

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA**

Title: **Tuesday, October 31, 1978 2:30 p.m.**

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

**PRAYERS**

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

**head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to file three copies of the annual report of the Department of Municipal Affairs for the year ended March 31, 1978.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of tabling three copies of the Department of Agriculture annual report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1978, as required by statute.

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the fifteenth annual report of the Alberta Racing Commission.

**head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. ZANDER: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure for me today to introduce to you, and through you to this Assembly, 100 young men accompanied by Mr. McKay and other members of the staff from the St. John's Anglican school for boys in Genesee in the Drayton Valley constituency.

Mr. Speaker, the school is situated in a picturesque setting on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River just west of the city of Edmonton. The hon. Speaker and I spent some time with the young men, who are eager to learn and study our parliamentary procedure. I may add that this student body is at present organizing its parliament and is in the process of budgeting. If we have in view the natural resources surrounding that school, their budget would be sizable to that of the province.

Mr. Speaker, may I also add that all hon. members and you are invited to the school to view its legislative process in setting its budget in the near future. I know that all hon. members may have some new policies and new ideas when they return to this Legislature.

MR. BUTLER: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon it's my privilege and a pleasure to introduce to you and to members of the House the principals of two prominent Manitoba farm families. They are Mr. and Mrs. Walter McTavish and Mr. and Mrs. John Moulson. I would ask them to rise and receive the welcome of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the House agree to revert to Tabling Returns and Reports?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

**head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**  
(reversion)

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. Member for Little Bow and myself, I'd like to file with the Legislature Library another view with regard to the heritage savings trust fund report.

**head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****Board Memberships**

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Business Development and Tourism, to start with. I'd like to ask the minister what criteria he takes into consideration when he makes appointments to the Alberta Opportunity Company board of directors.

MR. DOWLING: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly, we appoint our directors primarily on a geographical basis. Bearing in mind that some 70 per cent of our loans are made to rural Alberta, we want some strong input from that part of the province. We don't specifically require that a person have a legal, pharmaceutical, or accounting background, but that is also taken into account.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Minister, the major criteria would be that individuals are small businessmen and that they represent the broad geographical areas of the province?

MR. DOWLING: Not necessarily small businessmen, Mr. Speaker. We want them to be strong managers, very knowledgeable about business in itself, successful in their own right, and representing particular geographical areas of the province and sometimes particular pursuits.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Housing and Public Works. What criteria does the government use in appointing members to the Alberta Housing Corporation board of directors?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, similar criteria, I would say. Certainly geographical representation across the province is important. In a working board, such as the boards of the corporations are, it's imperative that diversity of background and expertise be there. So those factors are taken into consideration.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Is consideration given to the geographical regions across the province in the appointment of members to the Alberta Housing Corporation board?

MR. CHAMBERS: Yes. I have been involved with the appointment of members to the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation board. I'm aware of no changes to the Alberta Housing Corporation board in recent months. They do come from varied areas across Alberta, and I believe the same criteria were used in those original appointments as we used recently in

appointing members to the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation board.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Agriculture. Would the minister explain to the House what criteria the government uses in making its appointments to the Agricultural Development Corporation board?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, we use very skilful criteria. We begin looking at the geographical locations of people in relation to the kinds of loans the Ag. Development Corporation makes. We also look at the background of each individual, as to whether or not they're knowledgeable in the beef cattle industry, the grains industry, irrigation farming, northern agriculture, or what have you. Then we try to have some mix between farmers and perhaps practical businessmen or people with former financial experience, weighted fairly heavily on the side of practising farmers.

Beyond that I can say, Mr. Speaker, that since the inception of the Agricultural Development Corporation, we have appointed two women to the board of 12 directors. While their appointments were certainly not made on the basis of sex, we did recognize the valuable input farm women in this province could have in a financial organization like ADC.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care and ask him what criteria he uses in making appointments to government hospitals such as the Foothills in Calgary.

