

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTAhead: **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**Title: **Wednesday, April 12, 1978 2:30 p.m.****Department of Consumer
and Corporate Affairs**

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

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS****Bill Pr. 1
An Act to Amend
The Alberta Wheat Pool Act, 1970**

MR. DOAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill Pr. 1, An Act to Amend The Alberta Wheat Pool Act, 1970.

[Leave granted; Bill Pr. 1 read a first time]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answer to Motion for a Return No. 124.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you, and to the members of the Assembly, 27 grade 7 students who have come from Lloydminster to visit us. They are accompanied by their teacher Mr. Messmer, and are seated in the members gallery. I would ask them to stand and be recognized by the Assembly.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to the members of the Assembly, a group of 25 students from the Crossfield school in the constituency of Olds-Didsbury. They are in the members gallery. They are accompanied by their teacher Mr. Marvin Pickering. I would ask that they rise and receive the recognition of the members of the Assembly.

MR. LITTLE: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce to you, and through you to the members of the Legislature, 37 grades 7 and 8 students from the Dr. Gladys McKelvie Egbert School in the Calgary McCall constituency. They are accompanied by their principal Mr. Marv Duttall and by teachers Bruce Hart and Miss Hauser.

Mr. Speaker, this particular visit to the Legislature is sponsored by the Rotary Club of south Calgary. They are also accompanied by Rotarians Gordon and Roberta Wood. The driver is Bill McGarvey. They are seated in the public gallery, and I would ask that they stand and receive the welcome of the Legislature.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make an announcement about the government's decision to strengthen the operating capacity of the Alberta Securities Commission.

The government recognizes the growing importance of and the need for the commission in the economic fabric of Alberta. In order that it may execute its duties more fully, the government seeks approval from the Legislature for a considerable increase in the budget of the Alberta Securities Commission. I believe the need for such an increase will be apparent to all Albertans, in light of the recent dramatic increase in business and financial activity in this province. However, because of our own strong commitment to a policy of restraint in government spending, and of particular restraint in increasing the size of the public service, members of this House and the public should know why the Alberta Securities Commission is receiving this budget consideration.

In our view, three main reasons support the need for increasing and strengthening the commission staff. First, part of the commission's function is to review offerings of shares, bonds, and other investment contracts before they are made available to the public, both here in Alberta and across Canada. Public interest demands that such a review should be thorough, professional, and prompt. Commission staff has been reduced slightly over the last three years; what was appropriate during that period is not appropriate today when the explosion of interest in Alberta-based securities has resulted in a very marked increase in the number of applications processed at the commission. Unfortunately, many financing situations are lost if decisions are not made quickly. By increasing the size of the reviewing staff, we expect that members of the business and financial community will be served more promptly.

Second, with the help of an expanded staff, the commission will be able to spend some of its resources on important policy matters. At present the commission cannot adequately assess the current and changing needs of Alberta business for financing. The commission's dialogue with the business and financial communities must be encouraged, so they may help foster an environment conducive to the development of a strong financial centre in Alberta. The press of day-to-day applications already severely taxes the human resources available at the commission. The government therefore believes there is a need to provide them with more staff so that they can anticipate the future and not merely react to it.

Finally, an important function of the commission is to ensure that Albertans have access to a securities market place which is honest and fair. In order to achieve this objective, the commission must have the enforcement resources necessary to identify fraudulent promotions originating either in this jurisdiction or being plied here by outsiders. As the volume of trading increases in the securities market, the commission must have the capacity for surveillance in order to ensure both that Albertans are not being manipulated by unconscionable stock promoters and that Alberta's markets continue to deserve their repu-

tation for openness and fairness and thereby attract capital from all over Canada and from foreign countries.

Most of the additional money budgeted for the Securities Commission will be used for the salaries of additional staff members. The balance will be used to provide the additional staff with office supplies and services.

It is our intention to add three new positions to the commission's Calgary office. This will double our complement there. The new positions will be an Investigator II, an Investigator I, and a Clerk. The additions to the Edmonton office will number 13: two Legal Officers, six Financial Analysts, one Senior Officer, one Administrative Officer, and three Clerks. This will bring the Edmonton staff to 35, and the total staff of the commission to 41: an increase of 64 per cent.

The proposal to increase the commission's budget has followed a critical examination of services to be performed, and a tough review of priorities. I think members of the House and the public will agree, Mr. Speaker, that this is a significant and positive use of funds, and one which will help encourage a healthy climate of investor confidence in Alberta.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

Private School Discipline

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to both the Attorney General and the Minister of Education. It's in the same vein as the first question yesterday, dealing with the Rosedale Christian School. Has the Attorney General had an opportunity to check if charges have in fact been laid as a result of the treatment a grade 3 student received at that school?

MR. FOSTER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have. It is my information that a private information was laid. As a result, two teachers have been charged and will be appearing in provincial court in Grande Prairie on April 28.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, the same question now to the Minister of Education. What is the policy of the government of Alberta with regard to schools that are neither public, separate, nor private, nor schools that have made application under Category 4? What kind of responsibility does the minister's department have with regard to those types of schools?

MR. KOZIAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of The School Act students of compulsory attendance age are required to attend school. The exceptions to that rule, among other exceptions, would be those students who would attend an approved private school under categories 1, 2, or 4. If a jurisdiction has within it a private school that has not applied for and received approval under the private school regulations, then the proper officer from that jurisdiction has the authority under The School Act to bring proceedings against the child's parents for non-attendance.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. In the case of the Rosedale Christian School, has an application been made to the Department of Education for approval under Category 4 as a private school?

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge no such application has been made. I believe that no inquiry has been received by the department from this organization with the view of ultimately receiving approval.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, then to the minister. Is it the intention of the minister's department to take steps to see that the school does apply for approval under Category 4 or, failing that, that charges would be laid?

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, I believe officers of the department are either in the process of sending or have already sent, to known private schools that have not received previous approval, copies of the new regulations and information as to application for approval under categories 1, 2, or 4 of the private school regulations. In the event that the school does not apply for approval under one of those categories, and that school lies within the boundaries of an existing school jurisdiction, the department would not follow anything up because, as I have indicated, that responsibility under The School Act lies with the attendance officer of the local jurisdiction.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Can the minister indicate to the Assembly how many schools which would broadly fit into Category 4 and are presently operating in the province have not yet made application to the department for approval?

MR. KOZIAK: I couldn't answer with a great degree of certainty as to the number that have not made application for approval, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the number that could ultimately fit into this category would be in the vicinity of 10. However, some of those 10 may have already made application for approval. So I can't give you the exact number that have not.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the minister. In light of the Rosedale Christian School situation, what is the policy of the Department of Education once it receives an application from a school such as this where an incident like this appears to have taken place? How great a factor is that in the department either giving or not giving approval to a school?

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, unless the curriculum — which is one of the aspects the department must look at — blatantly sets out that one of the purposes of the school is to administer discipline at a level beyond that which a normal, loving parent would administer, I don't think our role would be in that particular area. I'm sure the hon. members here appreciate that no particular school or individual has a monopoly on stupidity, and that we have incidents of excess force in discipline documented elsewhere, in the public and

other systems in the province as well as in private schools.

Local Authorities Board

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the second question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. It deals with the long periods of time that municipalities are having to wait for annexation hearings. My question to the minister concerns the backlog of applications to the Local Authorities Board from municipalities. What is the average time that municipalities have to wait? I raise the question in light of the fact that several municipalities, some in my own constituency, are telling me they're now looking at a year, at least, from the time they can make application to the board, and that's when there are no interveners opposing the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. leader is certainly inviting a debating answer, and under the circumstances there would be no way in which the Chair could prevent such an answer.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could make a comment with respect to the LAB process. We recognize there has been an increase in the number of petitions to the LAB from many municipalities throughout the province. I will avoid making my comment this time about the balanced economic growth, but in fact there has been a substantial increase in the small towns of rural Alberta. We do recognize that.

But in conversations with the LAB, they have advised me that they anticipate a levelling off of the numbers in 1978. I haven't at my fingertips the actual average time, but I can note that of course in 1977 there have been some more complex issues dealt with in front of the LAB, in particular annexations, and in particular the metropolitan area. So it can be expected that they would have to devote more time to those more complex issues.

I might note as well that it is my understanding that in the LAB report, which is filed in this Assembly, approximately 90 to 100 annexations have been received. But I take the hon. member's question as notice, and will do some checking in terms of the frequency and the average time outstanding.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister if the government is considering doing some revamping of the Local Authorities Board, especially in the area of their recommendations when they come to the minister or to the government. Is the government giving any consideration to the proposition of having recommendations made public at the time they come to the government, similar to the approach used by the Energy Resources Conservation Board?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, there has been some suggestion that the LAB should be able to make their orders public, notwithstanding positive or negative orders. But I think there is some danger in that, insofar as the potential exists for speculation around some of the urban communities. For that reason and for the fact that it requires Executive Council determination, I think it's important that we maintain the existing process.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, is it the government's intention to bring in the Local Authorities Board legislation at this spring session with any changes?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I answered that question yesterday. I said to the hon. Member for Clover Bar that we're always considering and updating the legislation. We may well be introducing legislative changes to The Municipal Government Act this spring.

Lottery Fund Distribution

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Government Services, the minister responsible for grants. I would like to ask the hon. minister a question on the Western Canada Lottery. It comes out of a return given to us, where we really got no information.

Could the minister indicate to the Legislature where the province's share of the funds goes? Into what type of vehicle do they come before they are disseminated?

MR. SCHMID: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to answer that question. Actually, the hon. member may have seen a note attached to the reply which indicates that the Western Canada Lottery, Alberta division, receives only the net proceeds of the lottery tickets sold. Commissions are paid to the different charitable organizations that sell lottery tickets, and of course to other sellers, of which I think we have a total of about 3,800.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, a portion of the net proceeds is distributed to the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, as explained in the explanatory notes; also to the Edmonton Exhibition Association. The Commonwealth Games Foundation has received approximately \$2.7 million for the sports activities of the games, and in total approximately \$1.35 million will be spent for the cultural component or complement of the Commonwealth Games.

The only other funding that has been provided for is to the foundations or organizations which cover the total province; namely, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Alberta Art Foundation. The two foundations presently before the Legislature might also be eligible for funding.

For instance, Theatre Network will be producing a play to contribute towards the Commonwealth Games. To give a few other names, the Alberta Ballet Company; and for example The Alberta Folk Arts Council is going to be responsible for the entire program of the Canadian Folk Arts Council in the province. They have interviewed and auditioned a number of participants from across Alberta and will be putting on a show representing the mosaic of the culture of Alberta, again during the Commonwealth Games.

