleum industry?

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect, this would appear to be a topic of some considerable scope and extent, and a matter largely of opinion.

#### **Drought Contingency Plan**

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister been informed on the contingency plan prepared by the federal government on the effect drought is going to have on the prairies this summer?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, no. I'm not aware in fact that the federal government has completed any contingency plans. I would have to say, though, that we've discussed a number of areas with the federal government. For example, following a question yesterday from the hon. Member for Cypress, I made direct representations this morning to the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, which has been done previously by the Department of Agriculture, with regard to the Suffield grazing area. My understanding is that they've not closed the door on that matter and consideration is being given to opening it for grazing.

I would presume that that may be one of the examples in which the federal government has suggested they will be moving. But quite frankly we have not had any definitive statements from them on any initiatives they may be taking.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister did indicate that there was a shortage of fodder reserves in the province. Would the minister be giving consideration to the freight assistance program which was in place last year for moving fodder from areas where there is fodder into the drier areas?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, that's of course one of the things the rural development committee of cabinet will have under consideration over the course of the next few weeks. That's down the road a way, in that we're not presently in a position where in fact there's any fodder to move. But after the summer hay crop comes off, presuming some areas have more than adequate supplies, certainly we will be giving consideration to that kind of thing. But it would be premature to say whether the decision will be to provide transportation assistance.

DR. BUCK: Supplementary question to the Deputy Premier. Mr. Minister, can you indicate if there's the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member please use the ordinary form of address.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to know if the Deputy Premier can indicate to the House if there's any problem or a shortage of potable water to any of the communities in Alberta?

AN HON. MEMBER: Just short of pots.

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I take it the hon. member means water fit for human consumption. Indications are that there may be some shortages down the road, and we'll be looking into that. In fact, I've already started the process to get an inventory of what we have and the level of the various reservoirs throughout the province.

#### **Field Chemicals — Monitoring**

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of the Environment, further to a question I raised on April 16 regarding the concern of numerous chemical pesticides being introduced in our environment and the threat to that environment. Would the minister indicate to the House whether he has reviewed this matter with a view to tightening controls and procedures regarding these chemicals?

MR. RUSSELL: We haven't reviewed it recently, Mr. Speaker. I sent the hon. member a memo which sets out the guidelines and parameters of the act. Any chemicals or pesticides marketed in Alberta are subject to federal health and drug act regulations. They're carefully monitored. Any licensed applicator is licensed through the Department of the Environment. Any infractions result in those licences being removed.

DR. PAPROSKI: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister would indicate to the House whether he has any information to indicate whether any harmful chemicals have been removed or prohibited during the past year as a result of that control?

MR. RUSSELL: I repeat, Mr. Speaker, we're only allowing for sale in Alberta anything permitted under federal health and drug regulations.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. Would the minister indicate to the House whether the screening and compliance needed under federal or provincial legislation is always needed in advance of use? Is the government assured that the applicator, both the quantity and the quality of use, and the chemical will not in fact cause harm to the environment by screening in advance of use?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to use the word "guarantee" because there's such a range in these kinds of products. I can only repeat that the only ones used in Alberta legally are those authorized under federal legislation. They in turn are applied

through licensed applicators, who are monitored and licensed. Any infractions that come to our attention are dealt with.

#### **Truck Freight Rates**

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation. In view of the serious possible dislocation of Alberta truck freight rates, is the minister's office prepared to intercede on behalf of Canadian Freightways against the recent AIB excess-profit ruling?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, we agree the ruling by the AIB could have serious repercussions throughout the trucking industry in Alberta, inasmuch as the rates in Alberta are not controlled, and it's not contemplated to bring in such control. Therefore I'll be working with my colleague the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs relative to this problem, in an attempt to work it out so it doesn't affect the other trucking companies operating in Alberta.

#### **Fire Hazard — Rail Rights of Way**

*(continued)*

MR. BUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation and reword it some. The preamble is the same, but I'd like to ask the minister if he will contact the railroads in regard to this fire hazard.

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, we are aware that one of the common causes of fires in dry weather, particularly in the prairie areas but also in the light brush areas, can be from railway train operations. In that regard we have already contacted and have been assured by both the NAR and the Canadian National of their fullest co-operation in an attempt not only to use fireguards but to improve their operations as much as they possibly can. We intend also to have discussions with the Canadian Pacific just as soon as possible.

#### **Municipalities — Grants**

MR. ZANDER: Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, seeing he got away unscathed today. Would the minister indicate approximately in what time frame the municipalities could expect to receive their unconditional grants.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the unconditional grants from the Department of Municipal Affairs will be circulated in two amounts, May 1 and June 1, 1977.

#### **Kananaskis Development**

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife. It's a follow-up question to the other day. Could the minister inform this Assembly if there are any pending applications [for] development of the recreational area in Kananaskis Lakes.

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the last part of the question. I'm sorry.



MR. KUSHNER: Maybe I can say it again then. Has the minister any pending applications for the development of the recreational area in Kananaskis Lakes?

MR. ADAIR: No, Mr. Speaker. We have the announced Kananaskis provincial park which relates to my responsibilities. If he is speaking of the area surrounding the proposed Kananaskis provincial park, I would suggest that he address his question to the hon. Associate Minister responsible for lands.

MR. KUSHNER: Well, would the minister, your assistant there, whoever . . . [laughter]

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the hon. member for the clarification. I was beginning to wonder where I fit in, in the Kananaskis park.

The answer to the hon. member is yes. We do have applications for various operations in the eastern slopes, whether they be in the recreational field or otherwise. As I stated the other day, those applications will have a slight delay pending the finalization of the land-use zoning concept.

MR. KUSHNER: A supplementary question to the minister then. Has the minister any target date for processing this development?

MR. SCHMIDT: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think I gave the hon. member that date the day before yesterday. Maybe I didn't explain it properly, but it'll be midsummer.

DR. BUCK: Which year?

MR. KUSHNER: A supplementary question. Has the minister got any information as to what the investment to develop that park will be in dollars and cents?

MR. SPEAKER: Possibly we are now getting into a matter of detail which the hon. member might want to put on the Order Paper after he studies the designation of the minister.

MR. KUSHNER: Well, maybe I could try another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister any information or will he inform this Assembly how many people that park would actually serve once it's developed?

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect, we're still on a matter of detail which would also be suited for the Order Paper.

#### Judicial Inquiry

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Attorney General. It's similar to a question I asked one day last week with regard to the investigation the Attorney General was carrying on, and following that investigation the announcement was made Friday of the judicial inquiry. Were discussions carried on with the Solicitor General of Canada, and has the Attorney General been satisfied by the Solicitor General of Canada that the judicial inquiry will have the complete co-operation of the RCMP?

MR. FOSTER: Yes — to both questions, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Attorney General. Has the Attorney General had discussions with either the responsible officials of the Edmonton Police Commission or the chief of police in Edmonton with regard to the judicial inquiry, and has he received the same kind of assurance?

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, my reasons for contacting the Solicitor General of Canada would not have been the same reasons that I would contact the chairmen of the police commissions of Edmonton and Calgary. Therefore, I have not done so.

No doubt in due course I'll have occasion to speak to both groups, since I try to meet with them not on a regular basis but at least once a year. I have had no reason to discuss specifically with the police commissions in Edmonton and Calgary the matter I'm now involved with, although I wouldn't preclude that at some time in the future.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, just one last supplementary question to the minister. Mr. Minister, do you have plans specifically to discuss . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the hon. leader please use the ordinary form of address.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Does the minister have plans to discuss with the Edmonton police commission the circumstances surrounding the judicial inquiry which was announced on Friday?

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, I've had brief contact with some in the Edmonton police commission. I have not received any invitation to talk to them and discuss this particular matter. I would be willing to do so within certain limits.

MR. CLARK: Are you taking the initiative?

MR. FOSTER: No, I'm not taking the initiative. If some member of the Edmonton city police commission wants to talk with me about the matter, of course I'd be quite happy to do so. I wasn't seeking the opportunity of meeting or talking particularly with either commission, although I'm certainly willing to do so.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

[Dr. McCrimmon in the Chair]

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

#### Department of the Solicitor General

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

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as earlier in this session I filed four progress reports on the main programs in my department, I thought perhaps I wouldn't waste the time of the committee; that I would abstain from initial remarks, sit back and take notes and respond after we've received questions from the various members.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, first of all I just want to ask a general question on an issue that's very topical. Can the minister report fully to us on what went on in Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution last weekend? Has the minister an up-to-date report on the breakouts plus the heroin usage and all the problems that arose there last weekend?