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, recommendations come in from a variety of sources, including members of the Legislature. The boards themselves play a role, and these are considered in light of the particular talent required on the board or who may be required to be replaced. Also in terms of geographical distribution, in the case of the Foothills board raised by the hon. leader, it's important we have a geographical distribution from all of southern Alberta, because it plays a southern Alberta role. The Executive Council makes the decision on that basis.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower and ask if he continues to follow . . .

DR. WALKER: What's your point?

MR. CLARK: Now, Doc Walker, just don't . . .

DR. BUCK: You've had your world trip, John. Relax, you've had your swan song.

MR. CLARK: You just got back from your sojourn.

Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. I'd like to ask the minister what criteria he uses in making appointments to the boards of governors of various provincial institutions.

DR. HOHOL: I'm sorry, the hon. leader used both terms: boards of governors and provincially administered institutions. He either meant one or the other or both. [interjections] Both? The boards of

governors.

Well, the approach we use is to get recommendations from Albertans generally. In the final analysis, I bring to the Executive Council the best people I can for recommendations to appointments. These are serious kinds of deliberations; they take several weeks. The total list of recommendees is presented to Executive Council, and their biographies and resumes. We try to get a mix of people in terms of occupation, age, sex, and so on, again to get the best people possible for that particular institution.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, we'll continue this question when the Premier gets back on Thursday.

#### Housing Units — Grouard

MR. CLARK: I'd like to direct the second question to the Minister of Housing and Public Works. It deals with the Grouard housing situation. Just a bit of background information. Not long ago the minister was visited by native people from the Grouard area who have problems with the rural and native housing program. Mr. Minister, what is the reason for 20 of the 28 units built at Grouard and finished in June still being vacant?

MR. CHAMBERS: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I recall visiting those houses in the first or second week of July, I believe. They were not yet finished. The work was progressing. Exterior finishing and landscaping were being done. Of course as they become finished and are ready for occupancy, people move in. Some were completed and occupied at that time, as I recall. Of course this is a phasing in period; as they are completed, the housing committee arranges for the people to move in.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, would the minister please comment to the Assembly on the workmanship involved in these housing units. In fact, is the minister satisfied with it? Could the minister confirm whether the first contractor quit part way through the project and whether the government has had to bring in a second contractor? In fact, did remedial work have to be done in the form of putting up tar paper and plywood on each side of the walls to make these houses livable?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition should really go up and take a look at those houses. They're very attractive and very livable.

Now, they are innovative. They are stack-wall houses, which is a new concept. While some problems were encountered, which the hon. leader refers to and which have since been rectified, I still think the program has been a success in terms of any experimental program and learning about future applications of stack-wall building. There are parts of northern Canada and perhaps Alberta where the timber size might be such as to preclude log housing, for example, whereas stack-wall can of course be built with very small logs.

So it's true that problems were encountered; nevertheless it is a new and experimental program and, from my point of view, well worth it. I think they're

very attractive and livable houses. I believe the people up there are going to be very satisfied with them.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Mr. Minister, can you give an indication to the Assembly if all 28 houses are now finished? Are people presently living in all the houses, like you say they are?

MR. CHAMBERS: Well, I haven't had a check within the last few days, but I will undertake to check and provide the hon. leader with the current status.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Mr. Minister, when the group was in to see you within the last month . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the hon. leader please revert to the ordinary parliamentary form.

MR. CLARK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will.

Mr. Speaker, when the minister was visited by the group from Grouard within the last month — can the minister now indicate to the Assembly what percentage of those houses were filled at that time? That question is based on the assumption that the minister would have done some checking into the matter after the delegation met with him.

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, frankly these houses are being filled in the normal, appropriate way. As I said, I will undertake to report on the current situation; that's it.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Did the minister cause an investigation to be done by the officials of the Alberta Housing Corporation or the Home Mortgage Corporation into how many of those houses were being used after the delegation from Grouard met with the minister? If you did, Mr. Minister, how many of the houses were being used at that time?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, I won't say that my patience is running thin with this line of questioning, but I will say that these things happen. I don't know if the hon. leader appreciates how these things work. As the houses are completed, people move in. That's happening up there. If you want to know the exact stage of a given piece of landscaping, sidewalk, or whatever, sure I'll report on that. I'll let the hon. leader know exactly where it's at.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Minister, it isn't only your patience that is wearing thin . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Also the patience of the Chair.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, also the people who thought they were going to get into the houses.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Mr. Minister, the last time the department checked, what portion of the 28 houses was being used?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, one last time. The Housing Corporation of course operates an awful lot of housing across this province. This government has

been involved in doing a lot for people in the way of housing all over this province.

