

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Friday, March 31, 1978 10:00 a.m.**

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES**

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Private Bills Committee, I hereby report that Standing Order 77 concerning publication of notice of application in the *Alberta Gazette* and newspapers has been complied with in respect to the following petitions:

- (1) the petition of The Alberta Wheat Pool for an act to amend The Alberta Wheat Pool Act, 1970;
- (2) the petition of the Society of Industrial Accountants of Alberta for an act to amend An Act to Incorporate the Society of Industrial Accountants of Alberta;
- (3) the petition of Paul Otke, George Rode, Luther Schroeder, Vernon Raaflaub, and Robert Guebert for an act to incorporate Concordia College;
- (4) the petition of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception of the village of Radway for an act to incorporate St. Joseph's Hospital, Radway;
- (5) the petition of E.G. Robinson, R. W. Nickerson, W. A. Cochrane, J. F. Fendall, and R. W. Chapman for an act to incorporate the First Western Trust Company.

Standing Order 77 has not been complied with in respect to the petition of the Royal Trust Company for an act respecting the Royal Trust Company and the Royal Trust Corporation of Canada. I move that the said petition be referred to the Private Bills Committee for consideration, pursuant to Standing Order 81(2).

[Motion carried]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Bill Pr. 2

**An Act to Amend An Act to
Incorporate the Society of
Industrial Accountants of Alberta**

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill, being An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate the Society of Industrial Accountants of Alberta.

[Leave granted; Bill Pr. 2 read a first time]

Bill Pr. 4

**An Act to Incorporate
St. Joseph's Hospital, Radway**

MR. TOPOLNISKY: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to

introduce a bill, being An Act to Incorporate St. Joseph's Hospital, Radway.

[Leave granted; Bill Pr. 4 read a first time]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table four annual reports by the pension administration. The first is under The Public Service Management Pension Act, the second under The M.L.A. Pension Act, the third under The Public Service Pension Act, and the fourth under The Local Authorities Pension Act.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file a return required under The Gas Resources Preservation Act.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

Oil Sands Extraction Process

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of Business Development and Tourism. My question really is the result of the recent dismissal of a Research Council employee, and my concern is with the process involved. On this occasion I hold no particular brief for the action taken by the individual as far as the patent was concerned. Has the process, which is supposedly developed and appears to be beneficial as far as oil sands extraction is concerned, received a preliminary feasibility study by the Research Council itself?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, this type of thing is ongoing in the Research Council. The management staff employed by the council has examined the potential for commercialization of the oleophilic sieve process. It appears to have tremendous application in extraction of bitumen from the oil sands, and the process is ongoing.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. It is my information that that preliminary feasibility study was completed approximately two years ago and, as the minister indicates, was very positive. Why has a pilot project not been established by the Research Council to move along with this process which, as the minister says, appears to be quite encouraging?

MR. DOWLING: Well, I didn't really indicate it was quite encouraging. I really meant to indicate, Mr. Speaker, that if the process is 'commercializable' it would have tremendous application in the oil sands.

A pilot project, of course, is a massive undertaking in terms of financing. The hon. Leader of the Opposition will understand the operations of AOSTRA and how that is undertaken; how the gasification process in the coal fields of Alberta has proceeded in conjunction with other research organizations and the private sector. I would assume that would be the route taken by the research management staff if the process were to proceed beyond this point. They certainly haven't dropped it. It's a matter under constant consideration.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. My second question really was: why has the Research Council not moved along with a pilot project here, given the fact that costs are great but the implications are great too? My question, then, to the minister is: has the Research Council recommended to the government moving ahead with a pilot project as far as this new oil sands extraction process is concerned?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I don't think we've quite reached that stage yet. The matter has to be proven in the lab first of all. As I said, it appears to have potential. As the process is developed in the lab, there is no question that if it has that kind of potential it will proceed to a pilot project.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a very direct question to the minister. Has the minister himself checked with the Research Council staff, the acting director, to get their appraisal as to the feasibility of this project and the need to move ahead with a research project at the earliest possible date?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, by statute we are required to have two regular annual meetings of the Research Council. In the past year we have had more than that number. We receive a technical report prior to each of those meetings so we can examine the report, which lays out the work being done by the technical staff of the Research Council. We have not reached the point where a pilot project is warranted at this time. We hope that will come in due course.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. In addition to the technical reports the minister receives and the two annual meetings of the Research Council, has the minister himself become directly involved in this particular question of the extraction process which is being developed at the Research Council — the same place, I should add, that developed the first oil sands extraction process? Has the minister himself been specifically involved in this question?

MR. DOWLING: I haven't seen the process in operation. However, I have viewed such things as the coal gasification process and others that have reached the point where a pilot project is in place. We will be having meetings of the Research Council, and as this information comes to hand we will surely make a decision on it. You must understand, Mr. Speaker, the council is there to establish policy and to see that the terms of the act are lived up to.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Has the minister been involved in an appraisal or assessment of this new extraction process which supposedly has been developed at the Research Council? Has the minister had discussions with the AOSTRA group with regard to the possibility of their funding a pilot project?

MR. GETTY: No and no, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, in the hope of getting a "yes and yes", is the minister prepared either to look into this project himself or to ask the AOSTRA people,

with a view to moving it ahead with a bit more enthusiasm than his colleague the Minister of Business Development and Tourism has?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence that my colleague the Minister of Business Development and Tourism will develop the processes from the Research Council in the best public interest. From time to time I discuss some of these matters with him, and I would be happy to discuss this potential development which would assist the development of the oil sands.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the minister. Has the minister himself had an opportunity to look at more than the technical reports, to actually check the work going on at the Research Council as far as this new process is concerned?

MR. GETTY: No. That was about the same as the first question.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, then one last minister, the Minister of the Environment. In light of the technical reports on this project, which, point out that along with other potential environmental advantages, about one-third the amount of water would be needed, has the Minister of the Environment had the opportunity to look at the proposal developed at the Alberta Research Council; actually to see the work that's going on? Is he in a position to give some indication to the House of either his own or the department's assessment of the project from an environmental point of view?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is probably overlooking one point: the eagerness of industry itself to settle some of the problems involved in the tailing ponds methods they are now using. They are just as anxious as anybody else to see a resolution of a breakthrough in the techniques.

I think the hon. Leader of the Opposition is overlooking the way the Research Council works. These research projects progress through the lab stage and up to the pilot project stage by decisions and scheduling undertaken by administrative people and directors. We have confidence in their competence. The chairman of the Research Council board, my colleague the Minister of Business Development and Tourism, has tried to outline how this . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. My recollection of the question is that the minister was asked whether he or his department had become involved in any environmental aspects of the process.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to explain that the Department of the Environment is naturally very concerned, along with industry, about the problems involved in the tailing ponds procedures presently used, and are just as anxious as anybody else to see this proceed. I'm trying to explain that we have confidence in the methods and procedures undertaken by the Alberta Research Council. Everybody involved in this has the same objective in view. I don't believe the Leader of the Opposition should overreact to the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I have great difficulty in connecting the answer with the question in any way.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, then I'll put one last question to the minister. Why hasn't the minister taken the time to check out the process which is being stonewalled at the Alberta Research Council?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. YOUNG: A supplementary question to the Minister of Business Development and Tourism. Is it the usual procedure in the Research Council to have the inventor of a process be the only individual to carry the process through all the pilot stages in the development process?

MR. DOWLING: No, Mr. Speaker, it's not. It doesn't necessarily follow that the inventor is the one who brings the process to commercialization. Management teams and that kind of thing are specialty efforts. I'm sure the Research Council will undertake to make sure that the marketing people in various private sector organizations and environmental institutes will play a part in it.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Business Development and Tourism in his capacity as chairman of the Alberta Research Council. Has there been any discussion by the Research Council as to the time frame the technical people are looking at at this stage? Has any time been set as an objective to come to a conclusion on whether it is feasible to proceed with the pilot project?

MR. DOWLING: Simply no, Mr. Speaker. A time has not been set.

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

MR. NOTLEY: Has a summary of the process been prepared and distributed to other departments of government for their initial comment, in particular the Department of the Environment?

MR. DOWLING: As my hon. colleague the Minister of the Environment indicated, Mr. Speaker, his department, the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the private sector, and our department are most anxious to see any process that has potential taken to fruition.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I think we're getting away from the question again.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I just put the question again. Has there been a summary of this information, and has it been provided to other departments of government for their initial assessment?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that there has been. But with the technical committee, which is composed of deputy ministers of about 10 government departments, I'm sure that information is now in those departments, without question.

Private Schools

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a second question to the Minister of Education, dealing with the recent court decision pertaining to the Holdeman Mennonite question at Linden, and Judge Oliver's suggestion that in addition to ministerial approval for private schools, there should be an opportunity for an appeal to the courts. Is the government going to comply with Judge Oliver's suggestion that there should be an appeal to the courts following a decision by the minister?

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and all hon. members are aware of provisions in many statutes of this province dealing with many areas of approval and licensing that are not in fact reviewable by the court, except where there is a denial of natural justice, an error on the face of the record, or an error in law.

In the case before His Honour Judge Oliver, he did give consideration to legislation which existed in the province of British Columbia, which found that under certain circumstances the determination of whether or not a child was receiving a proper education could be reviewed by the courts. That was the system that existed in the province of British Columbia, not necessarily in other provinces. There is no necessity for a judicial review of the process in the province of Alberta, having regard to the fact of my ministerial statement in this House and the subsequent private school regulations passed very recently by order in council.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, it isn't a matter of necessity, the minister's view, or my particular view. The basic question to the minister is this: is the government going to accept the suggestion of Judge Oliver that the courts of Alberta should be the final decision on private school applications — yes or no?