But no other organizations outside the cultural or sports component of the Commonwealth Games and/or the additions that I've mentioned have received any funding from the Alberta division of the Western Canada Lottery.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is there a special trust fund set up to contain these funds? And who's responsible, or is

just the minister responsible for disseminating those funds?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, "trust fund" would be the wrong word for it. The Western Canada Lottery, Alberta division, naturally retains the net profits from the lottery. Then they'd be distributed to the different agencies: either the organizations or the foundations mentioned in my previous reply.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, they are being audited. One auditor specifically audits the books and of course the receipts of the Calgary and Edmonton exhibitions; another audits the books of the Canada lottery, Alberta division; then another audits the different groups which receive funds from the Canada lottery, Alberta division.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question to the hon. minister was: who is responsible and makes the decision? Is there a body that makes the decision about who gets how much money?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, the division of funding among the exhibitions and other bodies in Alberta is arrived at by negotiations between the exhibition associations that are partners in the Western Canada Lottery, Alberta division, and the minister responsible for The Interprovincial Lottery Act, namely me.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife is not here. Can the hon. Minister of Government Services indicate to me who is responsible for the funds from the Loto Canada portion?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, the Loto Canada portion of funding for Alberta stems from the percentage of Loto Canada tickets sold in Alberta. These funds are placed in a special trust account in Recreation, Parks and Wildlife and are normally allocated, I would say, to funding of amateur sports activities, and/or even cultural activities if necessary. But I understand no distribution of those funds has been made to date.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, did the minister say no distribution has been made?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, that's the latest reply I've had to the question of whether or not any funds were paid from the Loto Canada fund to organizations in Alberta.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Can the minister indicate how organizations go about applying for these funds? Basically, what are the guidelines for the administration of these funds? Is it again at the discretion of the minister, or is a committee or board set up to administer those funds?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, these funds are divided by negotiations between the partners of the Western Canada Lottery, Alberta division. For example, the Commonwealth Games Foundation would apply to the Western Canada Lottery, Alberta division, for funding of some of their projects. For instance, where they are involved in the Citadel Theatre to perform during the Commonwealth Games, they would apply for funding of their respective programs. Any discussions are with the execu-

tive of the foundation and me, and if applications are of course supported by a budget and by statutory declarations that they are a non-profit society, it is then decided whether or not funding should be approved.

DR. BUCK: My apologies, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. My question was on the Loto Canada portion. What are the guidelines for the administration of those funds?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, because it really is a trust account within a government department, the guidelines would most likely be under The Financial Administration Act, that these funds would be allocated at the decision of whatever the applications would be. There I think the Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife would best answer this question himself.

Handicapped — Parking

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister of Government Services, not by design but by coincidence. I wonder if the minister could indicate the government's policy with regard to parking spaces for the handicapped around government buildings?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, this question has been raised to me before, specifically in fact at the courthouse in Edmonton, where we have found that people who are handicapped had to get off and enter the courthouse. We have tried to accommodate those people as much as possible.

I would appreciate any member drawing my attention to where this is not possible, so we could erect a sign and/or alert the commissionaire who is usually present at these different buildings, so that if a handicapped person arrives and is unable to park anywhere, at least a space in front of or next to the building can be allocated and kept vacant while this person has to attend to government business in the respective building.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the hon. minister. Since there are no special parking places around the Legislature Building, would the minister consider making some parking spaces available for the handicapped?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, quite frankly I thought that our commissionaires in front of the building were quite aware of the problems of our handicapped people, because we do have an entrance in the back for wheelchair use. I personally used it while I was in a wheelchair.

However, if this is not so, I will definitely alert our commissionaires to keep that in mind and accommodate our handicapped people when they come to this building.

Street Construction

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Transportation. The minister dealt the other day with the street program in regard to hamlets and municipali-

ties. Do hamlets in improvement districts qualify for the street improvement program?

DR. HORNER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, but in a separate vote which applies to the towns and villages. We are looking carefully at the needs of those hamlets, and inasmuch as they vary a great deal in size, they have to be treated in a different manner. But we are aware of that problem and will be dealing with it.

MR. TAYLOR: I'm very glad to hear that.

A supplementary. If any hamlet wants to make application, do they make it to the Minister of Municipal Affairs or the Minister of Transportation?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the hamlets, particularly those in the hon. member's riding, should get in touch with the district transportation people, the new office in Hanna. That's the route the application should go.

Senior Citizens' Property Taxes

DR. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, due to the great difficulty in understanding the statements made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs a few days ago, would the minister consider putting out a simple brochure on the senior citizens' tax protection plan that would be understandable by both senior citizens and MLAs?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I certainly always listen to the hon. Member for Macleod, and I can advise him that my department is in the process of doing just that.

Subdivision Procedures

MR. MANDEVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Could the minister indicate what input his department received with regard to Section 20 of the new Planning Act subdivision regulation, Order in Council 361, which prohibits approval of county residential subdivisions within 5 miles of a city or town with a population over 5,000?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I could recount for the hon. member and the Assembly the process we went through. We did have very extensive consultation with many groups across the province, starting with the Urban Development Institute, The Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, the engineering association, the surveying association, the town planners' association, and the municipal planning association, among others. So I can advise the House that there was an extensive consultation process.

The hon. member mentions a specific section, and I have to take his word for the section. If he trusts my memory, I would advise him through you, Mr. Speaker, that that section is in the existing regulations up to April 1, 1977. I do not recall that there's any change in that regulation.

MR. MANDEVILLE: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister considering any changes in the regulations to allow subdivisions in rural mu-

nicipalities where they're within the 5-mile boundary of cities and towns?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is making a petition to me, I would certainly consider that petition. But of course I might draw to his attention, sir — being from a rural municipality himself — that some of the constituents from his area have advised me that the spread of subdivisions in rural Alberta is one of the problems they're encountering. They would like to see some controls around urban areas so that, should the urban area expand or annex land, they are not expanding and annexing country residential development, but in fact could use that land for urban growth. So I would suggest that if the hon. member wants to make that to me perhaps he could memo me or draw it to my attention.

Automobile Insurance

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Solicitor General. Concern has been expressed with respect to the validity of motor vehicle insurance for drivers moving into Alberta from such provinces as Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Has the minister been approached with this problem and, if so, does he plan any action?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, I confess we have a serious problem, and I've taken what steps I can to rectify it today. The hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs spoke to me about it this morning. This was the first time I'd appreciated that there was a problem, although I must apologize to the hon. Member for Drayton Valley, because I didn't get the full purport of his question on the same subject the other day.

The problem is this: in certain provinces where they have nationalized automobile insurance, they also have a residency requirement. That's one of the big disadvantages of a state-supported insurance system. If you buy your insurance from a private insurer, you pay your premium, you can drive wherever you like, and you're fully covered. Apparently because in state-supported insurance schemes part of the costs are covered by tax revenue, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba have residence requirements. It's understandable why they would, because tax revenue goes into paying the cost of the insurance.

Now, they have no clear definition of what constitutes residency. So they have value judgments on who is a resident of Saskatchewan who happens to be travelling in Alberta, and those who want to settle here permanently. With the huge number of people coming to this province because of its present boom and state of prosperity compared with the others, we have a very large number of people coming here, from British Columbia in particular, and from Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Unfortunately, our act says that if you establish residence in Alberta, you should get Alberta licence plates as soon as possible. Over the years that's been interpreted by the police as being six months plus a day. That's our definition of "residence", the same as in The Alberta Income Tax Act. Now the police have been carrying out, on policy instructions, a drive against uninsured drivers, putting checkpoints

on the road and examining the papers pertaining to vehicles. They've been stricter on this interpretation: if you establish a residence in Alberta, you should get Alberta licence plates as soon as possible. If they fetch a charge on the grounds of not having licence plates, the court is in effect saying that residence has been established in Alberta. Then ICBC, and Saskatchewan and Manitoba insurance, deny responsibility. So these fellows are then not covered.

I have today done what I can, short of being more definitive in our act. I have instructed the registrar to send a circular letter to all police forces in the province that they're to use their discretion to interpret "residence" as six months plus a day for newcomers to Alberta.

MR. ZANDER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. In the case of an accident happening where the insurance is not valid, would the unsatisfied judgment claim pick this up, so that an Alberta driver is protected?

MR. FARRAN: Yes, although the motor vehicle accident indemnity fund reports to the Attorney General, I think in the case of an accident with an uninsured driver there's a proper ability to make application to that fund. However, in saying this about out-of-province, or about new Albertans who have come from those provinces where there is state insurance, my recommendation is that as soon as possible they should take out some other insurance plan. We have no control over the value judgment placed on a definition of "residency" in those other provinces, so their insurance is in doubt.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Attorney General on this same matter. Is any monitoring being done as to the amount of funds being paid out on such examples, where Alberta residents are making claims against The Motor Vehicles Act indemnity fund?

MR. FOSTER: Mr. Speaker, many of the claims processed by the motor vehicle accident claims fund involve damage to vehicles occasioned by unknown drivers and therefore unknown vehicles. It's difficult to know clearly whether that vehicle was driven by a non-resident of the province. I'm not sure I'm getting at your question; but in cases where we don't have a police report, we rely substantially on a sworn statement by the injured party as to how the accident occurred.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Speaker, one further supplementary question on this matter to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Are the insurance programs that are set up by the neighboring provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia licensed to write policies in this province? I realize it may be a legislative question, but still . . .

MR. HARLE: No, Mr. Speaker, they're not. But I would like to supplement that answer somewhat, because I think it's important that people coming to this province realize the situation they're in when they arrive from both Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It's my understanding, of course, that if they're here only temporarily there's no problem. But if they are

here permanently, the residency clause of the policy comes into effect. And as the Solicitor General has said, it could be that were they involved, and subject to a charge in this province which establishes residency here, they might find that their own plan would be taking rights of subrogation against them. As I understand it, British Columbia does not have such a residency clause, although they are thinking about putting one in. In that case, of course, at the present time they are probably covered.

I could also indicate that people who come from Ontario and the other free-enterprise provinces should notify their insurance companies of a change of residency, because there may well be a change of risk. For example, if they move from a small location in their various provinces to the city of Edmonton, there is a material change in the risk. Therefore they should notify their insurance companies so that the premium adjustment can be made, and they will then be covered by their policy.

Land Development

MR. NOTLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works. Has the department done any assessment on the impact of the partnership between Genstar, ATCO, The Mercantile Bank of Canada, and The Toronto-Dominion Bank on the availability of serviced land for housing development in the province?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, during the last three years we have established within the Housing part of the Department of Housing and Public Works a rather substantive group dealing with research, statistical analysis, and the availability of rental accommodation, single-family accommodation, vacant land, and serviced land within the urban areas. So there is an ongoing assessment in this area. To indicate whether there is an assessment with respect to the corporate decisions of one particular company — I would suggest that perhaps there is, but I don't know of any at this particular time. However, I should say that Genstar had informed me of their plans with respect to the sale of their holdings some weeks ago.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, during the discussions that no doubt took place when that information was made available, did the government of Alberta receive any assurance from the principals of this new partnership that they will endeavor to make serviced lots available to small builders according to market demand?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, in dealing with the demand for housing, the private sector attempts to make lots available as the market requires. Indeed, when single-family lots aren't available, the rest of the market associated with redevelopment, and the development of acreages which have zoning other than single-family, takes over. So what's important is the total volume of housing and the total starts at any one time in relationship to the demand.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that indeed in Alberta virtual miracles have been accomplished in regard to starts and supply in the last three years. However, the mix has changed rather dramatically to a much

higher percentage of multiple-family housing units as against single-family housing units.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, following that along. Is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly what steps have been taken to follow up the conclusions in the Alberta/Montana study, particularly with respect to the conclusion that developer profits in Calgary and Edmonton are \$6,800 and \$6,200 respectively, compared to \$700 and \$1,000 in Great Falls and Billings?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, the Alberta/Montana study did show a considerably higher profit markup in the Alberta market than in Montana with respect to land development. But at the same time it indicated that the general economic activity was considerably greater.