DR. BUCK: In other words, you don't know.

MR. CHAMBERS: The corporation is on top of these things. It's a very good program. The hon. leader may try to knock that program if he wishes. But as far as I'm concerned it's an excellent program, and one the people of Alberta can be proud of.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Very nice try, Mr. Minister. But the question is: of the 28 houses which were built in Grouard, what portion was being lived in the last time the minister asked the Alberta Housing Corporation? That's a very simple question. In light of the fact that within the last month the minister had a delegation into his office asking him to investigate it, and the minister told the people they would have inspectors there within two weeks, surely the minister has heard back from the inspectors. Now, how many of the 28 houses are being lived in?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition can get into as big a flap as he wishes. If he asked me how many of the thousands of public housing units were occupied at this particular date . . .

DR. BUCK: He didn't ask you that.

MR. CHAMBERS: Of course he expects me to know the occupancy of every house that the Housing Corporation operates in Alberta. But the fact of the matter is that the Housing Corporation and the Home Mortgage Corporation are on top of that. It's operating in a normal way, and those houses will be filled in due course. That's my answer.

#### **ADC Interest Rates**

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. I wonder whether there will be any change in the interest rates of ADC tomorrow morning.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I did indicate that if any changes were made, they would be made on November 1. The decision has been to maintain the Agricultural Development Corporation direct lending rate at 9 per cent, which it is now, for a further six months.

#### **Correctional Officers**

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour, and relates to the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution. Can the Minister of Labour indicate if he has taken it under consideration to investigate if the correctional officers working in the institution are being considered, in that they are having problems guaranteeing the occupational health and safety of employees in the correctional institution? Is the minister having a look at the safety procedures that possibly should be put into place to guarantee the safety of the employees in the institution?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, perhaps my colleague the Provincial Treasurer might be able to add something to what I'm going to respond to the hon. member in regard to the occupational health and safety programs insofar as they involve the government service. In general terms, though, within the public service the government has kept abreast of all the requirements in regard to the initiatives that have been required of private industry in the sense of safety committees and the like. I'm not aware at present whether one has been especially related to the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution. On that basis I indicate that such activities are directed to employee safety within the public service. As to details, perhaps the hon. member could inquire further of my colleague the Provincial Treasurer.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, to the Solicitor General. In light of the fact that the guarantee of safety to correctional officers could be considered as being under the occupational health and safety portion of The Labour Act, can the Solicitor General indicate if any special steps have been taken since, say, July 1 to make sure that the safety of the correctional officers is being kept up, so they will be safe from the people they are looking after?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is talking about safety in terms of guards on machines, and rails on stairways, every step is taken to comply with the occupational safety regulations of the government of Alberta and the recommendations of the Workers' Compensation Board. If the hon. member is talking about safety from the thieves, cutthroats, and convicts in the prison, I have to say that being a correctional officer is a hazardous occupation, just as being a soldier or policeman is, and no regulations will totally remove that hazard.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. Can the Solicitor General indicate if there's a pay differential in the maximum and minimum security areas in the institution, especially in Fort Saskatchewan?

MR. FARRAN: Yes, there is a small pay differential for the correctional officers engaged in what is called D Block, which is the maximum security block. If the hon. member is referring to classification as to degrees of security required, this does take place in every correctional institution. The most dangerous inmates are in an environment of greater security than those serving minimum sentences for non-violent offences.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that there have been several hostage-taking incidents in the last several months, has the minister given any consideration to looking at danger pay for correctional officers?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, the question of pay would be more properly addressed to the Provincial Treasurer, to whom the Public Service Commissioner reports.