MR. FARRAN: May I take note of that and respond at the end, Mr. Chairman, when we receive the other questions.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to follow up a question I raised about eight weeks ago concerning the Peace River Correctional Institution, where there was some concern about the dispensing of drugs. I gather that has been resolved, but I'd like the minister to bring us up to date, perhaps, on just what steps have been taken in resolving it.

Beyond that, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to comment for a moment on the pay that correctional officers receive. As I understand it, Mr. Minister, the minimum monthly salary for correctional officers is \$952 a month, and that the settlement this year was 7.3 per cent. Now, it seems to me two things really flow from those facts, if they are correct.

One, last year when we looked at wage and price controls it was made quite clear . . . Well, let me be completely correct in what I say. This was not really directly related to wage and price controls so much as to the government's restraint program announced in the fall of 1975. During the spring session of 1976, the government indicated that by and large the question of law and order, the administration of justice, and what have you, would be exempt from the restraint program.

That being the case, it seems to me that the complaints I've received from correctional officers are — and I think probably a fairly accurate feeling — that they are overworked. If anything came out of Dr. Ivany's report, again it seems to me it was that concern, even of the Ombudsman himself. But certainly the correctional officers feel they are overworked. I would judge, Mr. Minister, that it's going to be pretty hard to attract people as correctional officers with our current pay scale.

I put to you whether or not we should in fact be looking at higher wages, so we can attract sufficient correctional officers that we don't have the problem of a good deal of overtime and the pressures that overtime places upon individual correctional officers.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, just along that line, dealing with the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution. I think the point the hon. member is making about overtime and people being overworked is very valid, Mr. Minister. It has been a chronic problem, especially in — well, in all the correctional institutions, but the one I deal with on a fairly intimate basis is Fort Saskatchewan. It has been a chronic problem. As

well as the wage scale, which is very, very low, I would like to have the minister look into the area of people who have many years of seniority. The increases in their scale don't seem to go up as rapidly as for new people being taken on.

At the same time, I'd like to know from the minister how the program is working out where the minister and the department are hiring relatively young correctional officers. I know the problem of the overcrowding is a problem of the Remand Centre not being functional yet.

But an area that concerns me more than the overcrowding and more than the fact that there are some very real problems in the wage scale is the fact that there don't seem to be any programs for the inmates, at Fort Saskatchewan especially. I've made this speech practically once a year since I've been in the Legislature. I don't know if it's my lack of influence or something, but instead of increasing the programs we seem to be decreasing them. Maybe if I wouldn't make the speech the thing would turn around, and the next year the programs would increase. But I certainly would like to have the minister comment on that.

At the same time he's commenting on programs the government is initiating, I would like to know what the government and the department are doing about making especially Fort Saskatchewan self-sufficient as far as food production goes. There's absolutely no reason the correctional institution should not be independent when it comes to raising their own vegetables and some of these programs.

I've also heard a rumor, Mr. Minister, that we are looking at eventually phasing out the provision of food services; that outside firms will be coming in to provide catering service. I hope that is nothing more than a vicious rumor. With all the help we have there, with an overcrowding of well over 600 people, surely we should have sufficient help that we can get by without having the food services catered.

One area I would like to inform the Legislature and the committee on, Mr. Chairman, is that the quality of food for the inmates is excellent. So, Mr. Minister, if you're ever having it laid upon your gray head that the quality of food at the institutions is not good, I would just like to go on record now and say that it is of excellent quality.

I have other concerns, Mr. Chairman, but the concerns are valid about understaffing, and many men — many — working many hours of overtime. So this plus the overcrowding plus the lack of programs are some of the general areas of concern I have. But I have others.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I have a few comments and questions on the penal institutions.

First of all, I want to say that from reading and hearing newspaper, TV, and radio stories, many of us come to the conclusion that the prisoners are living a life of luxury inside the prisons. I found a visit to Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution very revealing. When persons are sent to prison, I believe they should have cleanliness, adequate space, and so on. But I certainly don't think they should be getting a lot of privileges and luxuries. I don't agree with the bleeding hearts and the sob sisters who want them to have every privilege in the world, some privileges which the people outside don't even have.

People in my constituency generally were disgusted when prisoners in the Calgary Remand Centre went on strike or made comments because they were getting too much turkey and too much ham. A lot of people in my constituency don't get enough turkey and ham once a year, and many times that is the only time they get it. Some can't even afford ham at any time of the year. I have no sympathy with that type of thing. I think those who support that type of thing are encouraging irresponsibility on the part of those who have committed an offence and who should expect some punitive treatment inside our prisons.

I came away from the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution . . . And I appreciate the kindness of the Solicitor General in acceding to my request to visit that institution. I appreciate the time the guards and the people there gave me and, as I said before, I found it very, very revealing.

I would like to mention one or two things. Number one, there appears to be a great deal of idleness and no particular job to be done. With 800 or 1,000 inmates in an institution set up to house 600, this is understandable to a large degree. The guards showed me and Mr. Williams, who accompanied me, the area where they grow their own vegetables. I think this is a really good thing. Surely that work isn't going to hurt any of them, and it would certainly ease the frustrations and so on within the prison walls. Of course, the number of trades was very, very low — barber shop and auto mechanics. I'm not sure whether the handful of people learning there is going to meet the needs. I think whatever amount done is good.

I couldn't help but compare it with the federal penitentiary in Drumheller where they have almost every conceivable instrument in the various trades, and where they have a tremendous opportunity to learn trades and to do things as well as go to school. There is certainly no comparison between the two. As a matter of fact I think the Drumheller penitentiary, if anything, has gone too far in that respect. But Fort Saskatchewan is operating under a very difficult problem, and I think if various types of work could be found for the prisoners — useful work, not simply work for the sake of working — much of the feeling of frustration that leads to riots, et cetera, might disappear. Certainly many of the cells are overcrowded, and they are working in an institution that was built years and years ago without modern set-ups for prisoners such as we have in some of the modern prisons.

Some time ago I visited the former prison for army escapees, later used for actual convicts, near San Francisco. I noticed that control of the various cells there was tremendous, even though it is no longer being used as a prison. One man could control an entire floor of perhaps the most vicious or violent prisoners in the world. That still can be seen.

I also came away from Fort Saskatchewan with a new appreciation for the work the guards are doing. It seems to me that the guards there are working under very difficult circumstances and, as the minister has outlined a number of times, that probably will not be completely eased until the federal [government] has some place for the remand section. If the 200 people who are there waiting for sentence are being housed for the federal government, I would think Fort Saskatchewan would be able to operate far

more satisfactorily.

When I'm talking about privileges of prisoners, it seems to me we have gone too far in giving prisoners free access to the telephone. While we were in B block, one allegedly violent prisoner was angry because he couldn't have a TV and a radio. Surely to goodness we shouldn't have to cater to that type of demand from people who have shown they cannot live in society, have committed offences, and have been sent there for punitive purposes. I don't have much sympathy for the demands of people who are behind bars and are now talking about forming unions, going on strike, and so on. I don't think the government should listen to that type of thing for one minute. They have no right to form unions. They have no right to make demands that they are getting too much turkey and too much ham. In my view they really don't have any right to free access to the telephones. I think probably a lot of the difficulties arise because prisoners are phoning out, telling half the story, and then creating problems for the guards there.

I don't want to see privileges enlarged in our institutions. I want to see them curtailed. I think they are entitled to cleanliness, good food, and a proper place to rest and work. I emphasize "work". I think we should endeavor to give the Solicitor General the necessary means so work can be provided for these people — and I mean useful work. At one time we made our licence plates in the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution and saved the people of the province a considerable sum of money. While it didn't employ a large number of inmates, it employed some. I thought that was a useful piece of work, and I was sorry when it was discontinued.

There are various types of work. I think we can criticize, but I think we also have to realize the practicality of these things. It would be well worth while to look into the possibility of providing work in various ways, shapes, and forms for those who are behind bars.