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, I've answered that question.

MR. CLARK: Then we assume the answer is no, Mr. Speaker. The government is not prepared to follow Judge Oliver's suggestion on this particular issue, [interjections]

Mr. Speaker, the question then to the minister: is it the position of the government of Alberta that they're not going to follow Judge Oliver's suggestion that the courts of Alberta have the final decision?

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect, I would recognize that as being the twin of the question the hon. member asked before.

MR. CLARK: Well, the answer is still no, they're not going to.

Auto Insurance — Rating Practices

MR. NOTLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It relates to the method car insurance companies use in classifying risk. A very brief word of explanation is necessary. I'm advised that at least one car insurance company automatical-

ly scores 25 points if an applicant is living in a common-law relationship.

Mr. Speaker, my question is simply this: now that Canadian law has been revised to take the state out of the bedrooms of the nation, can the minister advise what he proposes to do to take the insurance companies out of the bedrooms of the province?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, that's rather a . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell him they're in the living room, not in the bedroom.

AN HON. MEMBER: They don't park their cars in the bedroom, they park them in the garage.

DR. BUCK: Check with the AG.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take a look at it and respond this way: when you get into differences in rating and human rights, this is a very difficult area. I'm sure that over the next few years there may be many, many changes. However, it's an evolutionary process, and standards change over time.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. I appreciate his thoughtfulness in his previous answer. However, the same information notes that people who have four or more jobs in three years and live in slums or blighted neighborhoods are also scored an additional 25 points. My question is: as a result of his meetings with the Automobile Insurance Board, is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly how widespread these rather unusual car insurance rating practices are?

MR. HARLE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think most of the rating is a factor determined by each company. The board sets general principles of premiums based on the established categories. As I have indicated, I think there obviously will be changes over a period of time. But I have not, of late, had an opportunity to discuss rating differences from the point of view raised by the hon. member.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister, flowing from his previous answer. At this stage, has the Automobile Insurance Board given any consideration to standardizing the various rating practices of car insurance companies operating in the province of Alberta, in addition to looking at the rates *per se*, the rating practices of the companies?

MR. HARLE: I'm sure the hon. member is aware that rating practices generally are a nation-wide matter. While the general principles of rating are developed and are fairly constant within companies, there is great variation. After all, when you get to rating and premiums and competition generally, I think it only meets the requirements of competition policy that in fact there be differences in premium. Those differences obviously arise because companies have different rating policies. If you expect to have price competition, I think it's essential that companies be permitted to arrive at what they believe are different

standards. It may be smoking; it may be other factors which various companies take into account.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question to the hon. minister. Has the government of Alberta or the insurance board ever commissioned an actuarial study to assess whether questions essentially of life style — that is, the number of jobs, the kind of neighborhood a person lives in, the kind of marital relationship they have — have any bearing or relevance to risk itself?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, this is perhaps a very important area. Of course a multitude of studies are done within the industry. Some are gathered on a nation-wide basis and put together in the green book, which in general relates to principles of rating and standards which apply across this country and in the United States.

When it comes to a refinement of that matter, I suppose, much of it depends on the work of each individual company in deciding how to rate an individual from a point of view of establishing that premium. To say that as a board we have gone to the extent of carrying out studies, I would say no. On the other hand, companies do have to compete. If their premiums, based on what their determination of risk is, are out of line, they will find they can't compete with another company that might offer a much lower rate, notwithstanding these other factors.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary question to the hon. minister. Has the Automobile Insurance Board or, for that matter, the minister or the government given any consideration to where the lines cross between life style having a bearing on car insurance rates on one hand, and The Individual's Rights Protection Act on the other? In other words, the human rights angle vis-a-vis the rating classification of the companies: has there been any assessment of where those lines cross?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, that point is very current at the moment. It's my understanding that there is an application or some dealing with the Human Rights Commission right now which relates to some factors that ostensibly come within the legislation under which they operate. As I understand it, no decision has been made on that. I'm sure the industry and, of course, the government are watching that development.

Turkey Marketing

MR. MANDEVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Could the minister indicate whether he's been approached by the Alberta Turkey Growers' Marketing Board with regard to that board withdrawing from the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency?

MR. MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I met in January, I believe, with the Alberta Turkey Growers' Marketing Board in my office here in the Legislature Building and discussed with them their desire to serve notice of withdrawing from the board, recognizing that that notice of withdrawal really comes first from the turkey marketing board, but needs to be supported as

well by the government of Alberta. At that time I agreed that I would fully support their notice of intention to withdraw, based on the factors they brought to my attention, which were not new: simply that Alberta's share of the national turkey marketing quota had been declining in terms of the market potential in this province, and there did not seem to be any move by the national agency to improve that quota.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the government been in touch with the federal government or the Canadian marketing agency with regard to increasing the Alberta quota for turkeys?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the proper procedure is through the national board, and the matter is raised and discussed there by our board, fully supported by our government.

Insofar as I myself having been in contact with the federal Minister of Agriculture or others, I can say yes. On numerous occasions I've expressed our displeasure at the manner in which quotas are allocated, not only for industrial milk but for eggs and turkeys. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the very reason we refused to join the Canadian national chicken marketing plan was the method of allocating quota, which would have seen this province having to ask its producers to cut back from 15 to 20 per cent in production.

Tourist Industry

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Business Development and part-time minister of Tourism. My question . . .

MR. GETTY: Order.

MR. CLARK: Oh, go home.

DR. BUCK: Did I make a 'baddie', Don?

AN HON. MEMBER: No respect.

MR. CLARK: Very little.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Business Development and Tourism. My apologies, Mr. Minister. The question arises from the minister's speech to the Alberta Tourist Association convention in Peace River two weeks ago. Can the minister indicate if it is going to be government policy that the government will match dollar for dollar any funds put in to advance tourism — if the industry puts in a dollar, the government puts in a dollar?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, what I did indicate was that that matter would be considered for certain. As you know now, we do a great deal better than that with matching dollar for dollar. I'm not sure exactly what the figures are. I'd be prepared to bring that comparison to the hon. member.

I do know I suggested that the amount of money that is government expenditure during the course of a normal year that relates directly to tourism promotion is something like \$600 million.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I believe the minister missed my question. The question was directly: will it be government policy that the government will match dollar for dollar what the Tourist Association can raise in the attempt to advance tourism in the province?

MR. DOWLING: At the moment, Mr. Speaker, the policy is that we try to stimulate the private sector to contribute. Rather than the government operating the tourist industry, we attempt to stimulate the private sector to contribute by providing grants to the various zones. Usually those funds are on a dollar-for-dollar basis. In addition, the travel branch of the Department of Business Development and Tourism provides exceptional amounts of money, as do the departments of Transportation, of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, of Culture, and so on.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Has it been brought to the minister's attention that the road map we're presently using is in essence a 1972 road map as it applies to the Peace River country, leaving out many of the upgraded roads in that portion of the country?

MR. NOTLEY: Which upgraded roads?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, the road map is undertaken as a joint production by the departments of Transportation and of Business Development and Tourism. We fund the operation; the cartologists from the Department of Transportation undertake to put the map in place. It is reviewed annually. We believe the 1978 map adequately reflects what was in place when the cartologists were doing the work.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the hon. minister. Is the minister's department prepared for the tremendous anticipated increase in tourism this summer, as a result of the decrease in the gasoline tax?

MR. DOWLING: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's confidence. I too am confident that that, along with the environment in Alberta and a positive business climate, will produce a tremendous influx. We are, in fact, ready.

Day Care Program

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health, and is with regard to a program that is going to be initiated this Saturday. I wonder if the minister could indicate how many day care places are available to single-parent families when the program is initiated.

MISS HUNLEY: I think the hon. Member for Little Bow is reading something into news releases that are not accurate. I don't know how many day care spaces are actually available in the province. I think the hon. member is implying something, and perhaps I should straighten out his thinking if I can.

I believe he is alluding to the fact that we are going to encourage single parents to seek employment, and we're going to do this on a very active and encouraging basis. We're talking about this as of April 1,

which is tomorrow; when the policy booklet was revised and the effective date. That does not mean that as of tomorrow we suddenly expect all single-parent families to find employment in the labor market or to start taking training and education. We're indicating to them that with the subsidized day care spaces coming on stream, more of those will be available, more opportunities are available in this province, and we think it would be a good idea for them to look at employment and become self-supporting, as I am sure many of them would like to.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister, seeing that she is providing such adequate information this morning. In the program of re-employment or 'uptraining', would the minister foresee making available at the present time more places for single parents, say at university or technical institutes?

MISS HUNLEY: I think that question should more directly go to my colleague the hon. Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. Also I believe that people should be encouraged to take a look at what their future can be in this province. I foresee great opportunities for people, and I want to make it possible for them to seek those out in whichever way they determine will best fit their future.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. In examining the policy to date, was it the minister's finding that a number of single parents have come in from other provinces, and that this has created part of the concern at the present time?

MISS HUNLEY: Yes, there has been some immigration. But overall there has been a very dramatic increase in the social assistance cases directly related to single-parent families. We must then direct our attention to what should be the ultimate goals.

Perhaps I could elaborate, Mr. Speaker. I had a most interesting conversation with two young ladies who had been on social assistance. They came to see me and said, you know, no one ever said to us: what are your goals to get off social assistance? That created some concerns in my mind. I said, if that is occurring out there, why aren't we asking them and encouraging them? Those two young ladies may never hear my message. I don't now recall their names. But it sunk home, and we now intend to ask people what their goals are.