But I take exception to the remark by the hon. member that there have been several hostage incidents. The word "several" usually encompasses more than two. In fact there have been two, both of

which have been dissipated in a matter of just a few hours, and nobody has been hurt.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, we won't argue about the word "several". It means two or more. And just for the minister's enlightenment, the prisoner who escaped when he was going for medical service could be considered as such.

But my question, Mr. Speaker: has the Solicitor General given any consideration or advice to the Provincial Treasurer that the danger pay be increased because of the recent circumstances of hostage-taking in the Fort Saskatchewan jail?

MR. SPEAKER: Might I just interject that perhaps the question might be put in a more acceptable form. One could scarcely expect hon. ministers to come into the question period with all sorts of intracabinet communications.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, we appreciate your ruling, but it seems the Provincial Treasurer is about to answer the question. Okay, then the minister isn't.

Mr. Speaker, can the Provincial Treasurer indicate if the minister has been giving active consideration to an increase in pay for correctional officers working in, shall we say, the maximum security areas of the correctional institutions?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I quickly want to correct the member's assumption that I was going to answer his first question, because I was prepared to raise the objection which you put so well.

In response to the question, pay levels in all areas of the government service would be a matter for negotiation between the union and the Public Service Commissioner's office, and would not be initiated by the government.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary, I believe, to the Solicitor General. Can the Solicitor General indicate if any active consideration is being given to a lay visitors' committee, similar to the Hospital Visitors Committee, that will review and visit some of our correctional institutions?

MR. FARRAN: No, Mr. Speaker. The Ombudsman performs that duty.

### **Beef Industry**

MR. MANDEVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Could the minister indicate whether his department has any statistics that would indicate a shortage of beef over the next few years?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, we have a number of statistics assembled in our department, but it would be a matter of judgment whether or not they would indicate a shortage of beef over the next few years. I can say that the outlook our people are projecting is for strong demand and favorable prices for beef in both Canada and the United States, certainly over the next two to three years.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister indicate what response

the department has had from the producers as a result of the announcement to extend the cow-calf loan for another year, I think until January 1, 1980?

MR. MOORE: Any response I've had from farm organizations has been favorable. A response from actual producers to extending the loan has not yet occurred, because most of the loans do not expire until later on this year or in January 1979.

#### Urban Transportation

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker . . .

DR. BUCK: Hey, John. Nice to see you back. How's the campaign coming?

MR. KUSHNER: Very well.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. Could the minister inform this Assembly with reference to the moneys allotted to the city of Calgary, or may it be Edmonton, which I understand is \$6 million for . . .

MR. KIDD: One's 200 miles north of the other. [laughter]

MR. KUSHNER: Pardon me? I know. I'll start all over again. Fred, if you want to ask the question, I'll let you do it.

DR. BUCK: He's retiring too.

MR. KUSHNER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the question is: could the minister inform this Assembly if the moneys given to the cities for arterial roads or streets are reviewed every year and the inflation factor considered?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, the House may recall that the urban transportation policy announced in 1974 was for a five-year period, at the specific request, of course, of the two major cities so that they could do some, as they called it, longer term planning. That policy outlined the \$6 million contribution to the city of Calgary and to the city of Edmonton and smaller amounts to the other cities in Alberta yearly for that five-year period. In addition, of course, it calls for a payment of \$7.5 million a year to the major cities for that five-year period with regard to transit systems in the cities. That can be used for a variety of projects, not just LRT but bus lanes, a bus garage as the city of Calgary has done. On top of that, they get some transit assistance.

In 1976-77, Mr. Speaker, we introduced an additional program that has in fact done more than cover any inflation factor. That is the through highway program, in which we are contributing up to \$80 million to the construction of the Deerfoot Trail in Calgary. I think the city of Calgary has received somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30 million in that regard to date.

I think the other important thing that offsets the question of whether an inflation factor was built into the previous program — there are two factors. We've changed the method of payment in that we make half of the \$6 million, if you like, available in the first week of April so the city can in fact earn interest on

it. We've made the payments of the \$7.5 million, interest bearing in the name of the city if they didn't use it in a particular year. More than that, Mr. Speaker, in the early year or two of the program neither Calgary nor Edmonton used the complete \$6 million.