In connection with telephone privileges, in my view certainly they should be able to contact their lawyer and have access to a telephone if there are emergencies. But I certainly don't believe in free access for those who are behind bars.

I'd like to mention another point, and this comes from the return the hon. minister so kindly tabled some time ago. This part worries me a great deal. One of the questions was: how many inmates under 25 years of age have been in prison once, twice, three or more times? I find that "three or more times" is the highest of any of those listed in Calgary, Fort Saskatchewan, Lethbridge, and Nordegg. Nordegg isn't very conspicuous, but in Calgary 77 persons were there three or more times, and in Fort Saskatchewan 108 were there three or more times. I think in order to reach conclusions, one would have to know why they were there. If they were there three or more times because they were found drunk on the streets three or more times, that is one thing; but if they were there because of breaking and entering and other serious offences three or more times, I think that puts a different picture on the item altogether.

One of the things that bothers me a great deal is the fact that many of these people may very well be in prisons because of what happened in their school

days. They may have had invisible learning disabilities that were not and still haven't been discovered. I would like to think that psychologists and trained people in these institutions would endeavor to probe to find out just why these people are going back to prison, and back to prison, and back to prison.

I think an answer to that would be of real benefit. I would also think that this item in itself would tell educators in this province that there are boys and girls — particularly boys, it shows up more in prison life later — in prison probably because a teacher didn't take the time to find out the reason that lad couldn't learn. Because the educational attainments of most of them are far lower than they should be in this day and age.

I mention that not as a criticism but as something we should be doing: probing to find out why people are going to prison, why they're committing offences time and time again. If we can do something like that, when we've found out the reasons we can start rehabilitation programs that might be effective. Otherwise the rehab programs might simply be putting in time, costing money, and having no good result.

The next point I'd like the hon. minister to enlarge on is Nordegg. I haven't been to Nordegg yet, but I understand it is a place where people are being put to work, where they have a chance to learn various trades, to go to school. While I had some questions about caving and living in the wilderness, those questions weren't intended to be critical. I don't think it's at all wrong for prisoners to be taught how to survive in the wilderness, and I'm sure it's not being taught so they can escape. Many of us may sometime have occasion to want to know how to survive in the wilderness. All of those things are worth while. I would like to see more and more emphasis put on what the hon. minister is doing in Nordegg. I think a lot of it is the result of his own thinking: providing an outdoor atmosphere where people can learn to work and live with other people, because that's really what life is all about.

I notice the cost in Nordegg is quite high compared to the Calgary jail or the Lethbridge or Peace River correctional institutions, but this is understandable because there have to be extra costs in that type of layout.

That pretty well covers the points I wanted to raise, except to say once again that, in my view, the Solicitor General's positive approach to these problems is going to pay dividends. We should be trying to help the Solicitor General and the government to solve some of these problems within our correctional institutions and better still, prevent people from going there through active programs. If they get there, then provide proper work. But I certainly don't think we should be giving encouragement to the sob sisters and the bleeding hearts who want these people, once they're put in prison, to have a life of luxury — a life that they never experience even outside prison walls.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Chairman, just a couple of questions to the minister. Before I go into the questions, I'd like to relate to the minister that I've heard some remarks about the minister not being available to meet with [the county of] Parkland on the issue out there. I'd like to clear that up and state in this House that the minister has been available on all occasions when

the county of Parkland wanted to meet with him. He did sit down with them on a couple of different occasions in an attempt to resolve the differences between the two forces — the county force in Parkland and the RCMP — that are responsible for the area surrounding Stony Plain, Drayton Valley, and Evansburg.

One of the questions I'd like to ask the minister is further to the question I put to him in the House three or four weeks ago regarding the meeting we held in his office, that both forces could not work under the direction of the RCMP. The minister indicated he was going to write to the commissioner of the RCMP, Mr. Nadon, and find out. I understand we now have a new commissioner in charge of the force, so I would like to find out what the deal is there.

Mr. Chairman, as far as I'm concerned both forces are out there for crime prevention and for the protection of the people, and hopefully [they] will embark on that type of an operation — I think it is that type of an operation right now. As I see it, both forces are co-operating more as they rightfully should be, to do their work in crime prevention.

I'd like to ask the minister another question, regarding the number of blue cars I see on the highway — on 2, 16, or anyplace. We see a lot of the highway patrol division out there, a large number now compared to a couple of years ago. I'd like to find out from the minister what his forecast is — I understand there's approximately 75 now, I stand to be corrected on that — for the next year or so.

The other problem that concerns me — and I'm glad to see the minister responsible for native affairs is in his place — is policing on Indian reserves, and some of the problems that are confronting the special constables and the dry reserves in the province. Maybe I should go back just a bit in history on this one. I'm sure both the minister of native affairs and the Solicitor General are familiar with it, but the other members of this Assembly may not be.

When The Police Act came in in 1973, a lot of our police constables on the Indian reserves were supernumerary constables under the RCMP Act. Under the director of law enforcement in this province, the appointments were lifted and they were given special constable appointments to police the reserves. We also departed on the other route, which I thought was good, to train a number of native people to be constables on these reserves. I think we have 24 in place, I'm not sure. But I know it's increasing as more are brought into the police roll.

One reserve west of Edmonton that I represent — the Paul Band — has a special constable under the Solicitor General's appointment. But because of the type of appointment and a letter sent out to the constable indicating what he could do and what he couldn't do, it was not understandable as far as I was concerned, and I don't think it has been corrected to this date. They gave him an appointment under The Highway Traffic Act and an appointment under The Liquor Control Act, and a letter from the director of law enforcement in 1974 stated that the constable had powers under The Highway Traffic Act to lay charges under non-moving offences but he could not stop and check cars at a random check on the reserve. In other words, if he saw a related offence being committed, he had no power to do that. He had to call in the RCMP from Stony Plain.

Just on that comment, the RCMP have been available through the Stony Plain detachment to do work on the reserve. But as I indicated in my throne speech debate, I don't feel that an Indian reserve can be adequately protected 20 miles from an RCMP detachment. Sometimes they're there; sometimes they have to come from another crime or some other area to look after this area.

The other appointment that was of real concern to me was [under] The Liquor Control Act. The letter stated:

The provisions of The Liquor Control Act dealing with offences for illegal possession and intoxication are found in . . . [the related sections]. The peace officer authority of the band constable appointed as a special constable under section 38 of The Police Act is confined to the enforcement of the three sections . . .

Then it went on to say that:

The band constable's authority does not extend to the provisions for search and seizure contained in sections 108-116 inclusive of The Liquor Control Act. This is a responsibility . . . [of] the RCMP.

So in essence what this letter said is that if he came onto the reserve, found a native chap there with a bottle of beer in his hand, he could not seize it. He had to call in an RCMP constable, maybe 20 miles away, to seize that bottle of beer, which I thought was really ludicrous. When he's got the appointment anyway, he should also have the power to search and seize. I would hope that if we look at the special constable's appointment we can certainly look at getting that particular aspect cleared up.

Two years ago when the Drybones case was going on in the Peace River country it was stated at that time that special constables would have no power under The Liquor Control Act to enforce that act on a dry reserve; the only powers available were under the Indian Act itself. I understand that a communication was ordered, for no one to lay charges under Alberta's Liquor Control Act but to lay them under the Indian Act. In speaking to the band council and the chief on that particular reserve I understand that they never did receive that order. In the long run, this court case was held in Stony Plain a month and a half ago; it was found that the constable who had laid the charge was *ultra vires* the act, and it was thrown out. We are trying now to resolve this particular problem by attempting to have the band constable lay charges under the Indian Act.

Mr. Chairman, the final question I have to the Solicitor General is: are we looking at going back to the supernumerary appointment under Section 10 of the RCMP Act to allow these band constables more powers? I put the caveat on it that these people have to be trained and know their rightful place in society as peace officers.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, there are just two or three other items I'd like to mention. One of the things that gave me some concern when I was visiting the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution was the fact that none of the guards is armed. When I looked at some of the prisoners I didn't think I'd want to be walking among them without some type of protection. I really don't know why we don't want our guards who are dealing with violent people to carry

side arms. I really think it's essential. I think it would also go a long way to prevent riots and that type of thing.