When they need temporary help, surely the people would like us to give it to them. But surely the people want us to ask them what their goals are to eventually become self-supporting. I really believe that's basically what most individuals wish.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. In the program and the objectives that the minister has in mind, how many single families are potentially going to be affected by the program?

MISS HUNLEY: I can't answer that specifically, because I can't tell you exactly how many single parents we have on our caseload whom we should be expecting to go to work. We look at a healthy parent and a healthy child, and I think we should automatically be thinking that employment should be their

target. There are cases when a single parent shows up, and it would not be in the long-term interests of that individual or that child. So we must have that flexibility. It's impossible to break that down at the present time.

What we are indicating to the public, to our workers, and to those on social assistance is that it's no longer adequate to say; I have a child; therefore I must stay home and care for it. In many cases that should be the case, but not in every instance. I think those are the people we wish to encourage to get out and become self-supporting.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the minister. Could the minister indicate what steps she has taken with regard to co-ordinating the program, say with the private sector, with higher levels of education, or even upgrading at the high school level to assist these single-parent families?

MISS HUNLEY: I think there are many resources in the community, through my department, through the social workers, as well as through the various educational facilities. I think it's a matter, in interviews and working with single parents, of encouraging them to take a look at what's available.

Counselling services are available through Advanced Education and Manpower. There are job opportunities through the federal department, as well as through my colleague's department. We have employment opportunities working in some areas. We have the Opportunity Corps working very effectively in northern areas in training on the job. A multitude of services are available. It's a matter of directing individuals to what service may help them the most. That's what I think we all would like to strive for.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, one further supplementary question to the minister. I'm sympathetic to what the minister is trying to do, but my question is: where does the responsibility rest in helping the single-parent families — whom we've all got a great deal of compassion for — weave their way through the bureaucracy, be it the minister's own department or the student assistance program, which has been changed drastically in the past few years so that there have been some cutbacks in that particular area? Where does the responsibility really lie to help these people through the red tape maze? Who can these people go to directly?

MISS HUNLEY: Well, if we're involved — and I presume that's what the hon. member means, because not every single parent is one of our case-loads. Fortunately, many are managing on their own, and we're pleased they are able to do so. That was one of the thrusts with the funds for the day care spaces, so that those who are working may obtain a subsidy. It's to their benefit and peace of mind that they can have their child in a day care centre at an affordable rate. That was one of the thrusts, which is perhaps aside from the hon. leader's direct question.

He did say something that is not accurate: that there had been cutbacks in student financing. I don't believe that is accurate. True, we have not allowed entrance to a university program, because we feel that a two-year program can put a person in an employable area. I believe that's a reasonable thing

to expect the public to do. So that's what happens in the student loan program.

Also, when there are handicaps, rather profound disabilities where they do need some extra assistance, we have the capability to provide that, even though they're taking advantage of the student loan program, which I think is a great asset to many.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, let me rephrase the question to the minister. I've asked the question because social workers in the minister's own department say that as of tomorrow, there is really no one in the department who is co-ordinating this thrust, who is going to help single-parent families who want to get on their own to meet the objectives the minister sets out.

My question is: who is responsible for the co-ordination and for helping these people through all the red tape, which even members of this Assembly get caught up in on a lot of occasions?

MISS HUNLEY: I tried to answer that, Mr. Speaker. If some of the social workers are upset, that's unfortunate. I think the initial inquiry and follow-up procedures they should follow . . . By the way, Mr. Speaker, there has been considerable consultation about this particular issue. I've said this before: it isn't as though with a stroke of the pen, as of tomorrow morning or at 12:01 a.m., suddenly this is all going to fall in place. I think the social workers know, and if they don't, I expect them to learn. We will make that information available to them through the department and regional offices. If they are short in some of their training and retraining, if that's a missing component, we'll put that into their training program.

I don't believe the majority of them are ill-informed on the availability of opportunities, nor do I believe the majority of those who receive assistance are ill-informed. But if they are, we will take steps to see that they get the information which will help them the most, by using the existing resources.

Lottery Foundation

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a very specific question to the Minister of Government Services. It deals with a motion for a return ordered by the Assembly on November 8: details of moneys received and copies of agreement in disposition of moneys from the Western Canada Lottery Foundation. When can we expect that motion for a return?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker; I expect to have that motion for a return tabled next week.

Vehicle Licences

MR. ZANDER: Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Solicitor General. Could the minister inform the House what is being done about vehicles registered in other provinces whose licences may no longer be valid, because they have accepted a position or a residence in this province?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, the situation in Alberta is that somebody from out of the province can drive on a valid out-of-province licence for six months. After one day over six months, they become Albertans and

are required to have an Alberta licence. We are in constant contact with registrars in other provinces. If there is any question of the validity of a particular out-of-province licence, this can be checked into very quickly.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor will now attend upon the Assembly.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

head: ROYAL ASSENT

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Order! His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

[His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor took his place upon the Throne]

HIS HONOUR: Be seated, please.

MR. SPEAKER: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has, at its present sitting, passed certain bills to which, and in the name of the Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

CLERK: Your Honour, the following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 3	The Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 1978
Bill 19	The University of Alberta Hospital Amendment Act, 1978
Bill 23	The Fuel Oil Administration Act

[The Lieutenant-Governor indicated his assent]

CLERK: In Her Majesty's name, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor doth assent to these bills.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Order!

[The Lieutenant-Governor left the House]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

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

[Adjourned debate March 30: Mr. Adair]

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, it's certainly a pleasure for me to participate in the budget debate and to congratulate my colleague the hon. Provincial Treasurer for a budget that I'm sure is the envy of every provin-

cial government in this nation. What I'd like to do is cover a few areas of the budget that relate to my department, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, and then to relate how the budget affects my constituency of Peace River.

In the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, sums have been set aside for approval relating to the major cultural/recreational facility development program. This year we will be setting aside \$23 million. I think it most important that I indicate to all members present that last year we saw probably the greatest year in that particular program, with over 440 projects submitted to us for some \$25 million of government funds to assist the communities with their projects. When I say that, they relate to both cultural and recreational projects. They are projects that are set aside and decided by the communities as to what they in fact want in their area.

AN HON. MEMBER: How many pheasants?

MR. ADAIR: I'll get to the pheasants in a moment, Mr. Speaker.

Additional funds are also set aside for sport-governing bodies. When it comes to the Alberta Games, the Summer Games of 1979 and the Winter Games of 1980, I should indicate they are being actively pursued by a good number of communities within the province. Mr. Speaker, this would be a most appropriate time for me to congratulate the city of Medicine Hat for just a super job well done in the 1978 Winter Games held this past March 1 to March 5, and particularly Bob Reidy, the chairman of that committee, and all the volunteers in Medicine Hat who had a part to play in probably the most successful games we've had to date.

One of the key words in what I just said, Mr. Speaker, was "volunteers". I believe around 1,500 took part in the games in Medicine Hat for approximately 2,000 athletes. That is almost equivalent to the Commonwealth Games. So you're looking at the magnitude of what in fact is beginning to take place with the Games in this province. As a follow-up to that, we also held a very successful recreation workshop in Calgary, with some 380 volunteer members of recreation boards throughout the province in attendance. Again it was stressed that the role of the volunteer is most important. The program in its entirety was set up and approved by the volunteers for that particular workshop.

Of course this summer we will be hosting the Commonwealth Games — we as Albertans, as Edmontonians, as Canadians — for all the countries of the Commonwealth, August 3 to August 12. There is still a need for some volunteers for those Games. I think it would be incumbent that I as one of the ministers on the ministerial committee point out to the members here and to the public at large that volunteers still can be accepted. If you feel inclined to apply, would you kindly have them get hold of the Commonwealth Games committee.

Mr. Speaker, just yesterday I had a call from a delightful gal who was a hostess at the Arctic Winter Games in Hay River and Pine Point just two weeks ago. She also participated as a hostess in the Canada Games at Lethbridge. She wants to participate in the Commonwealth Games, and she'll be contacting the people. It's a Canadian event, being, held in Alberta,

in the city of Edmonton. I think we should recognize that. It's not just an Edmonton event. But that is one of the other points that is coming up.

Mr. Speaker, when I talk about the various functions of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, I think I should also point out some of the areas we'll be dealing with in the budget in the area of parks. I'm going to name just a few of them.

Cypress Hills Provincial Park will see the commencement of a major redevelopment project, and I might say successful development as a result of the committee meetings we had in the area with the people of the region and our department. A number of other areas of concern were expressed, and a very significant master plan was completed. As a result of that, and of a working relationship with the people of the southeastern part of the province, we are going to be able to begin work on a project for the Cypress Hills.

Work will also begin in the Carseland weir area, and completion of some of the projects in Fish Creek Park. I might say that at some point this summer, Mr. Speaker, we'll be opening probably one of the most exciting concepts, an outdoor aquatic centre. You might refer to it as a lake. It's a man-made lake in Fish Creek Park in Calgary that will have a beach capacity for some 4,000 people. We hope to see the opening some time later this summer, I would hope in July.

Aspen Beach, Sylvan Lake Provincial Park — Sylvan Lake is unique, Mr. Speaker, in that it was a provincial park some years ago, was removed from provincial park status, turned over to the community, then came back under the aegis of the Department of Transportation. It is now under the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, and will receive full park status this summer. Partly that is a result of the tremendous pressures placed on the central Alberta area and the park facilities in the region.

Cold Lake Provincial Park will continue to receive work. As was mentioned yesterday by the hon. Member for Athabasca, the Calling Lake Provincial Park, God willing and weather permitting — and I say that again, God willing and weather permitting, because we've had some difficulties of late with mother nature affecting some work programs in the park — I anticipate that by fall we may be able to have an opening at Calling Lake.