So while there isn't a built-in inflation factor, inflation certainly was looked after by the program added to urban transportation, and by the mechanism by which we have paid out the money to the cities.

MR. GOGO: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Could the minister clarify if, in addition to the five-year planning and the assistance to the 11 cities of Alberta, there was provision for and payment made by this government to the cities of Alberta that experience transit deficits? And are they reviewed on an annual basis?

DR. HORNER: Yes, I thought I'd mentioned that, Mr. Speaker. There is a transit deficit grant of \$3.33 per capita to the cities. That goes to all cities, even those without a transit system.

#### Black Lung Compensation

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Labour. Could the minister give us a report on what is happening to the resolution on the automatic assumption principle for black lung, which was passed by the Legislature some time ago?

MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member will recall, as will other hon. members, that when the resolution was passed it was in the terms that consideration be given to the principle involved in the resolution. By way of follow-up to that, we've begun by really getting more information. The information we thought was necessary was on some of the ill-health factors involved in the subject matter. We thought the best way to do that was to use the expertise of the medical profession. We have commissioned a joint study, funded by the department and the Workers' Compensation Board, in the hands of a Calgary physician well qualified in this field. We are expecting the first report in that respect by early next year.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure this Legislature that some action will be taken a bit more expeditiously than on the resolution passed by this Legislature on province-wide ambulance service?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would assume that that representation is complete in itself without a question mark at the end.

#### Probation System for Students

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General, and a word of explanation is needed. The concern is raised about an increasing number of young offenders, who are being put on probation, the probation being contingent upon the young offenders' remaining in school. Has the Solicitor General had discussions with the department's probation officers with regard to some of the problems this pattern is causing in school jurisdictions, especially rural school

jurisdictions where they don't have the amount of counselling expertise that larger cities may have?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, when the hon. leader refers to young offenders, I assume he's talking about young adults, in the technicality of the law, over the age of 16.

No, I haven't heard of this problem. The probation officers are instructed to be firm in their surveillance, making certain that the conditions of a probation order are followed and reporting any breaches that might occur. I've had no representations from the school authorities, apart from one suggestion by the ATA that perhaps there should be some special sort of school for problem children in terms of discipline.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Is the minister aware of the resolution passed by the AUMA at its most recent conference in Calgary, where the problems of parole provision and minimal sentencing of young offenders — it relates to this question of the young offender, a student in grade 9, 10, or 11, in that area, being given parole subject to being in school. Then, the educational authorities really become part of the rehabilitation program. My question to the minister: Mr. Minister, are you aware of that resolution which was passed at the AUMA convention?

MR. FARRAN: Mr. Speaker, I don't recall it. I'll look at the list of resolutions when I get back to my office. Again I must emphasize that when you say "young offenders", you really mean young adults. Of course the sentencing pattern of the judges is beyond my control, or the control of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CLARK: That's likely to be good on both counts.

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Mr. Minister, has any consideration been given to the idea of some extra financial assistance to school jurisdictions which find themselves in a position of providing a great deal of the rehabilitative services as a result of these young offenders being in school and the school system then providing that kind of assistance?

MR. FARRAN: The subject has never been raised with me. Perhaps the hon. Minister of Education could help the hon. leader.

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, there are examples of jurisdictions that, by virtue of tuition agreement, provide educational services for students in conflict with the law. However, I sense that the questioning is not in regard to that area. It's with respect to students who are returned to their homes and find themselves in the schools.

I suppose there are two different categories in that class. One would be those above the age of 16. As we're all aware, the compulsory school-leaving age is 16. So that would present another type of problem than for those under 16. Those under 16 would be dealt with by a juvenile court. To be honest, I'm not sure whether the same method of probation is used for juvenile offenders — those who are distinctly juveniles, below the age of 16 — as for those above 16.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, might I ask just one further question. My question to the Minister of Education would basically be this: is the minister prepared to seriously consider some sort of additional financial help, especially to some rural school systems which find themselves with increasing numbers of young adult offenders in the area of grades 9, 10, and 11, whose parole is subject to their staying in school, and in some cases where the school systems have already had the youngster suspended? Is the minister prepared to consider some additional financial assistance to those boards providing special services?