I want to state for the record, Mr. Speaker, that there is nothing wrong with profits. This government believes that profits should be made by the private sector in conducting its business. Nevertheless, one must guard against profits made when monopolistic tendencies become quite prevalent. This is the area, of course, that would be of concern to this government, and we would watch it quite closely.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is it the view of the Alberta government that the developer profits itemized in the Alberta/Montana study — which are very substantial in Alberta compared to Montana, about tenfold between Billings and Calgary — are reasonable profits? Or are these immoral profits, as the minister has been reported from time to time as saying?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hon. member has in effect indirectly engaged in debate and made a representation under the guise of asking for an opinion. Of course the question period isn't suited for that kind of thing, unless hon. members wish to change *Standing Orders*.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I realize there might have been just a touch of an effort there to induce debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NOTLEY: But I would like to ask either the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works or the hon. Associate Minister of Energy and Natural Resources whether the government's in a position to advise the Assembly whether any assurance was received from Genstar regarding its specific policy toward small builders before the cabinet authorized the transfer of some 10,000 acres of developable land to the Genstar Subsidiary 114417 Developments Limited, pursuant to the foreign ownership of land temporary regulations?

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest to the House that Genstar informed me of the transaction with respect to refinancing their landholdings not by way of a requirement from my department but by way of a goodwill gesture. They came in and indeed advised me of the nature of the transaction and what effects it might have. In that regard I would suggest they acted appropriately corporately in keeping my

department and the government knowledgeable about what they were doing. But they weren't under any obligation to do so. This was entirely a private enterprise or private sector transaction.

Whether or not any requirement was necessary with respect to the foreign ownership aspect of owning Alberta land is a matter that perhaps the Associate Minister responsible for Public Lands might wish to address.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, then I address the question to the hon. Associate Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, with respect to whether any conditions were attached to this particular transfer pursuant to the temporary regulations.

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, the information provided to the department in the application by Genstar for a transfer under the foreign ownership of agricultural and recreational land met the requirements to us for the basic application for a transfer in the exemption, and to my knowledge did not go to the extent — nor do we place any further restrictions other than those established under the temporary regulations.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to either the Government House Leader or the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works. Bills 242 and 245, introduced by the hon. Member for Calgary Bow, relate to the opportunity for municipalities to assess underdeveloped land to its full market value, and the expropriation of land for residential development. My question to the Government House Leader: is it the government's intention to place these bills on the Order Paper as government bills?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, not at the present time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

[Dr. McCrimmon in the Chair]

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

Department of **Advanced Education and Manpower**

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

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Assembly, I should like to make a few introductory comments that might assist us in the conduct of the examination of the estimates. I'm pleased of course to present the estimates to the Legislative Assembly. It's one of the significant activities of this House, and I look forward to the discussion, the examination of programs, services, and people, new directions and confirmation of existing ones, and all such matters that come before the estimates today.

The Department of Advanced Education and Manpower has extensive responsibilities in postsecondary

education in the province of Alberta. We are responsible for funding and co-ordinating institutions under certain statutes, specifically The Department of Advanced Education and Manpower Act, The Universities Act, The Colleges Act, and The Banff Centre Act. Mr. Chairman, 21 institutions in higher education serve over 60,000 students.

Another area in which we hold primary responsibility is the co-ordination of funding, and funding of manpower services and programs in the province. This includes operating an apprenticeship program and providing accommodation for more than 15,000 students. In addition, the department provides short-term financial support in student employment. Last week I made the announcement in the House with respect to the summer temporary employment program, popularly referred to as STEP; and the winter priority employment program, known as PEP. We maintain extensive career counselling in employment development plans, and these are managed in our department by people in the field. Providing financial assistance to students under The Students Finance Act is another significant responsibility of the department.

Other responsibilities are not listed in the estimates specifically but are also important in the province and indeed the nation. These include the whole matter of professions and occupations, immigration and demography, and science and research.

I should like to mention some of the notable decisions our department has implemented as government policy. One of those has to do with our significant and serious commitment to public, lay participation in the decision-making of government. As evidence, public memberships have been increased by statute on all university boards, all college boards, the Students Finance Board, and the Trade Schools Advisory Board. Let me pause here a moment, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, and pay tribute, on behalf of all of us I'm sure, to the very outstanding public service these people provide, with no recompense, on behalf of their fellow Albertans. In the same kind of commitment, we have new councils and boards which were created, including the very significant Manpower Advisory Council, the most important apprenticeship and trades qualification board, and The Banff Centre Act — important to note that for the first time in the history of this institution, it became self-governing on April 1.

Consistent with this commitment to have lay participation in the affairs of government, four provincially administered institutions were converted to full public college status, each with its own governing board, again on April 1. Other decisions have to do with the capital construction program for 1978-79, which I announced in the House a few days ago, with major new facilities proposed for the University of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge, Grant MacEwan College, Fairview College, and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. A capital inventory valued at almost \$1 billion was maintained during the 1977-78 fiscal year. I pause again, Mr. Chairman, and on behalf of the many people who work in the institutions of higher education throughout the province, I pay tribute to their excellence of performance. Proud of their work . . . Walk into any institution or any grounds in advanced or postsecondary education; and if I were to mention any, I would make the error of omitting all

the others, because all are, excellently kept.

I just can't forget the visit I made to an Alberta vocational setting. I expected to see a run-down place that had seen its better days. It might have, except that the maintenance people took a look, went to work, and it looks like a new campus. I was amazed; I couldn't believe it. On behalf of the Legislature and the people of Alberta, I want to pay specific tribute for the excellent and outstanding commitment our maintenance people have in terms of respect for public property. They earn more than they get in recompense because of that extra mile they go on our behalf and the behalf of people.

The estimates before the House, Mr. Chairman, are designed to maintain the directions we have taken, and to continue to provide quality services to meet the needs of Albertans during the year 1978-79.

As I conclude my introductory remarks, I should like to pay tribute to a group of people, not only because it's traditional to do it but because it's a fact. Throughout my department, at the level of senior officials and in my own office, I have excellent people, outstanding people. I wish we had the time to go through the kind of work they do and how they perform. In any case, let me say how much I appreciate their support, their capacity to work under the pressure of trying to respond — nearly overnight in some cases — to the Executive Council, to me, and to each other, and the way they work together, not in terms of agreeing with the first person who makes his point, but agreeing finally on the basis of the best evidence for a particular case.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to proceed to the examination of my estimates.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to make just a few very general comments. Unfortunately I have to leave at 3:45, but I'm sure I'll be back before the minister's estimates will be . . . [interjections] You can retain your enthusiasm: my colleague from Clover Bar will keep you going all afternoon.

Mr. Chairman, first of all on a local issue in the constituency of Olds-Didsbury, I would be less than responsible if I didn't say to the minister that the people he placed on the board of governors for the college in Olds were excellent choices. There are people from Three Hills, from near Calgary, and from north of that area also. They are very good choices.

If it's any consolation to the minister, I'm pleased he was able to convince his colleagues to move in this direction. The only regret I have about this becoming an eventuality, Mr. Chairman, is that if the minister's memory is very good, and he checks *Hansard* I believe two years back, it seems to me I owe the minister a small hamburger steak as a result of the move he's made here.

DR. HOHOL: Right.

MR. CLARK: I shall look after that.

Now to get on to some of the broader issues at stake, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, would it be possible sometime this afternoon for you to supply us with the breakdown of the allocations, the operational grants, for each of the universities and colleges? I don't have my element book along with me. It is possible they're in there.

DR. HOHOL: Yes, it is, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CLARK: Very good then; no problem.

The second point to the minister, Mr. Chairman: I would be very interested in getting an updated report as to the amount of revenue raised by the extra fees for foreign students. The minister will recall that we spent some time on that issue last year during his estimates. Now would be an appropriate time to get some indication of the number of students affected, also the amount of revenue the universities in the province took in in additional fees.

Mr. Chairman, the third item: last Friday in the latter part of the question period I raised the question of how priorities are decided with regard to capital facilities. The Speaker chose that that matter could better be answered in estimates than in the question period. He may well be right, but I'm sure the minister now has had two or three days to construct an answer that perhaps will get him out of the first part of the answer he started to give me. Mr. Minister, I related it very specifically to three areas. Previously in this Assembly you've heard me talk about what I consider to be the unwisdom of placing quotas on the faculties of Engineering, Agriculture, and Forestry. In fact, in my notes here I noticed that very recently the president of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta said that engineers are flocking to Alberta because the province's universities aren't graduating enough engineers to meet the demand. Both of us know the gentleman who is the president of the association and, I'm sure, respect him.

My question to the minister is: what kinds of discussions have taken place with the universities and the minister's department specifically with regard to the quotas on the Faculty of Engineering? Mr. Minister, I hope we can avoid the question as to academic freedom and so on. The minister and all members of the House recognize very well that the university board gets the budget and then apportions it.

But I recall this government talking about doing some long-range planning as far as manpower projections are concerned. If the manpower projections that have been done in this province are worth their salt, they should point out the needs in the field of agriculture, and certainly in engineering. If those needs weren't pointed out two, three, or four years ago when they were done, they certainly should have been updated. For the life of me, I can't equate what's happened in our universities as far as quotas on engineers are concerned when we have this kind of information coming from the president of their professional association.

So, Mr. Chairman, I think that's an area the government has to come clean on. We have to have some answers here in the Assembly. I hope we don't get involved in blaming the universities and the universities blaming the government. Because if that's what happens, then all we do is continue the argument out there: why a heck of a lot of young Albertans who have the academic qualifications are going to be denied the opportunity. I hope some blunt discussions have taken place already between the minister and the universities to work out something in this area, and I hope it could be worked out for this September, not for a year from now.

The minister moves his lips a bit, like that may be

difficult to do. But, Mr. Minister, where there are people of good will, and if you have the manpower projections we've been told about in the past, these discussions should have taken place in the past rather than have to take place in the future.

If we're not able to open those positions in the faculties of Engineering, Agriculture, and Forestry this fall, it will be a damning commentary on the universities in this province and on the Department of Advanced Education.

Mr. Chairman, I'll make a number of other comments later on. But initially I'd like to focus on this question of quotas in the three areas which I think are directly related to the future growth of this province: engineering from the standpoint of the opportunities available, people coming to the province now; and agriculture and forestry from the standpoint of the long-term future of this province.

DR. HOHOL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly we'll have the information with respect to the first request, the breakdown of university allocations, shortly. And we'll attempt to get the updated report on revenue from foreign fees. That may be difficult. We would have to be in touch with the universities, and I'm sure will be. If I understood the hon. leader, the one with respect to fees generally is in my notes before me.

So let me speak about capital construction and remind the House that in 1973 there was a shift in the notion of governance of advanced education. That became a good year for us to make some comparisons. In any case, in all those areas — engineering, ag., and forestry — SAIT and quite a number of capital facilities were before the government as far back as '73. Now the hon. leader is very familiar on general terms and, because of his prior work in the kind of enterprise we're talking about, that there are long-term projections and plans. It was true in years back; it's true today.

Mr. Chairman, one artificial but absolutely necessary thing that occurred was restraint. Consistent with restraint, my judgment was that the money allocated to us had to be expended entirely in the area of operations — entirely only to the extent that no new major capital undertakings were approved. So there was virtually a freeze on major capital construction. Nevertheless, during this period of time very significant hundreds of thousands of dollars — well above \$1 million — were spent on renovations, additions, the inventory of equipment, the maintenance of building sites, and so on.