Until now Hilliard's Bay has been a forestry recreation site. That's in the Lesser Slave Lake constituency. As a result of presentations made to me by the MLA for the area, and after that by further consultation with the good people of the Energy and Natural Resources area, we're taking that over as a provincial park and will begin to develop it. In the immediate future we'll maintain it as a forest recreation site, with the development of a provincial park very shortly.

We're continuing to work in the Kakwa area, the park that was announced by my hon. colleague the former Minister of Lands and Forests. Basically we've completed all the lease agreement arrangements and transfers. There's some work in Lac Cardinal, which happens to be in my own constituency, and in Notikewin.

Obviously some other areas that are going to be affected by this budget, Mr. Speaker, are in the area of fish and wildlife. For the first time we have

included some significant sums of money relative to fish brood-stock stations. That's most important, because we have had some difficulties in being able to assure that we in fact have egg supply to stock the lakes in the future. With the approval of these funds in this year's budget, we'll begin to work to ensure that we in fact have the supply. [applause] I thank you very kindly for those claps. That involves two areas, though. It involves an upgrading of the Raven station and the creation of a new one in the Crowsnest Pass area.

Now coming to pheasants — and my hon. colleague the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources isn't here — the Brooks pheasant hatchery is almost ready. We hope we will have an opening at that hatchery later this summer, and that this spring we'll begin production of what we anticipate will be up to 20,000 to 25,000 birds for the first time in history in Alberta. We've been operating about 6,000 to 8,000, and this year we hope to get that up to 20,000 to 25,000.

Some other significant things that don't necessarily relate to expenditures have taken place. For some time we've been working with the guides and outfitters of the province of Alberta to achieve a zoning system for them, that eventually will be tied into the trail-riding system being developed through the departments of Energy and Natural Resources and of Business Development and Tourism. That has taken some time, and we basically have that in place.

In the area of compulsory hunter testing, we'll be seeking the approval of the Assembly for expenditure on a compulsory hunter testing program for violators who have lost their licences. We feel very strongly that that is one area where there is a need to ensure a compulsory hunter test. We looked at the total mandatory hunter tests, and we felt — I think quite rightly, Mr. Speaker — that the infringement on individual rights by another area of mandatory testing overall was just too far. We felt that not enough had happened to ensure that those people who had not taken the test in fact had had ample opportunity to take it voluntarily. As a result, we anticipate working together to develop a promotional campaign to ensure, first, that everyone in the province of Alberta has the right to take that test voluntarily, and that down the road we would hope everyone will have taken that test by voluntary means. Those who may unfortunately lose their licences as a result of a violation will have to take it mandatorily.

Mr. Speaker, getting down to the budget presentation as it relates to the constituency of Peace River, I'm really pleased to say that the 10 and 12 cent reductions on farm fuels and gasolines, are certainly well received by my constituents. That, along with the premium subsidy and the property tax reduction programs — and the significance of all of them put together, being the equivalent of a 10 per cent reduction in income tax — is most welcomed by the residents of the Peace River constituency.

I should point out at this time that last night, when the hon. Member for Drayton Valley was speaking about particular constituencies that made major contributions to the economy of the province of Alberta, he neglected to mention the Peace River constituency — the Rainbow Lake and Redearth oil fields, which over the years have provided great sums of money to the economy of this province. We also should men-

tion that we're not asking for all of that back, just our fair share in return for the requests to be equal to and a part of the economy of this great province.

Just recently the Alberta North Agreement was signed in Fort Vermilion. Mr. Speaker, that will be most significant to a number of communities in my constituency, particularly Fort Vermilion and La Crete, in that it will assist in the water and sewer projects they have asked for; in the case of Fort Vermilion, for almost 100 of the 187 years they have been a part of the province of Alberta or the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put on record some other areas where we still have difficulties. Boarding allowances for students in the areas around Rainbow Lake and going to schools in High Level: the high cost of boarding allowance is sufficiently different than in the rest of the province that I would ask the minister to give special attention to the requests from the school board for some consideration of that distance factor in high costs.

Mr. Speaker, obviously within the budget this year some work will be done on a number of roads in the area, specifically the Weberville secondary road and the Shaftesbury trail — long overdue, but I'm pleased to see they're on target and moving along.

In Transportation, Mr. Speaker, the budget also relates to a new project that covers \$1 million set aside for roads to parks. That will affect almost every constituency in the province of Alberta as it begins to lay out a five-year plan, and the basic plan of the Parks people working with the Department of Transportation to ensure they are paving or working on the roads as the need arises.

I should point out that at that tourist conference in Peace River some weeks ago, one of the questions raised was that, as that person understood it, Calling Lake was not being opened until the road was paved. That's not the case, Mr. Speaker. We attempt to open the park once we have facilities to handle the people who would come into that area. Then we work from that particular region and that particular time to develop the roads to accommodate them as well. In other words, if I can use another example in the Drumheller area, were we to pave the road to the Dinosaur Provincial Park, we would have some problems handling the crowds as a result of upgrading that particular road.

Other things are happening in the Peace River constituency that I think are significant, Mr. Speaker. Right now we have under way a two-year research project called the hoverlift ferry project. It's a new concept in river ferry transportation. A firm from Calgary working with the Department of Transportation is in fact working on this particular concept. It's a hoverlift on a cable. All things being equal, I think it should provide transportation in the nature of about 363 of 365 days. There have been some problems with it; obviously it's a research project and the first of its kind, so there will be some difficulties. I'm quite confident they'll be worked out, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to the day when the ferry is running on a five- to seven-minute schedule across the Peace River between the west and east sides, to serve the areas of Fort Vermilion-La Crete and Buffalo Head Prairie.

MR. APPLEBY: What happens on the other two days?

MR. ADAIR: The other two days will probably be days when people will have Christmas, and . . . we may find some other one. I'm giving a little leeway for the two days — shut-down to refuel.

The Shell Oil *in situ* project, directly in the Peace River town area, is going to kick off this summer. Mr. Speaker, that's going to be significant indeed, as a project relative to the processing of the deeper oils in the oil sands. We're looking forward to the working relationship with the Shell Oil corporate body, which has had a number of meetings with the people of the Peace River town as to what, it, is going to do. I commend them for their corporate responsibilities in that area.

We have not completed one area in the Peace River constituency. I was a little dismayed to see it wasn't in the budget, and I would like to mention it to the Minister of the Environment. The Hutch Lake project, or what may be a water-based recreation site halfway between Peace River and the Northwest Territories and eventually a provincial park, was set aside for this year. I hope we will continue to work toward getting that into next year's budget, Mr. Speaker.

In the northern end of my constituency, propane costs are extremely high. I have had quite a number of discussions with the Minister of Utilities and Telephones about the high cost of propane to the people of High Level, Rainbow Lake, Fort Vermilion, and as far down as the Dixonville area in my constituency. I am pleased to say that the minister is giving some serious consideration to requests for some help from the area. I don't know just what that may be, but I feel I have to make the point here, Mr. Speaker, so we have it on record.

The Mackenzie Highway has reached the stage in paving where, as a trade route, within the next two years it will see the completion of paving to the Northwest Territories border, and with that, Mr. Speaker, the completion of paving from the Montana/Alberta border to the Northwest Territories/Alberta border. That's a first and a significant increase in the capability for tourism it will provide to all points in the province of Alberta. Aside from that, of course, are the loop developments we may see from Fort Smith to Fort Chipewyan over to Fort Vermilion and High Level as well. Basically that's the next project we'll be working on in that particular area.

Another one that interests me very dearly is the bankmobile concept the Provincial Treasurer has announced and will be putting in place in the Fort Vermilion-Rainbow Lake-High Level area. I should also go on notice as saying I would like all other banking institutions to take a look at the Fort Vermilion-La Crete area. With the large opening of new sections of land for farming and the new business in the area, there's a need for a full banking facility in the Fort Vermilion-La Crete-Buffalo Head Prairie area.

Along with that, some lighting projects, that are basically on-stream, have been requested for a number of the airstrips in the region. I'm hoping some of them can be completed this year, Mr. Speaker. If they can, we'll certainly continue to work to ensure that the others are covered as well.

Library assistance is most important to the people of the Peace River constituency. The 500 per cent

increase in the budget is most welcome and will certainly touch almost every person in my constituency, be they on the many Indian reserves I have in the far north or the communities right down to the town of Peace River.

Another area I think we have had some discussion on was extended area telephone service in the 30-mile limit and, of course, the request to increase that somewhat. I support those requests to increase the limit to 50 miles if it's possible, or 40 if we can't have 50: something more than the present 30-mile limit.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at all the things that have happened in this particular budget — certainly, as I said at the outset, the envy of every provincial government — one of the final things I should mention is that we're really pleased that somewhere in the Peace River country we will be having a visit from Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip. We're really pleased she has accepted that invitation to visit northern Alberta, and we're looking forward to finalizing the arrangements for that, when they should be made.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to note the words of the senior editor of *Time* magazine when he was talking about the five criteria for successful countries. If I can use that and relate that to provinces in the Dominion of Canada, the five points were: first, a rich agricultural base; second, a rich base of energy raw materials; third, a strong base for other raw materials; fourth, a highly advanced, automated industrial and technological base; and fifth, probably most important, a well-educated, highly skilled, sophisticated, productive population. If you take those in the context of the province of Alberta, we are extremely fortunate. But we can't sit on our laurels, Mr. Speaker. We have the rich agricultural base. We have the base for energy raw materials. We have the strong base for other raw materials, the likes of iron ore and various other minerals. Fourth, we have and are working on the highly advanced, automated, industrial/technological base. We're also working on the importance of the well-educated, highly skilled, productive population in this province.