The guards do have use of tear gas after a riot breaks out. But I found when I was in the armed forces, particularly in the Air Force, the MPs carried weapons to protect themselves, to stop riots, and so on. The very fact there were MPs who had side arms kept a lot of soldiers from creating riots that they might otherwise very well have.

I'd like to see the hon. minister look at the possibility of providing side arms, particularly for those who are in the violent sections of our prisons. I think if we can trust these people to take charge of prisoners we certainly can trust them to know when and when not to use side arms. They're not gun crazy or teenagers who haven't had a gun; they are properly trained and should have them.

I feel also that when constables in our towns . . . now I understand the Solicitor General can provide them with side arms if they are properly trained. None of us wants people to have guns if they're not properly trained. But for years I argued in the former government, and in the early years of this government, that when our policemen are dealing with violent characters who have weapons then certainly our police officers should have something to protect themselves with, too.

The other point: I'm just wondering about electronic lockups. Perhaps the hon. minister would care to make some comments about electronic lockups. I repeat just once more in connection with guns, I think our guards would feel far safer if they did have something to protect themselves with when they're dealing with some very violent prisoners.

I have one other suggestion in connection with our correctional institutions and also with the federal penitentiaries. When a prisoner or prisoners escape people in the locality do not know anything about it until it comes over the radio or [they] sometimes read it in the newspaper the next day. I think we're missing a very excellent bet there. If a siren went when a prisoner escaped from the Drumheller penitentiary, from Fort Saskatchewan, or Peace River it would immediately put on the alert scores of people who could be of real assistance to the police in recapturing those escapees. I think we should take a careful look at that.

The siren would be an excellent way of alerting everybody in the community to the fact that someone has escaped. Elderly people, in particular elderly women, may well want to go inside and lock their doors. Alert people may see someone suspicious and they could notify the police immediately. It might save an awful lot of money in letting escapees get as far as Vancouver and Ottawa and way down in the States before we catch up with them.

There's one other point that I'd like to mention. This has nothing to do with the correctional institutions. It's in connection with the special permits for liquor at wedding dances and so on, out in the country. I mention this because a number of the areas in my constituency have for many years had the habit of having wedding dances. It's not like a wedding dance in the city where you go if you know the bride and groom. In rural areas everybody goes to the wedding dance. It's not an invitational affair. Everybody goes, whether or not you know the bride or

groom. That's immaterial. It's a party in the town, in the area. Everybody goes.

When we get a liquor permit for a wedding dance in the country it's entirely different from getting a liquor permit for a place in the city where the father of the bride wants to treat his friends and the friends of the groom. Out there, I imagine very few people would have enough money to provide drinks at random for everybody who goes to the wedding dance. Boy, wheat would have to double in price if they were going to be able to pay for that.

So the habit has come up in these areas to sell the liquor at wedding dances. Nobody thinks twice about that. It's an accepted factor. I would like to see the permits so set out in areas where there's a wedding dance to which everybody's going, where a proper price could be put on the price of the drinks. I think it would save lives in the long run, because when everything's free — and I think the hon. minister has been at weddings too where there's no end to the amount of liquor available, and some people can't resist it if it's free — they'll drink and drink and drink till the last cow comes home, then crawl home after that if necessary or try to drive a car. But if they were paying for it, that's a horse of a different color. They're not going to overdo it, at least not until their pocketbook is empty.

I would like to see the hon. minister take a look at this, providing a permit that would permit the sale of liquor at rural dances and socials open to the general public. I think it would have a really good effect. Secondly, many times this money doesn't go into the pocket of any one person. It would go for community use. Many people when having a wedding dance — it's sponsored by one of the clubs or ladies' groups, and that [money] goes back into the community. Nobody makes any money on it. It's all volunteer work. Nobody gets paid. But I think it would have a tremendously good effect in our rural communities if a permit of that nature could be authorized.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make an observation or two, and ask the minister a couple of questions regarding mainly the correctional areas. The Member for Spirit River-Fairview raised a very interesting point with regard to the incomes of these people. I think, Mr. Chairman, that after 110 years of having correctional institutions in the country with some pretty good attendance, we should have finally come to the realization that the correctional or custodial officers should indeed be recognized as professionals, perhaps trained as professionals. And when we consider that the cost of the Lethbridge institution last year was \$15,500 per inmate compared to \$1,850 per student in Lethbridge schools, perhaps the incomes of some of these correctional officers should be somewhat related to school teachers' incomes.

I'm pleased to see that in the Lethbridge Correctional Institution, the Solicitor General's department has seen fit to recognize some of the problems that are mainly related to drinking. The minister has now placed staff in the institution to counsel and help these people. Of the 1,204 admitted last year to the Lethbridge Correctional Institution, I'm sure many of them, certainly two-thirds, were there for less than 60 days. Many of those were related to drinking.

I would like the minister to comment on a couple of

points. One, in the new Corrections Act we passed last year in this Assembly, we specifically made reference to meaningful work programs to be carried out under the direction of the directors of the institution. I'd like the minister to report what progress has been made in that area.

Another area, Mr. Chairman, is that many of the people who see one of our six institutions in the province are there primarily because of another government institution, that's the Liquor Control Board, and drinking problems. In Lethbridge, similar to Macleod, Alberta, we have a tremendous problem with Indian people and their drinking. Many of them go through the police station in Lethbridge which adds a tremendously increased cost to the citizens of that city. I believe the minister has indicated that the ratio of correction officers to population in Calgary and Edmonton is about 1:550, and in other areas about 1:800.

I think the time has come to review and recognize that certain cities in Alberta have unique problems that rural areas perhaps don't have. That formula perhaps could be changed from 1:800 to 1:700 or 1:600. The minister's department — I have this from the Lethbridge chief of police — has been more than generous with the grants in recognizing the problem in a meaningful, tangible way by granting extra dollars. I would hope that would continue.

An area that hasn't been mentioned and I think deserves commendation, is in Lethbridge where there's a community work program whereby the judges in the courts, in dealing with 16 and 18 year olds, can assign them work programs of a duration under the probation officers in Lethbridge. For the second year in a row I've just had a report from officials in that department indicating that it's more than 80 per cent successful, which I think justifies the faith in the Solicitor General's program, and makes us as legislators realize that of the over 6,000 admitted last year into our institutions in Alberta, 4,000 or more were repeaters. Many of those are in that young age group of under 21 years. Only through understanding by legislators of the real problem of prevention are we ever going to solve the problem in the correctional institutions.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, I'd like the minister to comment on the meaningful work program that was instituted in the new act, and any thoughts he has about consideration for changing that ratio of police per population in our cities in Alberta, particularly in my city of Lethbridge, because I do know that of the 5,000 arrests last year by the Lethbridge city police, many of them came about as a result of Lethbridge being a catch basin for southern Alberta. I don't think the formula is necessarily fair.

Thank you.

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to give an accolade to the minister on his attitude and insight into a very difficult portfolio. Having discussed things with him from time to time, he always has imaginative and forward-thinking responses. My trip through Fort Saskatchewan certainly taught me in a hurry that there are no simple answers to this problem.

One of the things, however, I'd like to mention in passing is that in a Calgary newspaper, a City Social Service director, Sam Blakely, makes an inference in terms of the lack of probation officers in Calgary that

the province has refused to help. He uses those words. He uses the words in a technical sense about referrals and caseloads, and the number of people involved. He concludes by saying: "it's another reflection of Edmonton's general hold-the-line position". I'm wondering if the minister could just comment on his conversations in that area, perhaps with the city, and why it is that their difficulty with budgeting is not as difficult as our problems with budgeting. Just in the context of reading the paper, it sounds like we're the villains of the piece and I think that's grossly unfair.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I'll deal with every question in turn. The first one was from the hon. Member for Clover Bar who wanted an update on black Tuesday of April 19, when after five months of comparative peace and quiet at Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution we had a bad day. It would have been a very bad day for visiting, and really only underlines the need to check through the head office before making nocturnal raids.

DR. BUCK: You wouldn't know, Roy.