The matter of SAIT is a proper question. I smiled about that when, as the hon. leader pointed out, the Speaker said it might better be answered in the estimates. It might be better answered in terms of procedures of the House, but not in terms of the hon. leader's search for the truth about the allocation of funds and the stewardship of resources. So as the hon. leader properly says, I have to come clean. The coming clean is simply this: it is my personal determination that NAIT and SAIT — and I hope the good officials I talked about are leaning away from the rails and don't fall over them. But they and NAIT and SAIT know I have said that as far as pupil growth is concerned they are about as large as they're going to be. Shifts or any other thing that happens in those institutions will have to be internal logistics, shifts in

certain faculties or schools. Looking at SAIT on that basis, as about at maximum growth apart from replacement and some other additions, it seemed to me that it's not reasonable to conclude a building — and that's what we're doing at SAIT — without having reasonable facilities for young people.

I think a principle is involved here: a student makes a choice. In Alberta he can make one of many choices of what institution he goes to, based on the occupation he wants to pursue. But that, Mr. Chairman, shouldn't dictate in a very severe way the atmosphere and the environment in which he pursues those studies. NAIT AND SAIT are old institutions. They have been here for many years. I visited them personally and have to say I did not feel I would wish to be in the activity areas those students are in. It's no criticism of anybody, not of the then government, not of this one, not of any department or ministry. I want to say it properly, but I am not going to be defensive or apologetic in making the determination that while we assigned on space and other kinds of obvious criteria the agriculture and forestry building, increased space for students at Fairview, increased space and better facilities for Grant MacEwan, and increased space for students and other facilities at the University of Lethbridge — notice that at the same time there are four in which the overwhelming criterion is space, one out of the five major capital constructions is geared to student facilities not necessarily overwhelmingly in terms of space but in terms of the environment in which they pursue their studies.

Mr. Chairman, most of these studies are two-year programs, and students go through those in a hurry. So hundreds of students have gone through these institutions, particularly SAIT, with inadequate facilities. I was there personally. They bore up well. I saw their newspaper, students' union, communications, lounge, rest and eating areas. They are as bad as, or worse than, the ones I lived in and with during the last war. Mr. Chairman, it seemed to me, on balance, responding very frankly and honestly, that on the basis of seats for students SAIT would not meet that specific criterion. But I say we have five major capital construction units, and four do; and one on balance deserves. I think we have to look at students as students and respond to them on that basis. That's what I've done. People could make a different judgment and be critical, and I accept it and will accept it. But I say the judgment to complete SAIT as a whole institution is a necessary one.

With respect to quotas, I agree with and appreciate very much the attitude of the leader, because clearly he has faced and worked with these issues. Things like quotas and university or government are complex. Is it the squeeze on money? Is it the attitude of the university? It's a complex thing. It's not it or us or the department.

If the leader has to leave, I regret it very much. I really do.

But on the basis of quotas there are several constraints: certainly entrance requirements, certainly space. It's very interesting — and I hope the leader hears this on his way out — that at the same time as the University of Alberta has since 1973 asked us for a forestry and agriculture building, now that we have assigned it, not the university as a university but significant parts of it say: you're going to give us a

building; how are we going to operate it? It's going to cost money. So you can't win.

But I'm confident that our approach to global budgets . . . You know, we didn't do this blindly. We're not going to give them a capital building which will take three to five years to build, and then turn our backs on the fact that those things will cost money to run. So I hope, but I cannot stand here and say that having approved the agriculture and forestry building and knowing the position of the plans — they're well advanced — they could conceivably . . . As the song says, from March to September — or something like that; I forget the exact months — isn't very long. The hon. leader has been responsible for building many buildings in the province, and he knows the logistics of putting in place a building as complex as a university facility. It can't be done from June to September. But I make the commitment. We'll do it as soon as possible. As soon as our budget is completed, we'll be beginning the budget for next year. Discussions will be held.

Certainly the engineering faculty developments at the University of Calgary are of a high priority. No question about that. I cannot make a commitment that that thing will go or be gone and ready on September 1, and no one would expect me to. It's not in the present capital budget. That doesn't mean we can't talk about it. That doesn't mean it can't happen. But I can't say that it will. Certainly for the ensuing year it will be of a high priority, again with no commitments except to say that if it's the university's first priority, its odds are extremely good.

I appreciate very much the representation of the hon. leader.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the hon. minister. I'd like to ask the minister one or two questions. First, I'd like to make a comment on the logistics the minister speaks of, where we can't put buildings into place. The minister spoke briefly about just shortly after the Second World War when they used temporary facilities, and 10 years later they're still using those temporary facilities. ATCO, a company in this province — and I don't want to do a commercial, but Ron Southern is a good friend of mine — can give you buildings as quickly as you need them. So maybe the minister can look at temporary facilities to get us through the crunch. At least you could be taking some of the first- and second-year courses in the temporary facilities. Really, if there's a will, there's always a way.

I would like to ask the minister one or two questions. The first one is: how transferable are courses now? Are first- or second-year courses at any of our major universities fully transferable now? Secondly, can the minister indicate to the Legislature what stage we're at as far as entrance examinations go?

The head of one of the universities in this province buttonholed me at a social affair and gave me the what for. I took it because I thought I deserved it. I believe we were the government when the philosophy seemed to be that universities should be open to anyone and everyone. That's a good theory, I guess. It sells on the hustings, but it just doesn't seem to work that way. It seems we have to have some type of criteria. We just can't have everybody come to the universities and flunk out in the first or second year, because that costs the taxpayer a lot of money also.

So those are the first two questions I would like to ask the hon. minister.

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Chairman, with respect to transferability, it works like this: the public colleges in Alberta, and some private colleges by the way, have relationships with a university, commonly referred to as affiliation. For example, the college at Red Deer has affiliation with the University of Alberta. Mount Royal College would obviously have affiliation with Mount Royal; also, it could with the University of Lethbridge. The two institutions work together on two-year transfer programs at the college. These are done on a mutual basis between the two institutions.

Two additional comments. I support this, though it's not for me to support or not; but I believe in the proposition, and this bears on the hon. member's second question: the intaking institution has the responsibility to decide the level of entry qualifications for that institution. It has to certify him as being competent. Secondly, it may have to give evidence in the way of a diploma or degree.

The second comment is that we have in place — and this was done in the first term of office by the then minister in the department — the Council on Admissions and Transfers, usually referred to as CAT — I'm not sure they appreciate that, but it has stuck — under an outstanding educator by the name of Dr. Baker, a very excellent committee. They do a sort of education mediation: survey, study, examine, and meet with the colleges and universities and the department officials, and sometimes administrative kinds of work. They are empowered, Mr. Chairman, and this is important, to go as far as to arbitrate disagreements on transferability. By saying this, they don't arbitrate in favor of a student, and when they do mediation or a discussion or exchange of information, it's not so much on behalf of a student, but on the course admissibility and the course stature, in relation to things like research capability, library, professional competence in the level of masters and doctoral degrees, and not competence in the negative sense. They have done important work, significant work, and after about five years they are presently involved with their first case of arbitration between a college and a university; all others they have been able to work out in other ways. If there is other information, I'd be pleased to give it.

I'd just like to make one comment with respect to engineers. A great deal of discussion is going on between our departments, the universities, and the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists, and they're looking at the manpower figures. It's interesting and important to say for the record that while engineers come to Alberta, many engineers who have graduated in Alberta go elsewhere. Different figures give different proportions, but that phenomenon is occurring. It is not difficult to understand. A certain kind of competence will go where the job is, where the money is, where the attraction is, as several kinds would do. So we may need more engineers in Alberta; in Canada, perhaps.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, one or two other questions. I would like to know the status of the University of Athabasca, what it is doing and how it is progressing; and if the minister can indicate to me the funding of schools like Camrose Lutheran College, which I guess

would still be called private, would they, Mr. Minister? Can the minister answer those two questions?

DR. HOHOL: Yes. With respect to Athabasca University, it is an open university; it does not have a campus. It does have a place from which it works, not the most imposing, but I understand that Banting and Best . . . I notice the reaction from the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview. Obviously he's been there. Certainly it's not a prepossessing kind of architecture. I don't believe the books on architecture include the model that was used to build Athabasca U. In fact it's a leased warehouse that's made as comfortable as possible. It's not that bad and not that good.

There is no construction assigned now, but the university will receive \$250,000 in this year's capital allocation for furnishings, equipment, and renovations to the facilities we're leasing. There has been no judgment as to a permanent location. Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, I believe this will have to occur now that Athabasca University has been given a permanent mandate. I believe they fully deserve and have earned it. Now that they're a full-fledged university, as of April 1 — many significant things happen on April 1 — we do have to [seek] and I will likely be seeking the support of this House during this fiscal year to provide permanent facilities for Athabasca University.

I may have missed the mark on the hon. member's question, but I did want to give this information on capital. In terms of program, I would believe he may well be familiar with it. If not, I would take the opportunity to give further education. It's an open university attempting to provide information — or classes or lessons, if you wish — to students in the remote areas of Alberta, rather than the conventional on-site campus with buildings, a lot of sidewalks, a lot of signs that say "Do not enter", "One way", "Now that you're in, try to get out", and things like that.

DR. BUCK: Grass.

DR. HOHOL: A lot of grass. So it's an exciting . . . I'm not that fond of the word "exciting". It's just a lot of hard, innovative work. I believe it's on its way. It has my support and the support of my department and a number of members of the Legislative Assembly. Certainly the caucus committee on education gave its full support. I doubt that I might have moved much beyond the caucus committee if I hadn't had that kind of significant support from that committee, all caucus members, and cabinet. It's going to stay close to things like ACCESS, to offer heavy time use on telephones in the evenings to get some people in remote areas together in one classroom, and to pipe an instructor into the classroom. It has a good deal of potential, and will certainly grow now that it's been given its sign of maturity and approval by this Legislature.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, just a supplementary on that end. I would like to compliment the government; I think it's an excellent program. I'd like to say also that I like the gentleman you've got at the head of it now, Dr. Smith, I believe. I think he fits right in with that type of innovative program.

MR. NOTLEY: He'll be the best politician in Alberta.

DR. BUCK: Well, maybe second.

Anyway, I would like to know very briefly, Mr. Minister, how many students are now involved in the University of Athabasca? And the second question: what support do junior colleges like Camrose Lutheran College receive?

DR. HOHOL: [Inaudible] the hon. member. That was part of the first question. I have difficulty writing the questions; I try to remember them. Private colleges generally receive an 8.25 per cent increase over the prior year's base.

DR. BUCK: How much now? What percentage?

DR. HOHOL: Eight and a quarter, the same as public. But please keep in mind, and I'm sure you're all aware, that this has a different kind of meaning, because they do not get any capital cost assistance from government. They get assistance only in the area of operating costs.

DR. BUCK: How many students are there at the University of Athabasca?

DR. HOHOL: I see I'm going to catch up on my exercise, which I neglect from time to time. You're asking the cumulative, from the day they began to today? About 1,500.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister a question about Canadian Union College in Lacombe. I understand they have applied for degree-granting privileges. It's been held up, and this puts extreme pressure on this college. I wonder if he could give us some idea of the cause of the holdup on degree granting for the Canadian Union College.