I think the 1978 budget presented by our Provincial Treasurer indicates the kind of dedication by this government to the people of Alberta to ensure for many years to come the kind of life we appreciate in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I'm very honored and privileged, of course, to have this opportunity to respond to the Budget Address, and I want at this time to congratulate the Treasurer and his staff. Also I'm very pleased to say that the input the cabinet ministers must have had, which must have taken many, many hours and days trying to put a budget on track and on time — those I know who are or have been associated with putting a budget together; it's a tough task. Also all the caucus members as well as the opposition. This budget actually reflects the times and the needs of the people, its income and expenditure.

There's no question in my mind that it has to be one of the best budgets in North America, and no question in my mind that we are probably the most fortunate people in the world in potential and opportunity. Again I think we can say that the Conservative

government under the leadership of our Premier has been good to Alberta. I'm sure that Albertans are proud indeed that we were able to have a man of that calibre. As a matter of fact Albertans basically have been blessed with good government, even the previous government.

The opportunity in Alberta for ethnic people: I believe there isn't another country in the world — people came from every corner of the world. About 92 languages are spoken in Canada. This government in fact encourages this type of heritage, traditions. I don't know of another country that does.

I don't believe in the type of separatism we're talking about today or that there is such a great difference between Quebec and the west, because the people of Canada are made of the people from every corner of this world, as I have mentioned before. But in fact that we are capable of developing, that we have inherited or brought to this country these skills, the know-how, the techniques, has made this country so great. And I don't think that you have to be . . . I'm just trying to get my thoughts together here, and it's not really coming. Maybe I should get off that point and get down to the things I really want to say.

We can be very, very proud indeed that this province has no sales tax, no fuel tax. As a province we are possibly the least taxed people in Canada, perhaps even in North America. This budget has really in fact responded to the needs of the people — the handicapped people, the senior citizens, and certainly the young people, in a budget which provided over \$1 billion. No other province in Canada has that opportunity.

I also want to say that the capital budget, which was increased over 25 per cent, certainly is a shot in the arm to provide jobs and opportunities in these times of restraint in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to have this opportunity to express some of my thoughts here today, and we can conclude perhaps in saying that this government has provided strong management. Being very efficient, we certainly haven't been accused of spending money like drunken sailors, although we have an abundance of it. [interjections] No, we haven't. We've been very careful. Certainly no one can accuse us of such, because of good strong management.

Mr. Speaker, one thing bothers me slightly in the line of education: every province seems to be doing its own thing and experimenting. We do not have a minister of education on the federal level to give some clear guidelines for transferring from one university to another. I don't know of another country that doesn't provide that sort of leadership, directing our future in education.

Mr. Speaker, I am very glad I had this opportunity to say a few words responding to the Budget Address, because I believe we have an abundance of natural resources as well as human resources. We can feel very proud not only to be Albertans but Canadians, to be able to have the opportunity we have in this country.

MR. JAMISON: Mr. Speaker, before getting into the budget debate today, I would like to congratulate you, sir, on the excellent sound system which now makes the task of speakers in this Assembly so much easier

than it was in 1972. Every word said can now be heard clearly and . . .

MR. R. SPEAKER: You'd better remember that.

MR. JAMISON: Mr. Speaker, that is why I knew I had to believe what I was hearing when the hon. members of the opposition stood to debate this year's budget. Still I could hardly believe what I was hearing. The only word to describe their combined contribution is "irresponsible".

Mr. Speaker, the opposition would have Alberta follow the road to ruin: spend, spend, spend. Fritter away our resource revenues. Take care of everybody from the cradle to the grave. Even the most socialistic of governments in the developed western world have pulled back from that approach. Britain was on the brink of disaster until it pulled back. Look at Sweden or indeed Russia. Even Kosygin told the labor congress a few short months ago: if you want to live better, you'll have to work better.

Mr. Speaker, one can understand the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview expressing such views, with his main source of advice coming from the most socialistic academics in Alberta. But for the hon. Social Credit members to fall flat on their faces in the same trap is something else.

I could give the opposition members some ammunition for this budget debate in an area which I believe needs more support from government for people unable to help themselves. But why should I? Our government supplies the members of the opposition with funds. I believe the total fund for research is in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars, [interjections] What are they doing with this research money? Rather, I will take my concern to the minister involved as part of a Conservative team.

Mr. Speaker, the Budget Address given by the Hon. Merv Leitch brought home with great clarity the fact that Alberta holds a most favorable position in this country of ours. Of course our healthy economy can be attributed to our fortunate position with respect to our energy resources. But it must be remembered that all of Canada is fortunate in its abundance of natural resources: rich agricultural plains, forest and mineral resources, water and water power, fisheries, excellent harbors. That is why so many could say with confidence that the twentieth century belongs to Canada.

But what has happened, Mr. Speaker? Sadly, our fellow Canadians in the maritimes, the province of Quebec, Ontario, and B.C. are unemployed. In statistics given out recently, Canada has reached the highest unemployment in its history, with over a million Canadians unemployed and with little prospect of the situation improving in the near future. Bounded on three long coastlines by oceans, Canada does not have a great shipbuilding industry, does not employ modern technology in gathering and processing fish, cannot get carloads of grain to waiting ships for committed overseas sales. Canada has not gone after her northland resources and their enormous potential.

Not only that, Mr. Speaker. Canada is further and severely crippled in trying to compete in the modern world. I quote from the Budget Address of the Hon. Merv Leitch:

Canada has moved beyond wage parity with the

United States after accounting for exchange rate movements, yet our productivity is less than 80 per cent of the productivity of our major trading partner.

So much for the directions in which the NDP, with their labor support, and the socialistic federal Liberals have led us, Mr. Speaker. I would submit to this Assembly that the difference between the approaches of the federal government and the Alberta government is simply this: in Alberta we have sound management of our resources and finances.

Six years ago, Mr. Speaker, this Progressive Conservative government unfolded new directions for a province. In only six short years this government has turned Alberta completely around and made it the envy of all Canada. Alberta now exports approximately 83 per cent of its oil and natural gas to eastern Canada and the United States. Twenty per cent of that, to the United States, is at world market prices. At the same time our explorers in the oil and gas business are finding and opening up new fields and increasing production from older ones. While we have a thin population in this country and concentrated markets are not close, nevertheless this government is confidently working to establish in Alberta a petrochemical industry which will provide real jobs for our young people, not uncertain make-work jobs.

On this subject, there can be no doubt that our country has been educating its young people in some wrong directions. We face a very serious shortage of skilled technicians and tradesmen, yet we have a surplus of people in the professions. To a businessman like me, it seems sometimes that we are also educating a population of administrators. It seems clear that our efforts to train and educate needed technicians must continue.

Our universities and colleges will have to respond with a change in emphasis and with developing a change in attitude of our young men and women as to the value and rewards to be gained by following careers geared to the economic needs of this province. It has become clear in less advantaged provinces that a diploma is in fact no guarantee of a job. While there is no doubt that effort and large budgets must support continuing and stepped-up technological research, there is also no doubt that we cannot put teaching in university classrooms at the bottom of the priority of professors.

If anyone has any doubts that this is happening, let him or her talk to students attending our universities. They will speak very frankly of courses where they are short-changed by professors who consider teaching a necessary chore that interferes with their own studies or research. Every year, candidates for office in the students' union at the university campaign to have tenure abolished. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that if we're going to accomplish our goals in technological training of young people, this government may have to face that issue head on.

This government has also placed high priorities on transportation: roads, airports — a necessary investment of government in Alberta's future economic and industrial development. I've heard a phrase in connection with road programs in the northern part of our province: roads to nowhere. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm one who does not agree. Since I became part of this government in 1971, I have continually advocated roads before development. Who in Alberta could

be so shortsighted as to call the northern part of our province "nowhere"? Roads cost enormously less money, especially during prolonged inflation, if they wait for development to come first.

Mr. Speaker, it would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the proposed west by-pass of the city of St. Albert. A couple of days ago, the Leader of the Opposition tried his best to discredit the Member for St. Albert, [interjections] So, I would like to set the matter straight. As I mentioned in the earlier part of my speech, in six short years this Progressive Conservative government has turned Alberta completely around. No longer do we see towns and villages with boarded-up businesses and homes. In three short years, 1975, 1976, and 1977, immigration to the province has been approximately 200,000 new Albertans, and about 40 per cent live in Edmonton and the greater Edmonton area.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sherwood Park.

MR. JAMISON: And Sherwood Park and St. Albert.

With the economy and the good things going on in the province of Alberta, there is an organization known as the Edmonton Regional Planning Commission. Three short years ago they were asked by the municipalities they work with to come up with a projected growth study to the year 2000. Now, very simple mathematics for the hon. Leader of the Opposition: using the conservative figure of, say, 50,000 people per year for 20 years, would be a million new residents in our province. As I mentioned, 40 per cent would be in the greater Edmonton area, which would mean an additional 400,000 people in the area represented by the Edmonton Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Speaker, St. Albert has invested many millions of dollars in putting in a major sewer line from St. Albert to the North Saskatchewan River. With some upgrading, this sewer line is capable of accommodating over 200,000 people. With the new water treatment plant, treated water from the city of Edmonton is capable of accommodating 2 million people. St. Albert has access to this water. There is no doubt that this province is going to grow, Edmonton is going to grow, St. Albert is going to grow. As I said earlier, what we require is not the mess we were left in by the former government drawing lines on maps: ring roads around the city of Edmonton, radial roads, by-passes. But all the time these were just lines. I'm sure the people of St. Albert, and I, consider that a west by-pass at this present time, before development, is very logical, even though the Leader of the Opposition just doesn't understand common-sense logic.