MR. FARRAN: What happened was this — and you wouldn't believe the catalogue of incidents on one day, but it was a sad story. First of all it involved five inmates who were in protective custody for their own protection. This occasionally happens with inmates who are sentenced for sexual offences — the sort of offence to which their fellow inmates don't take kindly — who may be held as Crown witnesses in a forthcoming trial or may be accused by their fellow inmates of having been informers.

These five inmates were participating in physical exercise in the gym after consuming supper. They escaped through one of the side doors of the gym. Correctional officers took off after them as they high-tailed it over the fields. The RCMP picked up the first two within a short period. They were recaptured at 6 o'clock; the escape had taken place at about 5:10. Two more were apprehended by the Mounted Police at about 9 o'clock. Finally the last of the five was arrested by the correctional institution staff.

While this was going on, another incident broke out. An inmate confined for a sexual offence was assaulted by other inmates and had his head banged against the wall. That was incident number two.

Incident number three was two attempted suicides by two homosexuals in the maximum security block who objected to being separated for disciplinary reasons. They slashed their wrists. The staff got to them in time. One of them even went so far as to slash his wrists a second time with an electric light bulb and then to pull the stitches out of his wrists.

Finally, incident number four took place the same day, when it was discovered that heroin had been smuggled into one of the dormitory areas. Some 16 inmates were suspected of having indulged in hard drugs. The RCMP were called in with dogs specially trained in sniffing out drugs, and hypodermic syringes and a quantity of heroin were discovered. We believe the contraband had been brought to one particular inmate in the institution during a visit from a certain person from British Columbia. We think that problem has now been solved.

That was the catalogue of woe on 'Black Tuesday'.

The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview wanted to know if we now had all the trained nurses on staff at Peace River Correctional Institution. Yes we have. Nurses one and two have been on staff for some time. The final nurse, the third nurse, was actually engaged today and will be assuming her duties two weeks from today.

The whole question about pay and rewards for correctional officers, who often put the position that they are paid so much less than policemen and yet are doing a very similar type of job, is really one for negotiation between AUPE and the Public Service Commissioner and comes directly under my colleague the Provincial Treasurer, to whom the Public Service Commissioner reports. It is true that correctional officers do point to this disparity in their reward as compared with police officers. Their pay at the moment runs something in the neighborhood of 15 per cent less than a police officer or a fireman. They also put the position that they don't have the special insurance benefits a policeman would normally expect if they're injured in a tussle with inmates.

So far as recruiting is concerned, we have not really had any trouble, presumably because of the high unemployment levels in other parts of the country. We have been employing some very fine recruits. The standards are quite high, and yet we've had no trouble getting recruits to join under those standards.

The restraint on the expansion of the public service applies to my department also, so we have to approach with great care any hiring of staff in addition to the establishment we had formerly.

We have less overtime at the present time, since we recruited some 32 more guards towards the end of last year and had a further increase of one this spring. We have also reduced the amount of time lost in centralized training programs by retooling for training to take place as far as possible on the site of the correctional institutions themselves. We also hope to hire some 50 temporary students this summer from the faculties of law and social work in the various universities to help cover the holiday problem which of course occurs in all large services.

We anticipate that there will be competition for staff as the new federal penitentiaries are built. Some two years down the line this may be a problem of much greater dimensions than it is today.

I do appreciate the remarks from the hon. members, particularly the Member for Drumheller, about his understanding of the very difficult role of the correctional officer in an environment that is not one everybody would wish to work in. They demonstrate great patience and understanding of how to handle men who are not the easiest in the world to handle.

Incidentally, I also appreciate the remarks of the hon. Member for Drumheller and the hon. Member for Calgary Egmont about the difficulties of my own role. In this particular portfolio it is indeed very difficult to be popular. Enforcement of the law is not a popular exercise. I have to continually try to steer the middle road between the hard-liners on one side and the bleeding hearts on the other, and to adopt a policy of trying to be firm but fair.

The question of overcrowding at Fort Saskatchewan and other institutions continues. The upsurge in crime generally, in the province and the country, shows no sign of abatement. As of March 31, we had 1,707 inmates incarcerated in addition to a record

number on probation and temporary absence. Of these 1,707 inmates, 490 were on remand awaiting trial. These prisoners on remand, who either have not been sentenced or have been brought from a federal penitentiary on an appeal or as Crown witnesses, are the most difficult to handle because they have so little to lose and we have no right to direct them into any form of meaningful work or rehabilitation exercise until the courts have adjudicated on their case.

The hon. Member for Clover Bar and the hon. Member for Drumheller talked about lack of work for inmates despite the direction to our directors in the new Corrections Act — which incidentally has not yet been proclaimed. It was passed in the fall. It's been awaiting completion of the regulations and should be proclaimed within the very near future. It's now beyond the drafting stage. However, even before the proclamation of the act, the policy is in effect. This is roughly what is done under extremely difficult circumstances.

I think I should remind members that most inmates in a provincial correctional institution are serving short sentences. Some 70 per cent are serving less than six months, a number less than three months, and some only a month, which doesn't give long for any sort of meaningful instruction in a trade. They do carry out ongoing institutional duties, including greenhouse work, kitchen work, cleaning, market garden details, laundry, barbering, shoe repairing, garage work, warehouse work, powerhouse work, and so on.

Depending on the attitude of the inmates, they are transferred as soon as possible from Fort Saskatchewan to Belmont Rehabilitation Centre. From there, after some education and counselling, they will be cautiously released to work on temporary absence permits. A temporary absence permit goes from one to 15 days, and they can be back to back. But since the problem is to facilitate smooth re-entry into the community in the hope that they won't repeat their offences, it is usually important that just before the termination of a sentence we address our minds to how we're going to get them back to leading an ordinary life in the community.

So Belmont is in a sense the work centre for Fort Saskatchewan, the reintroduction into the community. However, we have transferred some of the in-house work facilities from Belmont to Fort Saskatchewan, in the nature of work for Lands and Forests — seedlings and greenhouses.

The inmates also act as helpers for tradesmen employed by Alberta Government Services to maintain the institutions. They work as helpers with qualified painters, carpenters, laborers, electricians, welders, and equipment operators. By this method they sometimes accumulate apprenticeship time. Of course, a number of them also attend academic upgrading: automotive and other vocational courses, life skill courses which teach them how to find a job and manage a budget, business management, frame house construction, welding, motor repairs, and auto body. As a direct result of training received in the institution, several inmates have been placed directly into industry.

This year the special projects at Fort Saskatchewan, as mentioned by the hon. members, include the construction of their own secure playing field. This is

not going to be done by Alberta Public Works. We have the money in the budget, and this secure playing field will be built by inmates.

One problem in a very overcrowded institution is that the more activity we provide, the more strain there is on the guards. You can operate with maximum security and minimum staff if the inmates are locked up all the time. But once you begin to move them around and make them more active, you have more and more strain on the staff and more and more danger to security. Although the situation at Fort Saskatchewan appears to have improved since the \$3 million remodelling, the changes in top management, and the increased staff, I have to say that up to about six months ago, if we had sounded the siren every time there was an escape, the siren would have been going all the time. It would have been more a question of turning the siren off than turning it on. However, the situation seems to have improved. I'm touching wood when I say that; I hope it will continue.

At the Fort we've done maintenance of the Edson golf course and rodeo grounds. At present we have two bush camps operating from the Fort, and we are in the process of establishing another in the St. Paul area. We cleaned up around the town of Swan Hills and did maintenance of the local ballpark.

We produced 716,000 pounds of potatoes, 42,000 pounds of carrots, 21,000 pounds of turnips, 17,000 pounds of cabbages, 40,000 pounds of onions — that's a lot of onions — parsnips, beets, tomatoes, cucumbers, and so on. So we do as much as we can to make the institution self-sufficient in regard to food.

Through the system, we have some 175 inmates as kitchen workers, 119 on cleaning crews, 53 in laundries, 15 in warehouses, 17 in powerhouses, 15 in sewing rooms — those are mostly females — and 9 in the garages at various institutions. At the Fort we have 12 inmates operating as carpenters, 16 painters, 14 plumbers, 10 electricians and welders, 20 equipment operators, and 11 laborers. At the Fort, 20 inmates are assigned daily to the greenhouse. Last year we produced 15,500 flats and repotted some 300 plants a month. In academic upgrading, we had 264 male inmates and 39 female inmates in the school, 10 in the automotive course, 19 in barbering and hairstyling, 24 in life skills, eight studying art. We had 150 in vocational training generally. We're doing our best. We hope to develop more short courses on site, in conjunction with Grant MacEwan College.