DR. HOHOL: An excellent question, Mr. Chairman. It will be of much interest to the Legislature, I am sure. There is a great deal of custom and tradition, and historical precedents and antecedents, about how universities came to be, and without being professorial and doing a history lesson, I do want to indicate that that's important. The officials of the department are and, as you properly suggested, have for quite some time been working with the college on the criteria, conditions, and circumstances that may cause us to permit them, not in the negative sense but in the sense of being clearer, that it's a reasonable thing to do in terms of predicting that everything that goes into an education for a degree is there: money on a long-term basis for financing the college; that professorial component in terms of recognized requirements by peer groups, by other academics like PhDs and others from doctoral programs, masters and so on in certain programs; libraries. We're working at that.

Traditionally private colleges have not done this outside their own denomination. It could well be a degree in divinity. The request of Canadian Union College is to add at least two and possibly three degrees. I have an open mind, and if I may say without any of my officials falling over the rail, a positive mind, because they agree with me in any case. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that an important kind

of principle is involved here. You know, we have a plural society, and it seems reasonable to me to have a plural society underpinned by a plural educational system. In the conduct of our discussions with Canadian Union, we must also speak to the institutions, not because it's required but because it's reasonable to talk to those institutions that presently present and offer degrees, to assist us to ensure that that college or any other college has the kinds of components in place that would make us predict that beyond any question the quality of the programs, the services, and the product would be the kind we would be proud of and not the kind that we would feel we helped Canadian Union make a mistake.

I have an intuitive feeling, a fairly cognitive one. I've been there. One of my officials and I travelled to the United States to look at a university and at a college that's denominational in the same way Canadian Union is. To say we were impressed would be an understatement. We were very impressed. For the record, I want to say that my judgment and that of other members of the Legislative Assembly who have been to Canadian Union is universally that they are doing excellent work. There is a commitment there. There is a feel for the human condition, for education, and for service that is something to behold. You're not quite the same after you visit Canadian Union College.

In a human sense, I'm very open and positive. In the criteria sense, the department officials are working with the college and other institutions. I hope that during this term of office it will be possible to make a definitive statement one way or another on the matter of Canadian Union College.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, I have several questions. First of all I'd like to relate back to the question on Athabasca University and request if the minister can indicate whether the nature of planning that may have been considered with regard to the expansion of Athabasca University, vis-a-vis the courses available and the services to be provided over a longer term of five or 10 years — the rate of expansion, the nature of expansion he might foresee, to what extent there has been planning in this regard, and whether the minister has some constraints to the rate at which perhaps the AU people would like to see the expansion, the rate it should go, and how the minister visualizes that.

DR. HOHOL: Excellent questions, Mr. Chairman. I think it's healthy, normal, and usual that when an institution such as Athabasca University has been in the status of a pilot project for a long period of time, their work has to be definitive and it has to be constricted in time, in money, and in people, because a pilot project has several meanings, one of which, sir, is that it could be stopped. So you don't build up a big institution that may then simply have to disappear. But once it's approved and official, it's a healthy thing that the Athabasca University is prepared to go with many diversified programs and several degrees. And that's the case. I see that as a healthy and a proper thing.

But there are constraints, because one of the problems of the Hawthorne effect, if I can use that psychological term, is to move too quickly, and along the way, you know, there are more opportunities for

mistakes than if you take your time. So we do have constraints. I'm proud to say we have a vehicle called program services approval. I wasn't part of putting the vehicle into place; it was in the department when I came to it. So all the new programs in all the institutions . . . I want to say, not for ornamental reasons but because it's fact, that we're the only province doing it. We don't feel it nudges the notion of autonomy at all, but it does involve money. It could involve duplication, omission, the question of quality, usefulness, or even esoteric usefulness. We have program approval capacity in the department, and that is one of the significant constraints we have on the burgeoning of any programs, whether at this university or any other institution. But we're speaking of this one in particular.

The second significant constraint, of course, is in the budget. The difference between the budgets the universities, including this one, ask for and the ones they are assigned — and those are assigned not capriciously, not casually, but very seriously — is a constraint. They're the kind of constraint we believe will make it possible for Athabasca University to do the things it ought to do and to do them well with minimal opportunity for errors of any kind that are sometimes attendant on having too much money. Anyone would deny that there is such a thing as having too much money, but I can think of institutions in and out of government that suffered because they grew too rapidly in numbers of people, tasks, and obligations they undertook and could not meet them with the kinds of quality responses they set up before the public that they could meet.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the expansion and growth of Athabasca University, does the minister have in mind a type of plan, formula, or mechanism by which some determination can be made as to the rate at which the expansion of AU would take place? For instance, the AU representatives may be indicating they foresee a growth in service to student population of, say, 10,000 within a matter of 4 or 5 years. Is there a mechanism to determine whether this is too rapid an expansion and growth? Is there an ultimate goal as to the size of the service that would be provided? Can the minister elaborate in that regard?

DR. HOHOL: No, not at this time. It would be too early. Please recall that the permanent mandate was provided this institution in October 1976 and that the statute to provide its autonomy was in place on April 1, 1978. So the anticipation of what would be a proper enrolment, if one can use that term, in an unconventional university is very different from the conventional universities. I think the target is more to try to reach as many people in remote areas, initially by controlling the number of programs and then running pilot programs or new ones to see what the response to those would be. I would have to indicate to the House — and this is a pragmatic kind of speculation — that I would doubt this university could have too many students. But the hon. member is accurate in saying that the increase in number of students should relate to a slower rather than a more rapid growth in the number of programs, so that the capacity of obtaining professorial back-up, research, and technical approaches this university has to use

doesn't get behind itself, so we keep working on the quality rather than the number. I doubt the university would be entirely happy with this particular part of my response with respect to that institution, and of course they are always free to meet with me and attempt to present information that might cause me to change my mind. But that would be my position at this point.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, another supplementary with regard to Athabasca University. In a visit to Athabasca University, representations were made of course as to the interpretation of allocation of funding, whether it's for operations or capital. The representations made were that to some extent the funding made available under the heading of operations really should be considered as capital funding because of the nature of the university, therefore the amount that is then being determined in the allocation should more properly be redefined and perhaps take a different connotation. The examples that were used were: with the conventional university, your capital is your buildings, with AU it's not the buildings, but the material they must purchase in order to develop the courses. Could the minister indicate what his views are in that regard?

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Chairman, my views of course are as they are presented in the estimates. My editorial comment would be that the people at Athabasca University would be more pleased and will be pleased with the representation, if that's what it was — and I'm sure it was, and it was the question. But they would be very pleased if in the department we were to use the approach the hon. Member for Norwood suggested, and used, say, inventory of equipment of tapes, cassettes, telephones, and so on as capital. It's not a bad idea. It's probably in that context a functional, pragmatic approach to looking at allocation of resources, and certainly our department officials and I will give it serious thought. If we do it, Athabasca University certainly will look on that with favor. It could favor them without any question, and it's not our intention to favor them or to hurt them. But the notion is novel. It appeals to me on first hearing. It's not a commitment that we will necessarily do it in that way.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, one more supplementary on Athabasca University. At this time or for the near future, does the minister have under consideration expansion plans for the opening of branches in other parts of the province, perhaps in the northern and southern parts? If there were branches, would such an expansion create an extension of the costs and a lesser degree of control as to the delivery of service, or is this in fact something that is being considered?

DR. HOHOL: It wouldn't appear to me to be timely, in this fiscal year or in the short-term foreseeable future, to develop branch campuses of Athabasca University. What is, has been, and will continue to be is to bring programs to places like Keyano College, Fairview College, Lakeland, the regional high school at St. Paul, other strategically located places that now exist and are centres of population, and which have no access to certain kinds of educational opportuni-

ties. It would be in that kind of mode that I would see Athabasca University bring more education to more people, rather than set up branch universities of what is virtually an open university without a campus of its own in the first instance.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, first of all with respect to Athabasca University, I would like to second the comments of other members about the usefulness of this particular approach. I think in the last number of years the people at Athabasca University have been doing an excellent job in carving out an area in the whole postsecondary field, where there has been a deficiency, and it seems to me that their moves in filling that vacuum, so to speak, are useful and can be supported.

The only thing I would say, having met with the people at Athabasca on several occasions, is that I would like to see perhaps a little more emphasis on the kinds of programs that would make it possible for people to fit into other professions. I think, for example, of some of the course work for teacher training. We have a number of teachers throughout the province who perhaps have three years of university, but may need a little more in order to get their Bachelor of Education. We have people with BAs in the province who would like to take the teacher training course work. It's not possible for a woman with three or four children to pick up and go to a faculty of education in Edmonton or Calgary. It strikes me that one of the areas Athabasca could examine usefully — obviously you can't deal with the teacher training part — would be to look at fairly narrowly defined course work that would make it possible for a number of people to move into professional status in a given area. I would hope that as they look at the future of Athabasca in conjunction with Dr. Smith and the board of that institution, the government would give some consideration to that proposal.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move from there to deal with two or three questions. I apologize if several of these questions have been raised. I was out for about 15 minutes when the minister began. The first question I'd like to raise concerns the Alberta scholarship program. To illustrate my concern, let me outline a case of a young chap in my constituency. This particular student, a very brilliant student who obviously would qualify on academic grounds for a scholarship, was in grade 12 last year. When he met with representatives from the Student Finance Board last year, he indicated an interest in going to the University of Victoria. Now the reason he wished to pursue his studies at the University of Victoria is that he had really two interests and he wasn't quite sure which he wanted to follow. One was in marine biology. Marine biology is not something that is considered a major thrust in Alberta's economic future; consequently our universities aren't too boned up on it. The other was journalism. As a result of his assessment of the academic institutions he could pursue once he completed grade 12, he found that the University of Victoria offered him the right mix in his first year. Now, he met the conditions for the scholarship in terms of academic standards, but because he could theoretically take both arts and science courses in Alberta, even if it meant taking one course in Calgary and another in Edmonton, he was denied the scholarship.

I say, Mr. Minister, it seems to me we have to . . . I would invite your views on what should constitute our scholarship policy. I can see a bursary where you're saying, okay, if you come from X area of the province you can have a bursary if you go back and teach in that area and come to an Alberta educational institution. But it seems to me that a scholarship is a different concept. A scholarship seems to me to be related to the academic excellence of that individual student. And if that student can take the courses in an Alberta institution, well and fine. But if the courses are not available in Alberta and have to be taken in another province or institution, Mr. Minister, when we're talking about a scholarship, providing the student has met the conditions of academic excellence, in my judgment that scholarship should be advanced to the individual student.

The other question I would put to the minister may have been answered. When I came in the minister was talking about student residences. As we all know, a number of concerns have been expressed by the Federation of Alberta Students, among others, about the residence situation at our institutions. In view of the fact that a report was prepared on that, I would like the minister to advise us what the government's long-term strategy is, first of all with respect to the University of Calgary. Secondly, I gather some consideration is now being given to working with private developers to establish private residences adjacent to Red Deer College. I've received reports of that. I'd be interested in where that stands and whether that constitutes government policy.

I'd be interested to know what we plan to do in terms of married students' residences. As the minister knows, Michener Park has a very long waiting list. Also there's the argument presented by the Federation of Alberta Students that a subsidy should be worked into the housing programs for students, particularly married students. Those are some initial questions I would put to the minister, and perhaps I may have some follow-up.