I mentioned that the Canadian government — mainly Liberal in this country for the past 50 years — has largely ignored the north and its great potential. In Russia, for example, they are now building a second northern railroad running in a west-east direction; 1,965 miles of railway across the northern tundra at a cost of billions. Russia has not ignored its northern regions. And of course they can order workers where they wish to send them. Canada, with a smaller population, faces more of a problem. But in my opinion our federal government has failed the north miserably. I am glad we are building roads and airports and will continue this wise investment in

Alberta, not only in the developable south but in the as yet little-developed north.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say I am sick and tired of those who continually harp about foreign investment and large corporations, which have taken risks and invested risk capital because they believe in the potential of Canada and Alberta. Where would we be without their investment and expertise? We would be running the tar sands, for example, like the federal government runs the post office.

[Dr. McCrimmon in the Chair]

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I am a small-businessman, and well aware of their needs. Alberta must never overregulate small business. The same regulations needed to control big corporations can stifle little corporations. We must never forget that. It has been my experience in this government that our ministers are in full agreement with this thinking and fully flexible in their support of small business. Alberta will build and is building its own entrepreneurs. It cannot be done by giving the boot to big business. It will be done by co-operation between big and small. Both kinds of business know this.

Mr. Speaker, in my contribution to the budget debate I have emphasized the matter of transportation. In a country as vast as Canada, and at the same time so thinly populated, transportation is a vital key to healthy development and realizing our potential. I would just like to add that this budget has also shown the Conservative government's real concern for people, particularly those who most need our help: senior citizens, handicapped people, single-parent families. I am proud to serve in a government combining sound management with a strong concern for the needs of people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to participate in the budget debate and would like to congratulate the Provincial Treasurer. I do not intend to highlight all the things in the budget which are so advantageous for the people of Alberta; we all have it here in this little blue pamphlet, and so many very eloquent speakers have preceded me and outlined what it does for the people of Alberta. Fortunately in my constituency, which borders on Saskatchewan, the people on the Alberta side recognize these advantages, compared with what the Saskatchewan residents have going for them.

I would like to reiterate what the hon. Member for Edmonton Ottewell said last night: that in Alberta the average family of four, earning \$17,000 a year, pays a tax of \$912. I think it's significant to recognize that in Ontario that same family earning the same income pays \$1,808, and in Quebec it's \$2,130. This to me is extremely significant and tells the whole picture.

Besides that, Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the job the Provincial Treasurer had in trying to keep down a heated economy. He did a fabulous job, and I'm extremely pleased to see we are able to add another \$1 billion to the heritage trust fund this year. This to me is performance.

I've lived all my life here in Alberta, and I've seen some good times and some bad times. I can remember when I was a small boy; we had the depression in Alberta, and things were tough. Wheat was two bits

a bushel, cattle were a cent and a half a pound, people were riding the rods, and no jobs were available. But they always had one thing: they were always looking to the future. They were optimistic that times were going to get better. That still prevails today. Even though we've got it great, people are looking to the future.

I had an old uncle, 80 years old. I was talking to him last fall, and I said, "Well, I suppose you're looking forward to going into the old age home, the senior citizens' lodge." He said, "Not me, I got a lot of living to do before I go in with those old fageys." And then the other day the kids were out playing ball. They'd had a pick-up team. My little 8-year-old neighbor was playing out in the field, and I went up and said, "How are things going anyway?" "Oh," he says, "We're behind a little." I said, "Well, what's the score?" He said, "It's 32 for them, and we've got nothing." I said, "That doesn't sound too good." He said, "We haven't been up to bat yet."

Now that's optimism, and you feel it. You feel it when you go through the country. I think it is important that we have people who are optimistic, who know they can do the job and they will do the job.

Mr. Speaker, I've always felt the purpose of any government is to provide an economic climate for business development and the resulting job opportunities which are created. This to me is extremely important, and I feel that we in Alberta have been successful. We've been so successful that last year alone we saw 38,000 more jobs created. And people from other parts of the country recognize this. We have 5,000 people per month moving into Alberta. These people recognize that if there isn't a job in another part of the country, there's a possibility their trade can be made use of and can help Alberta, the Alberta people, the Canadian government, and the Canadian people to better establish themselves in the world and in the world market.

Along with these programs we have a lot of social programs, and I'm proud of some of the things that have been done for the people, particularly those less fortunate than ourselves. I can look at the sheltered workshops we've built in this province. We have a sheltered workshop in Lloydminster, which in my opinion is one of the most successful ventures I've ever run across. We have taken handicapped people and have made them into useful citizens, many of whom now are able to get out, work on their own, and become part of the community. This to me is extremely important. As well, Mr. Speaker, we have numerous senior citizens' benefits. We can list them: the programs for housing, lodges — numerous benefits. And this is all part of our government policy to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

I would also like to say a few words in regard to the agricultural industry. I think there is something we should always keep in mind. We must always be aware of the capital needs to buy machinery and land, that in the business of agriculture the rates of the gross and net income are at least twice as high in regard to our capital input as those in any small business pursuit. The farmers of Alberta are extremely efficient, and there's no question but that the agricultural industry in western Canada is the most efficient in the world.

One of the problems — and I think we should recognize it — is that we have an extremely short

growing season. The second thing, Mr. Speaker, is that the most important thing in farming is the day you seed your crop. But you never know until the fall which was the right day, because you've got to have your crop, and the rain comes at the right time to make that a bumper crop. But you don't know — it could be the first of May, the 15th of May, the 24th of May. So you've got to hit it hard. You plant the crop, kind of average it out, and just hope that's the right day and the crop will be successful. But this takes a lot of capital. You've got to have the machinery.

Last fall, for example, we had a hard and tough harvest. It was extremely difficult. We had rain from September 1 until October 12. Nobody could harvest his crop. As a result, I would say that in the two-week period from October 12 to 26 more crop was harvested than had ever been before. The way the farmers were able to do this was by having their machines in position, and having more equipment than they would need if they had a month, six weeks, or two months to take off the crop, as happens in other parts of the world. So the farmers are coping with the problem.

But what they need, Mr. Speaker, is long-term credit, and we've done this through the Ag. Development Corporation. But we have to keep this in mind: it is necessary for the farmers of Alberta to be as competitive, as efficient as they are today.

Now I have a couple of agricultural concerns. I would like to comment on them if I may. The first is the pest-control program. In the last 20 years we've been successful in keeping Alberta rat free. The program has been a tremendous success. We've proven that it's possible. But, Mr. Speaker, in my mind we haven't gone far enough. We've had the line at the Saskatchewan/Alberta border, and the rats keep coming across. The thing to do, in my opinion, is establish a program, and move that line east. Take a range at a time. Take six miles. Move in six miles. Put the money we're presently spending along with money from Saskatchewan, move the line six miles this year, the next year six more miles. First thing you know the line will be on the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border, and that's what I call performance.

AN HON. MEMBER: That's the stuff.

AN HON. MEMBER: How long will it take to get to Quebec?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I have one other program that I would like to see instituted — everything comes in twos — and that is, we presently have a warble-control program. It's working to a degree, but I think we have to expand that. I had occasion to sit in at a meeting with the hon. Mr. Fluker, the Member for St. Paul, and the auction market operators — a great bunch of fellows — who are interested in the livestock industry. There are approximately 4 million cattle in the province of Alberta. If we as a government were prepared to put \$1 a head into the program, and possibly get the market operators involved — it's their concern as well as the farmers' — and do a total eradication program for five years, we would have that problem licked. Mr. Speaker, when they sit down to draw up the budget for next year, I would ask that this be given every consideration.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion there is one other thing I would like to say. I think we should pay tribute to the many volunteer workers we have in Alberta. Being from a small community I know a lot of these people personally. I know the jobs they are doing. I see them take their cars and gather a bunch of young people to go to hockey games. I see them organizing music festivals. I see them putting on county fairs. These people are an essential part of our social life, particularly in rural Alberta.

But I am disturbed, Mr. Speaker, by some of the bureaucratic red tape which is necessary before they get their grants. It was brought to my attention the other day by a member of the fair group that if they give a prize of \$1 or 50 cents to the child who writes the best, enters it in the fair, they have to have a cancelled cheque in order to get their grant. Now to me, this isn't right. I would ask that we give a little more flexibility . . .

MR. R. SPEAKER: Tell Adair that.

MR. MILLER: . . . to these people who are devoting their time and efforts to making Alberta a better place to live in.

Thank you.

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, in the remarks I wish to make today I do not intend to cover the budget in its entirety or to hit all the main points, as many have been covered by previous speakers. I do intend to touch upon some of the things that I consider to be very vital and important. I will break them into two general categories: first, the economic considerations; and secondly, social programs.

The Provincial Treasurer stated in his Budget Address that to a large extent Alberta has been able to avoid the economic problems facing the rest of the nation. Investment in Alberta represents about 17 per cent of the total Canadian investment, keeping in mind that our population is in the order of 8 per cent. The fact that some 37,000 new jobs were created in this province last year is a feature that, in my opinion, cannot be repeated often enough.