The rumor about outside catering is not true. This was run through the mill of a feasibility study, and the decision was made to maintain our present methods of kitchen facilities. We thought the work in the kitchens was important from the point of view of activity for the inmates, and the logistics just weren't there for a centralized operation for that one correctional institution. Although for some government institutions it may look like a good operation to centralize catering, there are special security problems in relation to a correctional institution: the movement of food in and out, and the need to maintain frozen foods in special facilities for a long time on site. However, at the Calgary Remand Centre, where we think the situation is a little different, we do operate with the assistance of an outside catering firm.



The hon. Member for Drumheller talked about the recidivism pattern. It's quite true that up to 70 per cent of the inmates are under the age of 25. In 1976, almost 40 per cent were under 21. The recidivism rate hovers around 60 per cent; 60 per cent are repeaters. Studies in the United States seem to show that whether you take the soft line with maximum rehabilitation, or the hard line of the prisons in the southern United States where they still have hard labor, the recidivism rate doesn't alter that much. However, that is no excuse for us not trying. I feel that if we could only reduce that repeater rate by a few percentage points, the benefits to the community at large would be immeasurable.

The hon. Member for Drumheller wanted to know the reasons. They're all in the area of conjecture. I myself am convinced that it starts at an early age, and that the candidates for crime don't necessarily come from economically deprived families. They're just as frequently products of affluence and boom conditions.

I believe it goes back to the general approach to juveniles who break the law: they're regarded as neglected, misguided, misdirected children, and not told that they themselves have freedom of choice on the path they take, and should be held accountable. I think it's a philosophy that has brought in its train lots of problems for society. The principle of accountability has got to come into the handling of juveniles. However, I am not responsible in my department until they reach the legal age of 16.

The attempt at Nordegg, to which the hon. Member for Drumheller referred, is to try through wilderness challenge to build self-respect into some of these minor offenders who have often had a long pattern of juvenile delinquency before they've become first or second offenders in the adult system. The theory here is that many of them feel they're losers. Their character hasn't been built to the point where they have had enough courage, fortitude, and endurance to face up to small setbacks in their lives and they have become convinced in their inner hearts that they're losers. We want to build in them self-respect and self-pride. Believing in that second part of the golden rule, "love thy neighbor as thyself", we feel it is pretty hard to be a good citizen and love your neighbor if you hate yourself.

The Outward Bound concept is now being tried in several jurisdictions in Canada. We are the first to apply it to technical adults. It's too soon to judge our success. We began last fall with some 40 inmates and 40 staff, so the staff/inmate ratio was 1:1. And the costs are high. Now there are 114 there, so the staff ratio is now getting to one staff to three inmates, which is more in line from a cost point of view. But we can't assess exactly how costly this exercise is going to be until we've had a longer experience. There is no doubt that such a high staff/inmate ratio doesn't come cheap.

However, at Nordegg they are performing useful work for other government departments. They are working for Lands and Forests in clearing deadfall and brush from the sides of roads. They are a standing fire fighting crew for any fire that happens to break out within reachable distance of Nordegg. They are learning how to build log structures. There has been some talk by the federal parks department of perhaps engaging their services to rebuild the park warden shelters in the national parks. They are kept

extremely busy as part of the exercise. It isn't all climbing mountains, learning how to survive, and character building for endurance.

We believe the part on learning how to survive is therapeutic. For the last five days of their course they have to live alone in the bush with no bought food — live off the land, so to speak. We feel that in a way this is an educational process for a day when their sentence terminates and they have to go back into the world and stand on their own feet.

The hon. Member for Stony Plain talked about the problems of the Parkland police. I thank him for confirming that I have been available. Of course the criticism came from the fact that I was not available one night for a protest meeting by cottage owners in the Parkland area. They couldn't understand why a civil servant couldn't have been sent in my place. But I pointed out that what they were asking for was purely a policy matter and not one that a civil servant could address himself to, and the hon. member from Parkland was there in any case and would communicate their concerns to me.

I have written a long letter to Commissioner Nadon setting out the whole difficulty of a team operation with the Parkland police being under operational control of the Mounted Police. Commissioner Nadon is still commanding officer of the RCMP until later this summer when the new commissioner will take over. Certainly if there's no resolution of the problem by then, I'll again draw it to the attention of the new commissioner. But under the terms of the master contract between Alberta and the federal government in regard to the RCMP, they have the right to refuse responsibility for controlling other police forces.

In patrol division we haven't got 70 cars. That's an unfounded rumor. We have 59 new cars, and the logistical experience is that this has been a good deal for the province in terms of funding. It's costing less than the travel expenses that used to be paid for the old privately owned cars of the patrol officers.

The division is active in its traditional role, with exactly the same number of men. There's been no increase in the patrol. It's been active in the regulation of trucks. It has a new field of responsibility as a law enforcement arm for the licensing procedure of the registrar of motor vehicles, in that it has been recovering suspended licences that have not been surrendered in accordance with the act. During the course of the year it will probably be taking action in seizing of licence plates from uninsured vehicles.

Policing on the reserves, as the hon. member pointed out, is really a legal problem where there is a dry reserve. To try to summarize, provincial statutes prevail where federal statutes are silent. But in regard to a dry Indian reserve the Indian Act is not silent. So the Indian Act prevails. We as a province have no right to swear in special constables to enforce a federal statute such as the Indian Act. I can swear in special constables to enforce The Liquor Control Act and The Highway Traffic Act, but not the Indian Act. However, I have intimated to the RCMP that we would have no objection — in fact we advise them to swear in this particular special constable as a supernumerary constable of the RCMP so that he would have powers to enforce the Indian Act on the Paul Band reserve.

The hon. Member for Drumheller talked about the arming of guards. This would be a very drastic step to

take. One must also think of the possibility of an inmate actually seizing the weapon from a guard, or taking the weapon away from a guard who is held hostage. So there are two sides to that double-edged sword. I'm not saying that at some stage if the situation deteriorates in terms of the more serious criminals . . . And they're not the majority in our provincial institutions. Most of our provincial institutions are mostly dealing with people who are serving two years or less. But if the level of violence continues to go up among the criminal element and we have more of them, we may have to reconsider in the maximum security units. But as of now all arms, tear gas, batons, shields, and so on are held in a secure central place for the use of the riot squad in the event of a major incident. I appreciate the hon. Member for Drumheller bringing it up — I'm not yet ready to make the decision to arm guards in provincial correctional institutions.

Electronic lockups are installed in all the new facilities. Of course they will be in the Edmonton Remand Centre, as they are in the Calgary Remand Centre. We have some degree of electronic lockup in Fort Saskatchewan, although there are still key-operated doors. As and when funds become available, this will be an obvious improvement in any correctional institution; although one must remember that the electronic equipment is subject to vandalism just as much as any other lockup tool.

I mentioned the siren. Perhaps we can reconsider it when escapes become a very rare event. When they are so frequent I think I'd better just stand, consider that as a proposition, and hold it under advisement.

The question of special permits from the Liquor Control Board: this is another unpopular exercise that pertains to this portfolio. The Liquor Control Act which has been in force as a basic act for many years says under Section 47:

If authorized by the Board and if it is so stated in the special permit, the holder of a special permit may sell to guests in the premises specified in the permit the liquor lawfully purchased by him under the permit, for consumption by them only in those premises, if the price to be charged to the purchaser thereof is approved by the Board and stated in the permit and is sufficient only to return to the permittee the cost of the liquor so purchased and a further amount sufficient only to pay for the cost of transporting and serving the liquor.

Years ago when The Liquor Control Act was brought in I presume the thought behind this provision was if you were going to control liquor — and remember it was a step out of Prohibition in the '20s — then you had to have a licensing system. Licences have conditions. Then they said, well, what about special permits for people who haven't got licensed premises? They said, well, it's only fair that they should have the right to have liquor at a wedding or banquet. But they shouldn't make a profit at it because we won't be able to control licensed premises otherwise; it will just make a hole, wide enough to drive a 10-ton truck through.