DR. HOHOL: I can comment on the residences briefly, and in a little more detail later. One of the obvious phenomena in Alberta over the years has been the shortage of low-cost housing. With the one exception senior citizens, the policy of government has been not to isolate or identify and build for any particular group. There is a problem with student housing. This is argued both ways, and maybe more than two ways. Student housing is not a paying proposition, because from mid-April to September there's some difficulty as to who will pay, whether anybody will pay, whether anyone is there, or whether it can be sublet. There are some real problems in managing and running student residences. But that's one of the problems. The concern of the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview is a proper one and it's ours.

What we've tried to do is hope that students use to the maximum the residence space in communities. It's important to say that a university or a college town has a significant institution in it. Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, and Grande Prairie are all so much better off as cities and larger communities for the colleges and universities being there. It's a real responsibility of the people living in those areas to open their doors, apartments, suites, and space to assist students, not necessarily to the point of sacrifice — that certainly

need not be the case. Some of us well remember that is how we were housed many years ago when we went to university. It's a policy kind of position. We say to Albertans that they should respond as much as possible to student housing for young people. Medicine Hat is an outstanding example of how well they have done. Because of geography, distance, and transportation some institutions have extreme difficulty in being able to be housed by the larger community. I recognize that.

The other thing I want to mention is that the hon. member is accurate about places like the University of Calgary and Red Deer working together with the private sector in trying to develop housing accommodation which would then be managed by management companies that are in business and know how to do this. It's not that universities and students don't, but from the history of how they do, it's clear that it provides them with some problems.

One of the public housing approaches through the government is CHIP, which provides low-cost housing but doesn't identify it for any one group. It can be two-thirds subsidized and one-third unsubsidized. A portion, and I forget the minimum, would have to be low-cost housing. Those are open as options for student housing. The fact of the matter is — and I'm in no dispute or argument over it, except to say it's a difficult way to go — that students feel housing should be on campus to add to the notion and the fact of the community of scholars. That notion is a proper one. The facts sometimes dictate otherwise.

But I want to say too — say it carefully, but say it — that there will be more activity in the area of student housing in years to come as we respond, having lifted the fees on capital construction in advanced education. But I say "carefully" because this is no indication at all that student housing would be a priority. I think student spaces in the institutions, in engineering, forestry, and all the ones we talked about this morning and other times, would have to come first.

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Chairman, as the province grows we're finding specialty courses being offered in the colleges. I'm thinking of paralegal training enrichment in Edmonton, and occupational health and safety nursing in either Edmonton or Calgary. Of course there's an obvious economic advantage to people coming from either centre where the school happens to be, in terms of the overall costs of upgrading their skills.

I'm wondering in a general way how those priorities are set, in terms of what location should have what school, and whether or not any consideration would be given to maybe alternating them over a period of time, or some variety of things, so that all people right out of high school who want to upgrade their skills would have the same economic advantage of doing so.

DR. HOHOL: Was the member's question to do with students or professions? I missed the first . . .

MR. PLANCHE: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. The question revolved around the location of — I was going to say faculty, but I'm not sure that's the word — I guess the location of instruction would be better, as it pertains to specialty courses in colleges to upgrade young adults right out of high school.

DR. HOHOL: As we build and develop programs, there has to be some overwhelming or some primary kind of notion or principle that motivates what we do — and that was the very point of the hon. member — or else it becomes random and doesn't make sense. Overwhelming inasmuch as that pedestrian but very workable and manageable notion that institutions have to — in the first instance discounting probably the universities — respond to the immediate community and then to the somewhat larger community. Very often, programs for updating or upgrading, training or retraining youngsters out of high school, or youngsters who have left high school and did not conclude and are moving horizontally to complete their high school or get some alternative education or training in an atmosphere which is more suitable for them than the traditional high school, because of the kind of people they are: this is the major motivator of where the program is. So we have Alberta Vocational Centres at places of high population density, Edmonton, Calgary, and some remote areas in the north.

The colleges present specialty programs mostly on a sort of requisition, if you wish, or a demand. A group of nursing aides could band together and say: there are 15 or 30 of us; let us go to Mount Royal College or Grant MacEwan College and see if the college is prepared to lay a program down for our benefit. In most cases, that's done on a user-fee basis. In some cases it's subsidized. I have no particular argument against some modest subsidy for a professional group that does so, not so much from self-interest but from the general interest and the service to the public.

If I have missed the hon. member's import or any part of it, I'd be happy to continue the discussion.

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Chairman, just to conclude the discussion, I'd like to say that community colleges tend to leave the impression that anybody from the community who wants to be educated in anything can get it at that specific institution. You have to balance that against economics, and I agree. I don't think any reasonable person is expecting that. I'm sure that this problem, however, is going to stay with us and grow as the population grows.

What I'd like to have from the minister is some kind of indication of how the judgment is made. For instance, it's in place in Edmonton; when would it be in Calgary? Or how would you go about getting it in place in Calgary? I don't know whether it shouldn't alternate, you could have one at each school, or whatever. It's just that I want to know what vehicle the citizens in my particular area can use to get a thing in place at a community college in Calgary.

DR. HOHOL: It's an excellent question. I think one of the best programs is the one that is put in place in response to a group of people identified by a particular service, occupation, or trade, addressing itself to the leadership of the college, and making a case. It's prepared to lay down some money and obviously the time. I would just be surprised — with exceptions for unusual reasons of space or the necessary equipment the short time — but on the longer time, I would be surprised if the colleges would not respond.

Let me say as a general statement that it is nearly a very good thing that the universities, with their traditions and history — what I'm saying is not a criticism

of the universities, rather a support — have some degree of proper difficulty responding to a contemporary circumstance. The colleges do not. So we have those that are consistent and persistent, while on the other hand you have the colleges that can, what I call in the vernacular, turn the corner and adapt to the changing circumstances of contemporary times.

I find that is the strength of our colleges in Alberta. They're tremendous. I'm getting more and more familiar with them, and the more I am, the greater my respect and my support for them, because they can respond to a group of people.

Sometimes something happens in a presentation or in hearing the presentation, and like two ships in the dark, sometimes the group and the college can go past each other. If that happens and the group represents itself, as it ought to, to a Member of the Legislative Assembly — that's how our system works; I would just entreat you to be in touch with me. We work well together in the department. You can go directly to the department. If you don't know the exact official, you can always speak to the deputy minister or one of my assistants in my office, and we will attempt to bring the group and the college together and make sure they're speaking the same language, understanding the same problem, and responding to the people. That's what the institutions are there for.

MR. GOGO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I'd like to make a variety of comments and have you respond all at once, if that's suitable to you.

First of all, Mr. Minister, I'd like to congratulate both you and your department for several things, first where you accepted recommendations of the community in making amendments to The Colleges Act to expand the boards. As most members know, community colleges — and I like the word "contemporary" because it's so appropriate today — have essentially turned the corner, and they're no longer that institution of second choice used by a lot of people. In my view they have been vulnerable over the years. They haven't had the large boards that universities have had, nor have they had senates. Although the role senates play is spelled out very clearly in The Universities Act, historically they have played a much greater role in terms of input, and colleges haven't had that. I'm speaking on behalf of Lethbridge Community College, and I'm sure the others deeply appreciate that you amended the acts to expand those boards. I think it's working out very well.

In Lethbridge the student housing, which is unique to the community college, has turned out very successful. Thank heavens they had the surplus to do it, but they did it. I think that shows some initiative within the college itself.

The senior citizens' program out of Lethbridge Community College: last year over 1,500 senior citizens took advantage. I suggest that if we're not going to challenge the senior citizens to continue learning or to feel they must play an active part, if they can't babysit, and if they can't belong to organized groups, then I think the learning process is so important in terms of preventive medicine. I'm really excited, Mr. Minister, that you have seen fit to continue that program. I assure you that the 1,500 from I think it's 18 institutions or community groups in Lethbridge deeply appreciate that. I want you to know that.

An area that concerns me a little bit, because I'm not fully aware of it, is the nursing program. As most members know, in training nurses there has been the shift from the hospital institution to community colleges. It came out of the United States through Ontario, and now we have it. I would be interested in knowing how it works.

I'd also be interested in knowing that if we have three colleges in Alberta that offer the program, there is not only consistency in program content, but indeed whether we have directors of nursing in charge. Directors in a community college, to me, would be the equivalent of a department head in the university. I think that's very important. I'd be interested in your comments on whether the nursing program in your view is successful, whether we have directors of nursing as such in those positions, and whether they are equivalent — for example, are they PhDs, or is that a significant factor? As they are turning out the nurses for our hospitals, obviously it's very important not only that the training program be adequate but that the program function well within the college.

An area that concerns many of us: here in Alberta we tend to do so much for the senior citizen. And it's richly deserved. I don't quibble. But we have that group of people — I don't know how many they number — who are 50, 55, 57, 58, many of them widows, and they cannot benefit from the federal programs of assistance. If they were married to a senior citizen in Alberta, they've had the benefit of many programs, but that spouse has died, and now because they're under 65 they don't have benefits. I see more and more of it all the time, Mr. Minister, where they don't qualify for the property tax rebate, they're forced to work on their own, they can't quit working long enough to go and take a course somewhere. These are very sincere people who believe in paying their bills. Many of them, because of 30 years of marriage, aren't equipped to go into the work place. They would perhaps want to take some training, but they can't.

If there were some way we could have a program similar to the federal program in Ottawa where a person could go on a retraining program and get \$50, \$100, \$150 a week, or whatever, just to get them over that two-, four-, or six-month period — I'd be interested in whether you feel a program of that nature would be appropriate. I would think the Minister of Social Services and Community Health could almost identify the number. If that's possible I would be interested in your response.

The University of Lethbridge waited some time for phase two, but they still got it much earlier than perhaps they normally would have. Speaking for my community and my colleague from Lethbridge East, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I assure you we certainly appreciate what the government's done. We know that you, Mr. Minister, as an individual around Executive Council, accounted in large part for that phase two funding. Believe you me, we appreciate it.

The community I represent endorses your stand in terms of funding, the 8.25 per cent. If I'm not mistaken, you received a telegram from that part of the country endorsing that. In the tuition fee situation you went through some time ago I believe, along with many others, that you were fully justified.

I think, though, we must remember that universi-

ties offer a unique type of education. It's exciting to see in the community of Lethbridge that we now have graduates of the university in the college system. I think that's beautiful. For so long people preached, get an education. And that's what they got. They had great potential, but nobody could afford to hire them because they wanted big wages but were really no good for anything. Now they've discovered the college system, and they're going through essentially a retraining program, maybe being 'de-intellectualized', I don't know. But there's more than one plumber around with a BA. It's probably interesting to have him working on your sink and carrying on an intelligent conversation. I think that would be very exciting.

I can't emphasize too much the role the community college plays, but I think it's essential to have them both. The university on the one hand — whether or not some members of their boards say they should be above responsibility, I think the public has a habit of bringing them back to earth periodically.

Finally, Mr. Minister, a quick word about Athabasca University. Athabasca may be located here but it's an Alberta university. It provides a distant learning program, and I think it's unique in British Columbia and Alberta. When we look at the mobility of Canadians, where according to StatCan every Canadian moves once every four years, I wonder whether Athabasca has either tie-ins or connections with adjacent provinces, not so much in terms of the philosophy — for example, I notice the philosophy of Athabasca is to promote personal growth. I think that's tremendous.