Another very significant factor is that for the first time in many, many years, centres outside Edmonton and Calgary have grown faster than those two cities. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is a result of a combination of things: part of it, the location of certain resources which are being developed in various parts of the province, and the desire by people at the local level to maintain their communities, to see that their areas are maintained in a viable way. But we can't forget that part of the reason is the basic policy of this government: a policy established in 1971, which has been carried through to the present time and will continue to be the policy of this government; a policy that's committed to development of the province in total, not two large metropolitan areas with a corridor in between, but the total province, from Fort Chipewyan in the north to communities like Coutts in the south.

I have one major concern, Mr. Speaker. It's a concern I expressed a year ago and I'm sure I will be expressing it a year from now. That concern is in regard to our ever-increasing dependency upon non-renewable natural resources.

In the small budget highlights sheet which the

Treasurer distributed on the evening of March 17, you will note a pie. In that pie there is a breakdown of where sources of revenue are derived for the province. At the present time, 53.6 per cent of our total government income comes from those non-renewable resources. A year ago, I stood in my place in this Assembly and indicated that the figure was 47.9 per cent. In 1976 it was 45.4 per cent. And going back to 1971, some seven years ago, it was a low 24.9 per cent. In other words, Mr. Speaker, our reliance, our dependence on that resource has doubled in seven years.

That is the major reason we must plan for the future. As a government we must not only make the kind of initiatives we are on an ongoing basis, but make the kind of plans we are through the heritage savings trust fund, so our children and our children's children will have an opportunity to enjoy the same benefits, the same services that we do today, keeping in mind that those resources will not be in nearly as plentiful supply at that time as they are now.

It's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is not in his place. During his remarks to the Budget Address he had certain comments relative to native affairs and to the Native Secretariat. It was not my intention today to deal with those in any detail. However, I intend to do so during my estimates, and I hope he's in his place at that time so I can answer some of his charges.

In the area of social concerns, social programs, which I would like to call "people programs", a number of very exciting things were developed in this budget. Under education — an area close to many of us, it's close to me in part because of my past association as a teacher in this province — I'm extremely pleased with the initiatives of the Minister of Education, the increased assistance for handicapped and learning-disabled pupils, and the announcement by the minister of 120 new special education teaching positions. And in the ministerial statement I hope all members of the Assembly caught the sentence which in essence stated that in terms of ratio, one teacher out of every 15 in the province is now engaged in full-time special education instruction. On the same subject, Mr. Speaker, the support this government gives to resource room and related teachers for the mildly handicapped and learning-disabled numbers 979.

Home care, a program developed over the past year or so with great effort by the Minister of Social Services and Community Health, is one I'm particularly proud of. I'm proud of it because it's a program which operates on the premise that we should be helping people to stay in their own homes.

The Barons-Eureka Health Unit, which operates in the northern two-thirds of my constituency, Taber-Warner, and overlaps into the constituencies of the hon. members from Macleod and Little Bow, has had a home care program in operation for some time. A modest program, admittedly, but a program. A program that was initiated at the local level, and developed. During the many discussions we've had on home care, I was pleased that some of the contribution I could make was based on the direct input I had had from people involved in the program in the constituency, both recipients of the program and those people administering it.

Granted, Mr. Speaker, the program is starting off in

a modest way. There's \$3 million budgeted this year for it, and it's expected that that will rise to \$14 million by 1981-82. I was particularly disturbed when the hon. Leader of the Opposition suggested we should do it all this year. Let's go ahead with the program. Why wait? It's only \$14 million. It's needed. Let's do it. Mr. Speaker, for anyone to suggest or think a province-wide program can be put into place and fully implemented immediately, with a snap of a finger, is naive in my opinion. There are certain bugs which will inevitably come out in the program, and they'll be worked out during the initial stages. They'll be worked out by the department, by the local health units, and the joint planning committees which will be established to operate the program, and there will be input from us as MLAs, both government and opposition members, so that in time we can ensure that the program that is spread across this province is fully implemented, is meeting the needs of the people, and is as free as possible of the kind of mistakes that can be made by rushing ahead and putting together a total program.

Another important thrust by the Minister of Social Services and Community Health is day care. It's based on the principle that any provincial funding to assist should follow the child rather than be directed to a centre. That's a change, Mr. Speaker, from our past funding of PSS-operated centres. It's a change that's exciting and dynamic, and I think it's going to work. Again I base that assumption on conversations I've had in my constituency with parents who now have children in day care operations as well as parents who have not had an opportunity to get their children in.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most remarkable features of this program is the desire to assist the single-parent family. And one of the disturbing things in the estimates was that approximately 41 per cent of social assistance is now going to single-parent families. That's of concern to all of us. If we can help parents of single-parent families go back into the work force by having a place for their children in the day care operations, in my opinion we're serving a great need. The single-parent family members I've spoken with don't want to be on welfare, don't want to receive assistance. They want to be productive members of society. They want to be earning their own way. This program is in part intended to assist them with that.

Yesterday in this Assembly the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works announced under the home adaptation program a grant of up to \$1,000 for home-owners who are wheel chair users or have someone in their home who is a wheel chair user. It's estimated that between 2,000 and 3,000 wheel chair users in this province will be eligible for the program in 1978.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is a people program. I have some wheel chair recipients in my constituency. I've talked to them, and they're proud and independent people who want to make a contribution, as all other members of society do. This grant will assist them in making some necessary adjustments to their homes.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say that Alberta is not an island. I didn't coin that phrase: it's been used before by other members of this Assembly, but I think it warrants repeating. I think we have to take a good, hard look at Alberta and our nation, and

try to examine what stage we're at in our development, and why. If all members of the Assembly want some hard, cold, and chilling statistics, I refer them to the C.D. Howe Research Institute paper of 1976, called Policy Review and Outlook. In that policy review some of the reasons for the current state of the Canadian economy today are given.

When we look at some of the figures presented which indicate that in the early '60s wages were rising in Canada at a faster rate than they were in the United States, there is some justification for that. There was justification because there was a build-up of our manufacturing industry and our productivity was high. However, from 1969 until 1974 the wage gap narrowed rapidly between the two nations, and the productivity did not maintain pace. In fact productivity has fallen off. Therefore the kind of pressure the Canadian dollar is under at the present time is understandable and was predicted by this Policy Review and Outlook in 1976.

There is one more factor, Mr. Speaker. If you, I, or any members of this Assembly spend more money than we earn and continue to do that yearly, sooner or later it will catch up with us and we'll be forced into bankruptcy. The federal government of this nation has been on a spending spree for the last number of years. Currently we are spending nationally in the order of \$8 billion more than we're earning. That record can't go on. If it does, surely we're all faced with a catastrophe. You can't do it; neither can I. Alberta is doing its part and will continue to support policies which will get this nation back on its feet, get us out of our sluggish economic state, and provide that kind of leadership, together with other partners in this Confederation.

With new thrusts in support of the private sector, our national economy can and will rebound. But it's going to take some co-operation from other parts of the nation, our provincial partners as well as our federal partner.

Specifically on this budget, Mr. Speaker: it reflects our government's commitment to the social and economic well-being of Alberta. This is a budget which will keep Alberta the leader in Canada in terms of services to people, a budget for today with sound planning for the future.

Thank you.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Speaker, today again it is my privilege to participate in a debate in this Legislature. I take particular pleasure and pride in the opportunity because of the nature of the budget that has been put before us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to concentrate perhaps more on speaking to the citizens of the Edmonton Norwood constituency and to bring to them in more concise terms some of the real benefits we are attempting to provide for the citizens of this province. I feel the greatest percentage of citizens in the Edmonton Norwood constituency will benefit, bearing in mind that it has a significantly high ratio of senior citizens, single-parent families, low-income families, and many children who are handicapped in many respects, physically, mentally, as well as to some extent culturally.

I would like to direct my remarks to the programs of greatest significance, as I've indicated. Perhaps some of these will be repeat programs that were mentioned

by my hon. colleague who spoke just prior to my taking the floor.

I'd like to begin with respect to the announcement of the Alberta health care premium program: the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care announced the increase in the reduction of premiums and the consideration for non-payment of premiums to many of the lower income citizens in the province. It seems to me we can look at the ministerial statements from time to time. They are very briefly reported and are so often missed. Our citizens seem to be unaware of these benefits now being made available to them. It would appear that repetition, although maybe difficult for the ears that hear it time and again in this Assembly or those in constant touch with the happenings in the Legislature — generally the citizens in the province are not consistently or constantly made aware of what is being made available to them for a better standard of living and quality of enjoyment.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement of the removal of the requirement for payment of premiums for citizens who are on a taxable income of up to \$2,000 is certainly going to be a real boon to those who fall in this category. The saving to them of \$169.20 is, by today's standards, an extensive amount of money in one year and quite a help.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

Then for families who have incomes of up to \$3,000 having a saving of . . . I think in my earlier comment, those families and single individuals who have incomes of up to \$2,000 would have a saving of \$84.60 a year. Families having a taxable income of \$3,000 would have a saving of \$169. This takes into consideration those with incomes of \$5,700 to \$11,000 respectively where the family has four children. There's no question that this is a significant amount when we take into consideration all the other programs we have been putting forward to assist people in the lower income levels to manage with today's cost of living.

In addition to that program, I would like to reiterate that not only those who are in the \$2,000 and \$3,000 taxable income levels but, as well, those who are above that will benefit by some reduction of the amount of premium they are required to pay. To reiterate the figures from the ministerial announcement: those single individuals who have a taxable income of between \$2,000 and \$3,000 also benefit by having a reduced premium. The maximum saving in this category would be \$41.40. Of course those families with taxable incomes between \$3,000 and \$4,000 save \$82.80 in the payment of premiums. I think this is significant, because I know that a good number of citizens in my constituency have come to me with their problems regarding the payment of premiums.