As a policy thing, we have allowed community clubs and so on to make a small profit on special permits, even though if you strictly adhered to the letter of the act there would be some doubt about

whether that was legal. We have done it. But from a point of view of public policy we don't think it's a good idea to encourage service organizations and so on to use this as a method to raise money for however worthy a purpose. Because while they are raising money for a good charitable purpose, the handicapped, the crippled children, whatever worthy purpose you would like to think of, on the other hand they may be doing harm to the very community they are trying to serve by promoting a great beer bash, when people kill each other on the roads, impaired drivers drive into telephone poles, and so on.

Again, it's an area where in policy I have to walk a middle line, to do what is reasonable. In the interests of controlling these permits, the Liquor Control Board, which is quasi-autonomous and just reports through me, has a general policy that the size of the event shouldn't be any bigger than a service club or an organization can control. They must supply their own security. It is not reasonable to think that a service club with 15 members can control a crowd of 3,000. Even the Stampede Board with its thousands of volunteers in Calgary have finally come to the conclusion that they cannot control the Oktoberfest event which has been held for one weekend annually in Calgary — 4,000 people a night drinking large quantities of beer. They have abandoned that exercise. There is no doubt that security is a very important consideration in terms of what I call the beer bash. So we are trying to be reasonable — not overregulating, not overauthoritative — and yet to safeguard the public interest.

The hon. Member for Lethbridge West talked about the particular alcoholic problem in the Lethbridge area. It is true that in the Lethbridge Correctional Institution 70 per cent of the inmates are there for some offence related to the abuse of alcohol. Most of them are natives. It's an extremely serious problem. We get complaints continually from people in Lethbridge and Fort Macleod about inebriated people wandering into their premises, wandering around the streets, or drinking alcoholic substances such as hair spray and vanilla extract in the city parks.

What we have done so far to try to tackle this problem is first of all to establish Napi Lodge which is being run by the native people themselves on the grounds of the Lethbridge Correctional Institution. Here the inmates, natives treating natives, receive counselling and treatment for their addiction problem. The trail for this type of institution was blazed up here in Edmonton at Poundmaker's Lodge by a very exceptional citizen called Eric Shirt who has taken a great interest in this area. We believe the Napi Lodge in the Lethbridge area is also off to a good start. It has had some teething problems but we think it's doing a good job.

In the near future under the auspices of my colleague the hon. Minister for Social Services and Community Health, we will be sitting down with representatives from AADAC and the various police forces in southern Alberta to discuss the possibility of some sort of facility in Fort Macleod. Fort Macleod has almost as many people held overnight in the drunk tank as the city of Lethbridge which has a considerably higher population. They both have more people held under Section 84 of the act than any other part of the province.

We have just made a special grant to the Leth-

bridge city police force for a bus to take discharged prisoners home. This is an attempt to try to break the 'revolving door' pattern, where a judge will sentence an offender to \$50 or 15 days; he finishes his sentence or maybe works off his fine; we let him go at the door of the jail and he goes straight to the beer parlor and offends again. It's a continual cycle of inebriation.

We feel part of the problem is that there is no way for them to get home. Lethbridge city police will be operating this bus on a circuit from the Lethbridge Correctional Institution to the Lethbridge police lockup, to Fort Macleod, to Pincher Creek, to Brocket and to Stand Off. It has been tried before and wasn't entirely a success, but we are going to give it another go. It's being done at the moment by the RCMP in the Cochrane area. Now some of the clients don't bother to drive their own cars because they know they can rely on the RCMP to take them home.

The hon. Member for Lethbridge West also talked about police ratio. There is a special problem in the metropolitan areas of Calgary and Edmonton, as you can tell from reading the headlines in the newspaper today. This is because large metropolitan areas tend to attract a more serious type of criminal than would be expected in the smaller cities or rural areas. This is not to minimize the problem of crime that exists in areas like Lethbridge, but it does explain the reason for having a higher police/population ratio, 1:550 in the two major cities and 1:800 elsewhere in the province.

I should remind members that the very generous law enforcement grants made by this government to municipal police forces was a first in Canada. For the last two years we have given enormous assistance to municipal police forces, in the order of \$17 million a year. Never before in the history of Canada [or] this province has a government given so much assistance to a municipal police force. We are continuing this policy, with the addition of direct funding of crime prevention programs.

The hon. Member for Calgary Glenmore referred to the remarks made by the school trustee and director of welfare for the city of Calgary, Mr. Sam Blakely. I believe he was referring to juvenile probation officers, not to adult probation officers but broadly speaking all probation officers, who like everybody else in this business are suffering from a heavy case load. The adult probation officers under my jurisdiction have a case load of one officer to 59 customers.

The way we have tackled this is to reduce the amount of time the probation officer has to spend on presentence reports for the courts, by standardizing the form so that he's not in the office that much. We have classified the probation case load into minimum, medium, and maximum surveillance, according to the severity of the offence. Some probationers require much more intensive surveillance than others. This is a way all probation officers can handle what seems on paper to be a very heavy case load.

I think that answers all the questions, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, one very short question to the minister — this has come up several times in the question period. Is the minister in a position to advise the committee where things stand as far as the RCMP commercial fraud squad is concerned.

How serious a problem is this? Do we have a sufficient component to carry through the investigations and be effective?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, at the present time we have a squad of 18, wholly funded by the federal government. I think they can handle the job. I believe as the years go by they will need more and more sophisticated types of policemen who understand computer technology and complicated corporation accounts. At the present time I believe they are wholly on top of the situation in Alberta.

Of course, efforts are supplemented by the other municipal police forces in regard to the more run-of-the-mill type of commercial crime: abuse of credit cards, shoplifting, improper business practices, taking of deposits and not supplying goods. But I think the hon. member is probably referring to the very sophisticated type of commercial crime. We have got 18 on the job in the province, and it does seem to be adequate at the present time.

#### Agreed to:

Ref. No. 1.0.1	\$82,684
Ref. No. 1.0.2	\$102,417
Ref. No. 1.0.3	\$597,454
Ref. No. 1.0.4	\$381,210
Ref. No. 1.0.5	\$259,162
Ref. No. 1.0.6	\$161,003
Vote 1 Total Program	\$1,583,930
Ref. No. 2.1	\$576,561
Ref. No. 2.2	\$20,170,687
Ref. No. 2.3	\$3,637,113
Ref. No. 2.4	\$660,000
Ref. No. 2.5	\$1,340,639
Vote 2 Total Program	\$26,385,000
Ref. No. 3.1	\$536,587

#### Ref. No. 3.2

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question of the minister and pose a problem? In our striving for the efficiency of centralization, it seems we have removed the RCMP — especially in the rural areas — from some of the smaller communities where two- or three-man detachments were in place. I can give the minister an example: to centralize, we allowed the RCMP detachment of three men to be moved [from] Lamont to Fort Saskatchewan, and now we serve the Lamont area, the Chipman area, and the federal park from Fort Saskatchewan.

In this trend to 'superefficiency', we've become less efficient — not because the men are not doing the job; there's just no way you can police a community from another community 20 miles away. It just can't be done. Hindsight is a great thing, Mr. Minister. At the time we heard rumors that that detachment was going to be removed, we as the concerned citizens there should not have let that happen. I guess we all know the way bureaucracy works. Once it's happened, it's very difficult to get the detachment back. The time to prevent it is while it's under discussion.

So I would like to find out from the minister what the philosophy about this centralization is now, because we are looking at some of the studies and projects in place in the United States, where [they] have policemen back on the beat. I would like to

know how prevalent this is, and are the government and the RCMP looking at decentralization, so that we can get these two- and three-man detachments back in these small communities. Because, Mr. Minister, the people committing the offences — especially the young drivers who are ripping and tearing around, tearing up the minister's highways, tearing up the alleys, and knocking over the signs — can tell you the minute that patrol car leaves Lamont to go to Fort Saskatchewan. They've got it down to split-second timing. The patrol can do their job in this small community, [but] the minute they're down the highway; out come the hot rodders.