Too many of us use measuring sticks in the educational system. If Athabasca can attract that one person who's maybe a bookkeeper in a small town 400 miles distant and who enrolls in Athabasca, whether he spends four months or four years, I suggest he's better for it. Too often many of us read annual reports and judge by the statistics of graduates. I suggest, Mr. Minister, that's a poor yardstick for Athabasca. I think they offer exciting courses. Whether their funding is adequate, I make no judgment because I'm not qualified. But I do believe they provide an extremely useful service.

I had the opportunity of meeting with members from Athabasca last fall and just recently, and I think there's a dedicated group there. I also agree Sam Smith's a promoter, because he was the first president of the U of L. If you don't watch him, I suppose you'll have a U of L at Athabasca. But that's the nature of the animal.

DR. HOHOL: We're watching him.

MR. GOGO: You watch him. That's good.

I do know the enthusiasm they put into their program is exciting, and Lethbridge West for example has six students of Athabasca. It would be interesting, Mr. Minister, if they could provide you with the statistics as they affect the members of this Assembly, because I'm sure there are students of the Athabasca system scattered throughout all the members' constituencies. They're playing an extremely useful service.

I think members from around Alberta tend to think of Athabasca University as an Edmonton university, and that couldn't be farther from the truth. I sometimes think we should put it geographically in the

centre of Alberta. That would be in the constituency of the Member for Lesser Slave Lake. But in recognition of the mailing system in Canada, we know that would defeat the purpose. [interjections] The member says not in the middle of the lake.

Of all the departments I've seen since I've been in the Assembly, I think I haven't seen a greater difference in any department than in Advanced Education. There seem to be a lot of new attitudes. Maybe it's a realization that you have to pay some rent for the space you occupy on earth, and getting an education is only the beginning.

I believe the other community colleges around Alberta are offering the same type of program, but the sooner we as Canadians learn to recognize the mobility of Canadians, the interdependence of our educational systems and how they affect each other in other provinces, and implement some type of policy through the educational arm — not so much by government, because I think, Mr. Minister, it has to be done on a professional level amongst those people within the institutions. If we could develop with Athabasca that type of continuity with similar institutions across Canada, we would benefit all Albertans.

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Chairman, as you and all hon. members of the House know, it's not difficult for me to speak, but I have to say I find it difficult to express my gratitude and good feelings about the support and the excellent, really significant contribution the hon. Member for Lethbridge West made here this afternoon, which I think entirely worthy of a speech on the Speech from the Throne or a statement on the budget debate. I want to congratulate him, as other people did, for a simply outstanding statement which reflects a keen and incisive understanding of the system of education in postsecondary institutions. I commend and congratulate him. From now on I have to place him on notice, that along with my department and other people who advise me well, I will be seeing him from time to time. There are other people who advise me, and that's a different matter, but the advice of the Member for Lethbridge West is excellent.

MR. CLARK: Is he good enough to be an MP?

DR. HOHOL: Yes, I would say so. No question. At least; certainly a cabinet minister.

His interpretation of Athabasca U: we're prone to think in terms of territory; you know, a river here, a railroad somewhere else, a school in between, and that's where the school belongs. His notion of the meaning of Athabasca University is just outstanding. The records will show, our officials and I have heard, and we will discuss those, sir, with the people at Athabasca U, because that has to be entirely their role statement or definition, their *raison d'être*.

With respect to the statement, too, about the capacity of our province to provide students with alternatives in education, the college and the university are again in that kind of major-league understanding of what postsecondary education is about. His kindness about our efforts to try to respond to the human condition in Alberta from our department is certainly something I cannot help but feel kindly about. I'm sure our department people do as well.

With respect to nurses, I want to assure the hon. member and all hon. members that the quality of

nursing education in the college system is of the highest. Let us look at it in a pragmatic way. These are new programs for them. Dare they do less than exceptionally well, when they have to put out a product that has to be measured against the traditional notion that the only nurse worthy of the name is from a hospital? Mr. Chairman, let me say in a hurry that so long as I'm minister, and I'm certain so long as this government is in office, hospitals will always look to hospitals to train nurses. But as my colleague the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care and I have said on many occasions in our meetings on this very significant matter, the education of nurses in the years to come is not one or the other but the two together.

There is a body of knowledge called nursing. There are a number of significant competencies and skills called nursing. You have to meld the two together. There are attitudes along with skills. You get those in the classroom, but you also get them at the bedside and on the corridor, and in the pool of nurses working together under supervision with doctors, with patients, parents, people at home, specialists, researchers, and so on. So it isn't one or the other. That order has passed, to paraphrase Omar Khayyam in contemporary language. That day is past. So I want to assure that while the programs may be differently structured, the content, curriculum, objectives, and product are of a high order.

I make it a point to speak to some of the nurses from wherever they graduate, just to get my finger on the pulse of nursing education. Our department is responsible, if you recall, sir, for the task force on nursing education. We're working hard at it, talking and working with the significant groups who are affected and who provide and receive service. So we're in the midst of this, and I want to provide that assurance.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Assembly, I was intrigued with the hon. member's notion of an educational program for senior citizens. Of course, I cannot — it's not the purpose of estimates to make commitments that the program shall be. But I can see that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is going to try to get a commitment or two before this afternoon is over. I can't make a commitment that we'll do that program, but I can make a different commitment. I will speak to my colleague the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health. And [we'll] see if, in discussions with him, we can hear him entirely, absolutely and clearly, and see if we can't do that.

It's a novel idea. It's a different idea, one I have not been familiar with, and I've heard for the first time. Again, as I hear it, I feel it. It makes sense; it's reasonable. On balance, I like it. On examination, if it makes that kind of sense to us — it does to him, and I rather suspect he's going to convince us because he was very convincing this afternoon, as he always is in caucus, in the House, and elsewhere — then I'm prepared to work with my officials and see if we can't respond to the senior citizens in yet another novel way, as we have in other times, other years, and other budgets.

So I commend him for bringing this very novel and unusual notion. On balance, I think it would work. If I were given to envy, as Shakespeare said somewhere, I would envy. But I'm not given to envy, so I congratulate him for presenting to us this very excel-

lent notion.

Thank you.

MR. APPLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to say a word or two about Athabasca University, not necessarily because of the connotation from the constituency I represent, but for several reasons. I must say I'm pleased at the amount of discussion Athabasca University has generated here this afternoon. I'm not naive when I say I was unaware of the number of people within this Assembly who are very familiar with the work of Athabasca University, and the type of structure and programs it's presenting throughout the whole province. Reference has been made to the fact that this type of program will probably extend beyond the boundaries of the province. I would not be surprised if it extended beyond the boundaries of our country, if this type of institution continues to prosper in the manner in which it is doing.

I will admit that when the original idea of Athabasca University was generated by the previous government, and it appeared that it was going to be another large, massive institution on the outskirts of Edmonton in close proximity to an already large university, I was quite apprehensive about whether this type of institution was necessary. I was very pleased that a review of the type of service that might be provided came about. This idea of an open university, with the educative process going on in various parts of the province and being generated from some central place, and the type of education depending more on the initiative, interest, and desire of the people involved rather than on any type of motivation that might be given through a campus situation itself: I think that is an ideal way to go. I think it's serving that purpose, and it's a very necessary purpose within this province.

However, Mr. Chairman, having established this type of institution and this type of educative process over a period of years now, I wonder whether we might be in a position to say that this unique type of service has now proven itself, that we have fairly well established the ideals, objectives, and the types of programs we would like to offer, and that maybe we can look forward. Having gone through the transition period, this type of institution having become an established fact, we'll be prepared to say now: we're not looking at something in a tenuous position, that we're experimenting, we don't know if we're going to go ahead, or if we have to change our whole structure. But we could say, now this is the way we're going. We've gone carefully and worked our way through this period. From now on we'll be able to take steps in very definite directions, in the same careful transitional manner that we have done in the past perhaps. But still we can look forward with some confidence to the fact that we do now have this type of institution and it will continue. I think that's important, because it has created a type of institution that I think is very necessary in the social atmosphere we have in this province. It's fulfilling a function that has long been needed.

I cannot help but think of the remark the Member for Spirit River-Fairview made this afternoon when he thought there might be some expansion to provide facilities for those who are unable to put in full time at an established university to complete training in a

degree program in order that they might qualify. He mentioned particularly the field of education. Of course, to obtain a degree in education you have to put in so much time in attendance. My experience in education has been that it's about 90 per cent theoretical and 10 per cent practical.

I wonder if something could be worked into the programs of Athabasca University so the theoretical part could be offered through their programs, and maybe something worked out with one of the other campuses within the province, in Calgary, Edmonton, or Lethbridge, so they could go there for a month or a couple of months and take the practical part as necessary. For instance, if a person who had a BA degree wanted to qualify for education, he could complete his program in that manner.

I just wanted to speak briefly, Mr. Chairman, but I have to remember the remarks of the Member for Lethbridge West when he said, maybe this institution should be somewhere in the central part of the province, like in the constituency of Lesser Slave Lake. I would have to remind the Assembly, as I have done in the past, that the geographical east-west centre of the province is 8 miles south of Athabasca. I would also like to suggest that at the present time in that very location, there is a federal government meteorological station that is becoming surplus. It has all the facilities necessary for a campus to be set up there, a beautiful, rural, pastoral setting. I think it would be ideal for the Athabasca University campus.

Thank you.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Chairman, I hadn't intended to rise but I feel duty-bound to make a few comments, and they won't be that lengthy. I'd first like to congratulate the Member for Lethbridge West on his remarks, and on his incisive suggestion that perhaps the geographic centre of Alberta should be the proper location for Athabasca University. In terms of the remarks of the Member for Athabasca, I will not argue that on an east-west line Athabasca is the centre, but on a true geographic centre, Lesser Slave Lake is the centre of the province.

Mr. Chairman, just briefly, I think that the impact of the minister's department on the people of northern Alberta is enormous, and it's important. It's important in the area of colleges: Keyano College, Grande Prairie College, Fairview College, Lakeland College, the vocational centres. The people of the north are beginning to realize, as all Albertans are and have for a number of years, that the strength of a region or of a province isn't measured in terms of economic strength. It's measured in terms of the cultural and educational development and the progress in terms of the arts and sciences. That's why I say that the impact of the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower is so very, very vital and important to all of Alberta and to the north.

On the Alberta Vocational Centre, Grouard, I'd like to draw members' attention to the fact that there is a display right now at the Meadowlark shopping centre. It would be well worth the time of any members who are available or have time to go, to visit this display of native art, largely a lost art that is being revived through the efforts of AVC, Grouard. I'd like to congratulate the minister on the appointment of Jim Berg to that particular institution. He does an outstanding job.

Just briefly on the matter of Athabasca University, I understand that the number of people who have taken advantage is roughly fifty-fifty, urban-rural. I would urge that the minister continue to remind the president of Athabasca University to have that emphasis on the rural aspect, providing these educational courses to rural Albertans who have difficulty in reaching our conventional institutions.

I'd like to go on briefly to another area of responsibility of the minister, the area of native relocation and the counselling provided through that division of the department. I would urge that the minister, if at all possible, upgrade and expand that counselling service. I realize that under Housing and Public Works there is some expansion of manpower. I would like to see that co-ordination between the minister's area of responsibility and the Minister of Housing and Public Works, so that we have far better and more intensive counselling under the relocation program, the rural and native housing program, and other similar programs.

Mr. Chairman, those are the remarks I'd like to leave with the minister.