The other significant program I would like to put forward again for the benefit of Edmonton Norwood citizens, to make them aware, was covered in the ministerial announcement by the Minister of Education: the proposed amount of \$800,000 being considered to be made available in the area of the severely and mildly handicapped and those suffering learning disabilities.

I know that in the 11 schools in my constituency, each and every one of them has special education

classes where there are both severely handicapped children and those with learning disabilities and other mild handicaps. I know the staff in these schools and the parents of these children will welcome the assistance made available to them, particularly with regard to the additional teaching positions, because time and time again, when I have visited the schools, I have had representations made that they are just not able to have sufficient staff to cope with the number of children they have within the special education classes.

The 24 new teaching positions for the severely handicapped has to be significant, particularly when we bear in mind that currently the pupil/teacher ratio with respect to the blind on a province-wide basis is three pupils to one teacher, and for the trainable mentally retarded it's nine to 12 pupils per teacher. This is certainly far too high a ratio for this type of child. Any decrease whatsoever in that regard must be significant both for the parents and for the children.

The additional support for resource room and related teachers for the mildly handicapped children who are suffering from learning disabilities is welcomed as well. I think the 96 additional positions proposed to be provided for the 1978-79 school term is one that the principals and the staff, particularly in the schools of Norwood, will take cognizance of and, I am sure, will make the kind of applications and representations to the school boards to benefit from this additional staffing. The amount of funds being provided or proposed to be provided for this particular category of program is significant. This would put the standard or the provision of provincial teaching force up to 7 per cent of the total force, which is, I think, closer to meeting the need that must be recognized.

The second thrust of the minister's announcement was with respect to the proposed allocation of some \$108,000 for the development of provincial curriculum for the educable mentally handicapped; that is, in the area of providing them with living and vocational skills in the training in this area, as well as in money management, travel, and to be able to cope, to understand themselves and those around them, and to give them some academic training as well.

The third thrust of the program: to improve the quality and quantity of learning reference and resource materials for the visually impaired students. On many occasions I have had this particular area brought to my attention — the lack of materials and teaching personnel specially trained to cope with that problem.

The fourth thrust of the minister's announcement, in addition to the support we are now providing in educating blind children in the province, was to provide grants to school boards to enable them to employ the persons they require to provide mobility training for blind children in the schools. The total thrust of that program is \$800,000, and although it may not appear as large a sum as one might expect, taking into consideration the overall revenues in the province, I think we have to bear in mind, on any new programs or expansion of programs that are contemplated or are being planned, that we can only progress in stages and proceed at the rate at which a facility is able to be provided, a rate at which people can be trained to fill the positions that are then created under such circumstances.

At this time I'll not expand upon the day care program announced by the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health, as I had covered that in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. But I would simply like to say that although there have been criticisms, since the announcement of the program, with respect to the standards being required, it seems to me that nothing of value can be gained if there are not some reasonable and adequate standards to be met. I think we all individually set standards for ourselves. A program is no different. Without having examined the standards that are being required and without having tried them, I think it is perhaps not completely responsible to criticize before some real thought and examination has been put into the program as announced. I believe the minister is prepared, and has been prepared, to take into consideration any valid and proper suggestions for improvements, once the program has been implemented and there has been some experience as to its weaknesses and strong points, and some experience to enable one to have some clear direction. If changes are to be made, to be sure those changes are going to be beneficial and will, in fact, improve the program.

The home adaptation program is really an important one at this stage. I know many of the senior citizens in Edmonton Norwood have taken advantage of both the first and second phases of the senior citizen home improvement program and are continuing to take advantage of it. At regular intervals I have inquiries as to whether the program is still available and where the applications may be obtained, and I'm always pleased to assist them in making their applications.

The phase three program just announced by the Minister of Housing and Public Works is specifically directed to assist handicapped families who must have the aid of a wheel chair. I think it is an important one, because certainly our homes have not been constructed for the possible requirement of being able to have mobility within the home by those who must use some aids. To simply not allow for assistance in making the necessary changes but to embark on a program of new construction only doesn't really make that much sense. Surely many families are well established within their communities and want to stay there. If their homes are not designed in a manner which makes it possible for them to be easily mobile, it is certainly essential for us to recognize that this need exists. We are attempting to recognize any and every level of need that a citizen in this province experiences and that he cannot resolve out of his own resources.

The increase in support in the Alberta property tax reduction program is perhaps going to assist the greatest number of citizens across the province. Apart from whether senior citizens are on a limited income or otherwise, I think the program here recognizes that they have contributed immensely to the development of this country and to the quality of life we now enjoy. So we should provide recognition not simply for those who are on fixed incomes, but for others as well. Surely all of them have made their contribution and have made their mark on the success and greatness of this province.

I think the three facets of the property tax reduction program — where the increases are being provided —

are important. I'd like to reiterate those to be sure the message has been clear as to who is able to benefit and to what extent. Of course at this time this program is directed primarily to senior citizens on fixed incomes, recognizing the tremendous increases in utility costs and assessments, higher mill rates, and other basic living costs, even though the homeowners may not have contributed to this increase by anything they have done. I think this program will be welcomed tremendously by the senior citizens. The fact that we are increasing the minimum education tax refund from \$200 to \$400 for senior citizens who own their own homes, a doubling since the program first came into effect in 1973, is significant.

That an individual should not be penalized simply because one is not a home-owner but a renter is being recognized as well by the renter assistance grant program for all those senior citizens living in rental accommodation. I am pleased that the increase here is from \$150 to \$250 per year. The rates of increase in rentals have created many hardships on senior citizens with fixed incomes.

The third facet is the minimum home-owner tax refund being increased from \$100 to \$200. The residences receiving these benefits are smaller homes, where the property tax reduction paid by the province was less than the \$200. They are now eligible to receive up to \$200 irrespective of what amount has been provided previously.

These are the main programs in the budget that have been made available and that I think have perhaps far more significance to constituents in the Norwood area than many of the other budgetary aspects of the address.

I would like to comment on one other area; that is, the 10 cent provincial tax removal from gasoline. I've had comments, remarks, and criticisms made that, well, this is fine and dandy for those who drive cars, but what about those of us who have to use buses and don't have our own independent transportation. I think we need to recognize that the removal of this 10 cent provincial tax applies to all modes of transportation with the two exceptions identified. Those two exceptions are certainly not in the area that the average citizen uses. So if one has to use the bus transportation system for mobility, the same discount applies to the companies that fuel up to convey their passengers, and the decrease in the cost is applied to them as well as anyone else.

We have in this province a source of revenue that is the envy of all provinces. As the government provides more programs for its citizens, there is constant demand for still increased expenditures. If the students are paying only 10 per cent of their real cost of education at universities, they feel they shouldn't be paying any. Although the universities in their operating budgets are now receiving perhaps the highest support of any province in Canada, they feel that is not sufficient. In all levels, whether it is education, hospitals, or any services that are being provided, there is constant pressure on the government to provide additional funding. I think we have to remember that, as in our own budgets in our own private lives, we don't simply go out and spend all our money as it comes in, unless the amount is so small that it takes all of that to be able to manage on a day to day living.

But if our incomes are at a level where we can

manage to put aside for a rainy day, that is no different for any government to perform. If we establish a standard of living in this province beyond anything anywhere in the world, and then in the near future, as is possible, those revenues start decreasing, surely it will be a major problem not only for governments but for all citizens to pull back and manage at a lower standard of living than they are accustomed to. That has to be recognized.

As well, we have complaints from our citizens that we are providing assistance through our various social and other programs to other Canadians, or citizens from anywhere else, who come to this province, are not able to find jobs immediately, and are going on our social assistance rolls. These people are being criticized. We're being criticized for giving them assistance. Some Albertans are critical that jobs are being taken away from them. But if we continue to build into our system such programs of high standards, surely we must recognize that these are going to draw citizens from where they don't have land of plenty, where they don't have all the benefits Albertans enjoy.

Surely if we're Canadians as well as Albertans, we can't say that Canadians who live in other provinces are not entitled to the same quality or standard of living. Surely we can't say we must keep them outside our borders. The more we contribute here to our own pockets, the more we will attract Canadians who are willing to work, perhaps for less than Albertans are willing to work in our affluence, and will take our jobs. They will come and train themselves, and will say, yes, I will work; I'm not going to go on a strike line; I'm not going to demand doubling of wage; I'm not going to demand 15 per cent; I'm prepared to work for 6 and 7 per cent because I know what it is to be hungry, I know what it is not to have any income. I think Albertans must be cognizant of this.

The other point I would like to make is that: in Alberta for a period of time we have wealth, but perhaps only for a period of time. Other Canadians will criticize us for saying we do not contribute to them, that we are hoarding everything ourselves. I think it's significant to recognize that through the equalization payments to other provinces we contribute significantly. If my information is accurate, for the '77-78 fiscal year it is estimated the federal government will be providing payments of \$2.7 billion in equalization to other provinces. Alberta, of course, is not one of those provinces receiving equalization payments, nor is British Columbia or Ontario. Through its contribution in revenues from taxpayers, Alberta contributes approximately 9 to 10 per cent into the federal Treasury to provide for those equalization payments to other provinces. If we break this 9 to 10 per cent down, probably \$250 million is paid annually by Albertans to the federal government for equalization to the other seven provinces. I think our wealth here should be recognized, that we are providing assistance in contributing for other Canadians to be able to manage better.

Mr. Speaker, I think my time is about up. These are a few points I wished to raise at this time. I'm pleased to have had this opportunity, and I thank you for listening.

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

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[At 12:44 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 5, the House adjourned to Monday at 2:30 p.m.]

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