So, Mr. Chairman, I'd like the minister to indicate if the philosophy is changing. Do we go back to the two- and three-man detachment as before?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, the philosophy is basically this — and I've got to tell you that I have an appointment with the Mounted Police to review the whole deployment of their forces across the province. They have flags in the map and colored crayons depicting the area they've got to cover, and we're in the process of arriving at a decision. The basic philosophy must be this: by and large the deployment of a police force must be the responsibility of the commanding officer in charge. I agree that under the contract I can have input and even direct, in the odd case, but generally speaking one must have faith in the general — you can't run an operation like that by committee.

Part of the logic is this: if you have too many small detachments, you have to have an NCO in charge. The NCO spends too much of his time on paperwork in the office, and not enough out in the field. So you may tend, by too much dispersion, to have fewer people enforcing the law on the streets than you would have if you had some degree of concentration. It's not just the logistics of the building or the headquarters; it's the question of the flow of paperwork and the need for somebody to be in charge.

If you have a three-man detachment and a sergeant or a corporal in charge of it, and that sergeant or corporal is not out enforcing the law but is spending too much time in the office, then you may be losing in the long run. But it is true that under the former commissioner, Mr. Lysyk, we did clear out quite a lot of the overhead from the central police headquarters in Edmonton and push them out into the field to address themselves to this problem — to get out where the action is. But we are at the present time reviewing the deployment through the entire province.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. I'd just like to comment on the fact that we tie up a man who could be better enforcing the law. This is a valid concern, but at the same time we can hire part-time clerical staff in a small community so that the NCO — usually the corporal in a small community — doesn't have to be tied up with that paper work. We can hire a girl for \$300 or \$400 a month part-time. This girl can do a lot of the clerical work.

It's always interesting: when we look at centralization, where we think the costs are going to decrease — the former Minister of Education found this out when he did an education study — this efficiency really becomes inefficiency when you centralize. It

costs more to have one large school than it did to have two medium-sized schools. So I think we can look in this direction of providing clerical ... All other trades and professions are finding out that if you hire somebody who is an adjunct, you become more efficient in doing the job you're supposed to do, be it filling teeth or enforcing the law.

I'd just like to say to the minister that even though the RCMP are responsible for the deployment of the men, I think the minister is being very modest [in] saying he won't have some influence in what direction we want the RCMP to move.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 3.2

\$37,097,100

### Ref. No. 3.3

DR. BUCK: I'd like to ask the Solicitor General just what role the boys in the blue cars are playing. I know they're becoming more prevalent. Just what is the role? How many of them are there? What are they doing?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, we have 59 patrol officers and 19 support staff. They operate out of the headquarters here. There are 19 units spread through the province. This is a very decentralized service.

The new units have been opened in Fort McMurray, Wetaskiwin, High Prairie, and Claresholm. The main job of the patrol — in addition to that, there are four inspectors and a superintendent — is to act as a law enforcement tool for the Department of Transportation in regard to trucks overloading, and to make certain they don't abuse our rules for permits to cross the province from bordering provinces and adhere to all the safety requirements.

The additional role they have is in connection with the motor vehicles registrar, directed against trying to reduce the number of uninsured drivers on our roads, the picking up of licences from suspended drivers, and any other project that might be assigned to them by the minister.

Agreed to:

Ref. No. 3.3

Vote 3 Total Program

Ref. No. 4.1

\$1,627,419

\$39,261,106

\$2,474,707

### Ref. No. 4.2

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Chairman, just one question on this. There was a backlog of driver's licence renewals in the department. I just wonder if there's staff enough to rectify this, or is there still a backlog as far as renewals are concerned? In some cases, a temporary licence was given out and extensions had to be given on the temporary licence, which was causing problems for people who were, say, going out of the country.

MR. FARRAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm happy to be able to say that Mr. Pedersen, the director in charge of the motor vehicles branch, has now been able to reduce the backlog in the issuance of operators' li-

cences. He came to us from Alberta Health Care Insurance, where he had the task of reducing the big administrative problem there. He's doing an excellent job in the motor vehicles branch.

Those are the two big administration headaches in government. Between them, those two departments occupy 90 per cent of the government's computer time: 45 per cent is motor vehicles, 45 per cent is health care insurance.

Due to the switchover to the computerized system last year, the transfer to new premises in Park Plaza, the backlog of time in the issuance of the permanent as opposed to the temporary driving licence was extending beyond the 90 days normally covered by a temporary licence, up to 120 days. It has now been reduced to an average of six weeks to issue the permanent licence. I'm not pretending we don't still have problems. We have some problems with the photo-ident Polaroid equipment, with the heat set units that seal the operator's licence. We're tackling all of these, and I hope eventually to reduce this time of six weeks to even less. But six weeks is well within the 90 days allowed under the temporary licence.

Ref. No. 4.2	\$7,374,727
Ref. No. 4.3	\$480,509
Vote 4 Total Program	\$10,329,943

#### Vote 5

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps because of my Scottish ancestry, I've never been overly interested in losing money at the race track, and I may have missed something. But, Mr. Minister, perhaps you could tell the committee why in this day of restraint we have a 50.8 per cent increase in the appropriation for the control and development of horse racing.

MR. FARRAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it's easily explained. People get their money back. This is one of the few self-sustaining aspects of government. All money is derived from the public bet. Unlike lotteries, where people may get 30 or 40 per cent of what is bet, [those who] go to horse and harness races get 85 per cent back. Of the 15 per cent they don't get back, 1.25 per cent of that public bet goes to the Alberta Racing Commission for enforcing law and order on the tracks, for making grants to encourage the breeding of blood stock as an adjunct to the agricultural industry, and the supplementation of purses. So it goes back in a different sense, in prize money to the owners of the horses.

So this increase is coming from the public. The public is betting some \$103 million a year on horse racing. It's not directly a government expense.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, just let me follow that through for a moment. Because this is a percentage of the amount, Mr. Minister, does that mean that between 1975 and 1976 — I assume it's based on the last year — there was in fact a 50.8 per cent increase in pari-mutuel betting in Alberta?

MR. FARRAN: There's been an enormous increase. It's gone up from some \$80 million to \$103 million.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, just one short question. Could the minister indicate how many members there are on the commission and what their salaries are?

MR. FARRAN: There are now five members on the commission.

DR. BUCK: Five?

MR. FARRAN: Five. I don't know that I've got the salaries here but I can give you a ballpark figure. The chairman is full-time and he gets somewhere around \$30,000 a year. There is a vice-chairman who gets \$10,000 a year and the members get somewhere in the neighborhood of \$6,000 a year. Now I stand to be corrected on those figures. I'm giving them to you off the top of my head. I will get them exactly if you require them.

The five members are: the original three members, the chairman, Mr. Parsons, who has many years experience in the racing industry and was a former manager of the Calgary Exhibition Stampede; then there are two members — on the old commission, before we supplemented it with two more — one is an Edmonton lawyer who has taken a great interest in racing, the other was a Calgarian also interested in racing. Now we have added two more members. One is an ex-member of the RCMP in charge of criminal investigation, with extensive experience with race tracks in Ontario. He is basically an Edmontonian and has come back to live in Edmonton. The other is a representative of the Horsemen's Association. The only people who are not represented are the harness racers, and I've told them the next time a vacancy comes up we'll consider a representative from that aspect of the racing industry.

Agreed to:	
Vote 5 Total Program	\$1,312,000
Capital Estimates	
Vote 1	\$14,610
Vote 2	\$366,058
Vote 3	\$212,280
Vote 4	\$93,552
Vote 5	—
Department Total	\$686,500
Department Total	\$78,871,979

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Chairman, I move the estimates be reported.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN: I move the committee rise, report progress, and beg leave to sit again.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

DR. McCRIMMON: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration the following resolution, reports the same, and requests leave to sit again:

Resolved that for the fiscal year ending March 31,

1978, amounts not exceeding the following sums be granted to Her Majesty for the Department of the Solicitor General: \$1,583,930 for departmental support services, \$26,000,385 for correctional services, \$39,261,106 for law enforcement, \$10,329,943 for motor vehicle registration and driver licensing, and \$1,312,000 for control and development of horse racing.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow evening we'll start with the estimates of the Department of Education, and if there's time, proceed to the estimates of the Department of Utilities and Telephones. On Friday we'll proceed with Utilities and Telephones and Government Services.

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

[The House adjourned at 5:31 p.m.]