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

DR. HOHOL: Just to say how much I appreciate the hon. members' contribution and interpretation of the educational services as we try to provide them in the north. Certainly that's a priority. I'm sure hon. members have heard me speak of our commitments in the department, and mine personally, to the people who over the years in Alberta have had little if any opportunity to cut into the benefits of permanent bases in the labor force. They're the poor, the disadvantaged, the female trying to enter the labor force the second or third time around, the handicapped, the disadvantaged, or the poor for whatever reason. And so, complex as it is, we are making some notable strides and will continue to do this. It's in this kind of setting, the Legislature and other places, where hon. members can give us counsel, advice, and criticism to do our work better.

In the area of relocation and housing counselling, the hon. member will be pleased to hear that in the estimates we have increased the establishment for counsellors by nine. That's a significant number, and my colleagues the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works and the hon. Minister Without Portfolio responsible for Native Affairs will be working together on this, again with you, sir, and other members who are in those geographic areas, to do more and better in the area of native counselling.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the government and the hon. minister for the beautiful community college that was constructed in the Drumheller Valley, called the "Big Country Community College". The building is excellently constructed and nestled in the canyon of the Red Deer, the hills in the background, the Red Deer River in the foreground. When you look at the building from the heights of the hills in the sunset, it makes you think of a beautiful poem.

The college students come from the Drumheller-Stettler area and all points north, such as Rumsey, Rowley, Big Valley, Delia, Craigmyle, Hanna, right

over to the boundary, some even coming from Saskatchewan. A large number are from Coronation, Stettler, Youngstown, and Oyen. It also serves quite a few students from the Rosebud area to the south. The 20 highly qualified staff are excellent teachers and have already found a place in the hearts of the people of the Drumheller Valley.

The students also come from the penitentiary: some of the staff who are going there for upgrading, and some of the inmates who are being rehabilitated through college and university courses.

The "Big Country Community College" specializes in all general secondary subjects, but it specializes in coal, oil, gas, and farm technology, and it has a special feature dealing with Indian and Metis culture.

The first graduation is expected to be a gala affair, and we hope the hon. minister and the Premier of the province will be there to share the honors.

Mr. Chairman, everything I've said to date, I've seen in my crystal ball. My question now to the minister is: will the hon. minister make what I just saw in the crystal ball come true?

DR. HOHOL: You just couldn't make a better case. I don't know about the object in his hand. It's probably not by coincidence that the hon. Member for Drumheller has it. He must have carried it since Monday, because I was scheduled to be on estimates Monday and that didn't happen. It's an excellent case.

We are at this time looking at the case exactly as presented by the hon. member. My first impression, and that of my advisers, is that the large geography may not provide the number of people that would command the professors, the library, the research, the study, and that we would probably look to places like Medicine Hat College, Lethbridge College, other places such as Mount Royal, as a matter of fact, and some others.

However, in a letter as recent as early last week I wrote to someone who wrote on behalf of the Drumheller regional college as described by the hon. member, and said the things I have to this point. But I also have said that it is not a closed issue. I do not believe we can make fast judgments about those things, certainly not from Edmonton. It will be my intention to visit the area with some of our officials. I'm sure we will let the member know. He might wish to show us around the panorama and try to set the scene of how it might be in years to come.

We believe that in terms of what we refer to in a textbook way as a "catchment area", the student population might not be enough — notwithstanding the natives; they're there, and we have educational programs for them elsewhere; and the inmates of jails are there, unfortunately, and we have programs of instruction for them in places like Peace River; and the general populace. But the comments I made with respect to Union College, with respect to degrees, would apply in a different context in terms of numbers, and then the capability of the components that go into a college, to be able to be in place: that's how we will judge it.

We will also judge it, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Member, very much on the commitment of the community, the sacrifices it's prepared to make, and what efforts it can pool together and provide evidence that would make us feel, and not just understand from numbers. I work as much from how I feel intuitively

and how you get commitments, in addition to the objective data which must be there. But I appreciate the approach, which I'm sure surprised nearly everyone here except the hon. member and me. The case is likely there, but at this point we're not sure it is. But it's not a closed issue and I welcome the representation.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a comment or two. I appreciate the words of the hon. minister and would like to say on behalf of His Worship Mayor Doucette and his council that if it will help the minister, the council is prepared to undertake research and to co-operate one hundred per cent. I think I can also speak for the chamber of commerce in the city of Drumheller, and for the large body of citizens who have already done some work and are willing to do plenty more in order to get the facts and give them to the minister. So I appreciate the consideration the minister and the government is giving this project.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Chairman, I'll just take a brief moment or two. I'd like to thank the Member for Cardston for raising the position of Canadian Union College at Lacombe. For the record, I would like to congratulate the minister for his dedication, his really hard work and sincerity in the work he has been doing in this portfolio. I'm sure it's probably partly because of the minister's background that he has brought into the portfolio the vast knowledge and certainly wisdom to make decisions on one of the largest departments in government.

I was just looking at the total vote, and it's well over \$400 million. The Member for Banff isn't in his place right now — he's coming now — but if Shell Oil had a top officer who was responsible for \$400 million a year, it would be interesting to know what that person's salary would be. The member doesn't have to answer that now, but the point I want to make is this: it certainly isn't for the remuneration that our ministers take on these responsibilities. It has to be extreme dedication and interest. I just want to commend the minister. [interjections]

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I would briefly say to the members of the Legislature, many of whom have had an opportunity to attend the operation of Canadian Union College at Lacombe, which is a Seventh Day Adventist church-operated institution, a private institution: they are extremely proud of their operation. I think they're doing an excellent job. I have visited their grounds a number of times. I'm really impressed again with the dedication they have, in particular to their young people.

They have negotiations going on with the minister with regard to, hopefully, university status. I know these areas have to be very, very carefully thought out. Their own worldwide organization has recently abandoned the other location in Canada in hopes and anticipation that they will be able to relocate and expand in the area at Lacombe. Naturally, it would be fair to say there's a fair amount of, should we say, anxiety at the college to know whether the province of Alberta and our government is prepared to give the permission required for university status.

They have a large institution in the United States. They have fully qualified medical doctors, dentists, and nurses graduating from that institution. A num-

ber of them practise here in Alberta. They're accepted by our professions, and whatever qualifications are required at the Alberta and Canadian level. They're extremely anxious to know their position; because you know, in private institutions, as has been said, they cover all their capital costs. That indicates to me extreme dedication.

Recently the Canadian Union College constructed a very large athletic centre, built it to the standards required at the university level. It was built by a group of, I think, 100 who are so committed to the work they're doing that they have committed funds for the capital costs of that operation. Naturally, until we can assure students who attend that campus that the courses they take will qualify them in the different faculties and areas, Mr. Minister, they hesitate. And in the process of hesitating it's causing some concern.

In conclusion, perhaps to round out this little presentation, Mr. Minister, could you indicate briefly what is required in terms of legislation to qualify Canadian Union College? I know you'll word this carefully. You did suggest there was some time frame, hopefully within the term of office of this government. Could you give some reassurance in the area of that comment? So there are two points to the question.

DR. HOHOL: I'd be happy to do that, Mr. Chairman. In recalling that one of my officials and I made a tour of some of the institutions of this denomination in the United States, I'd forgotten that the hon. Member for Lacombe was on the trip with us. I want to indicate my appreciation of his support on behalf of that college. All ministers know they can't depend entirely on their own judgments and the data from the department, and they do an excellent job of it. We have to know that our colleagues and peers are supporting these propositions.

The requirements for the change at Union College were those I mentioned in discussion with the House on a question from the hon. member from Carstairs. But specifically on the last one, it would have to be a change to The Colleges Act. That in itself would not be difficult. What is difficult is to get in place the logistics, criteria, and conditions for additional degree-granting circumstances. On behalf of his constituents, including this college, the hon. member has fairly and properly asked me in this portfolio to make a commitment, or at least where this commitment is, that it's full and complete in a human, subjective . . .

In terms of the commitment of the college people, and my examination of the professorial capacity at the university in the United States, it's of a very high order, the kind of order that the federal government in the United States has certain contracts with that university to train people in some of the professions. We walked through it, talked to the professors and students, looked at the equipment, the research capability, the library. I haven't any doubt that this college could meet those conditions, and our people will continue to work.

As I said some time ago, there are certain things that, one way or another, each of us in our portfolio sets as priorities to conclude, and not have a new minister face a complex problem in the middle. I want to assure the Assembly, and in particular the hon. Member for Lacombe, that that is one of the top

six or top dozen priorities that we will address and conclude before this term expires.

So that's my commitment, Mr. Chairman.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, this afternoon we find we have spent perhaps the major part of the time discussing Athabasca University and the services it's providing. Quite properly so, because I think Athabasca University is a unique institution in the province and in western Canada, and perhaps the nature of the service it provides will make it unique in the whole country. I want to make a few remarks with respect to Athabasca University, in addition to the questions that I raised to the minister. Perhaps we may conclude this afternoon on that particular topic, and carry on on the very broad number of questions with respect to the conventional universities.

I recall, Mr. Chairman, that in 1973 and '74 the caucus committee on education had before it for discussion and consideration what ought to be the mandate or the direction in which Athabasca University ought to go, whether it should become a permanent university, a fourth or fifth university in the province, whether to take on the function of a conventional university or the open university it now is. I recall some of the discussion and debate that went on within the caucus committee on education. The concern was being expressed that with the decreasing enrolment in the conventional universities, perhaps in due course and due time, by the influence of the people who would be involved in Athabasca University, it would change from the open type of university that was being discussed to a conventional university.

I recollect that the committee in its discussions was very firm in its recommendations to the minister that the legislation which would give Athabasca University its mandate and permanency would have a considerable control — that the mandate would not change from the open type of university it now is. I'm extremely pleased with the visits I have made on more than one occasion to Athabasca University as to how it has been developing, particularly now that it has been given its permanency, and the mandate and the direction in which it should work are very clear.

Mr. Minister, I think perhaps more can be done through Athabasca University in the development of courses with respect to the professions, particularly the faculties that exist in the conventional universities, the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, where there is a requirement for an educational term of four or five years. Much of the curriculum is of the nature that perhaps can be provided to adult students currently in the work force who perhaps would like to direct their interests into a second or third career, but are not able to leave their current jobs or employment positions and their income for the period of time required to attend the conventional university or college.

I think it is interesting to note that discussions have been taking place with regard to the nursing profession, one of those that has been mentioned this afternoon. It's my understanding as well that some courses are being developed with respect to the accounting professions. I think that is very significant and important.

I would like to suggest to the minister that we perhaps have a greater examination of the acceleration of the number of courses and the breadth of

careers and professions where there is perhaps not a difficulty but a quota with regard to entry into our conventional universities. We might examine whether AU can fill in that area of service. I would be very interested in perhaps having input from the various professions as to how they view that kind of direction and consideration, and that sort of planning.

I know we are embarking — and I would expect the minister will be advising us in due course on the policy direction with respect to professions and occupations. I will be asking him some questions on our next day with regard to that aspect of his responsibility. I think it may be a good time to approach a decision; a policy paper might be put forward to the professions in the near future, perhaps including some request to them for a response.

I think, Mr. Chairman, I will close my remarks with respect to Athabasca University for this afternoon. Hopefully we will continue in the other areas next day.

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

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

DR. McCRIMMON: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration a certain resolution, reports progress on the same, and asks leave to sit again.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[At 5.32 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 5, the House adjourned to Thursday at 2:30 p.m.]