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I'm wrong in my interpretation of the question, but I believe I see an assumption that because the child is on probation, he is also a problem. That may not necessarily be the case. A child on probation may be a model student. The incident that resulted in the child being brought before authorities and subsequently placed on probation may be an isolated one which has nothing to do with the character or the ability of the child to progress in his studies. So I don't think we can relate to that.

Perhaps along the same line, however, I have had representations, Mr. Speaker, from the Alberta Federation of Home & School Associations and from the Alberta Teachers' Association, as alluded to by the Solicitor General, that there is a class of student, not at the high school level but at the junior high school level, who for a time has difficulty fitting into that system. It's something which may last for a year or less and which the schools sometimes have difficulty coping with. We are giving consideration to those concerns raised by those associations.

#### **Insect Control**

MR. TESOLIN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of the Environment. I wonder if the minister could inform us if the farming community along the Athabasca River, more specifically the Wandering River area in my constituency, can look forward to the treatment of the river in early '79 to prevent the recurrence of the black fly menace which had a significant heyday during the past summer, to the detriment of the livestock population.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has raised a very serious matter with respect to that region of the province. I can't confirm today that there will be another spraying program next season, although I've asked the department to look at it, along with the Department of Agriculture. Certainly I can assure the member that something will be done by way of a preventive program. Whether or not it will involve spraying, I can't say today.

As hon. members are aware, we did have an experimental monitoring program under way for the last two to three seasons in the region. This summer we decided not to spray, and of course there was a serious outbreak. Because of that factor we're looking at it again. Certainly the member has raised the problem and given it added importance.

MR. APPLEBY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. I wonder if the minister could inform the House whether the chemical metho-

xychlor, which was used in the experimental stages, has now been licensed by the federal government for use in this type of work.

MR. RUSSELL: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I can't answer that without looking it up specifically, but I will take it as notice and report.

#### Home Insulation

MR. GOGO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Housing and Public Works. In view of the fact that the cold weather is approaching and the government of Canada has recently cooled off with regard to an insulation program, is the government of Alberta considering instituting a home insulation program for the older homes in Alberta?

MR. CHAMBERS: No, Mr. Speaker. To provide information to the Member for Lethbridge West, the insulation program as applied by the federal government was only for an amount of \$350, which applied on homes built prior to 1947, I believe. Work had to be done and then the bills submitted, and this was taxable. So the program, as I understand it, has had very little take-up across the rest of the country.

In any event, of course, the housing stock in Alberta is much younger than in the rest of the country, so we never did get involved in that program. Personally, I'm not so sure insulation is the major factor. There are many other criteria in heat loss, such as leaving the door open, lack of porches or proper storm windows. There are normally more heat losses around doors and windows, I would think, than through insulation.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister for clarification. Perhaps I'm wrong, but was not the insulation program one of the cutbacks recently announced by the federal authorities?

MR. CHAMBERS: I believe that's right, Mr. Speaker. However, we were not involved in it.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. With regard to the ERCB report about energy requirements in Alberta, wherein the ERCB mentions that by 1991 some 60 per cent of the existing dwellings will have been renovated and heating efficiencies introduced for savings of 25 per cent over existing levels, could the minister indicate whether in arriving at those figures the ERCB considered the probabilities of the federal government's cutback in the insulation program?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the Energy Resources Conservation Board did not feel the federal program would have a significant impact one way or another on that assessment. As I do, they believe that insulating your home is an intelligent thing to do, that it saves you money, that it is your personal responsibility, and that over a period of years people in Alberta will therefore follow the course of insulating their homes.

#### Alberta Energy Company

MR. YURKO: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Recently the Alberta Energy Company published its earnings, which were rather healthy, indicating excellent management. I would like to ask the minister if he has any information as to whether the Alberta Energy Company is contemplating paying a dividend in the near future?

MR. GETTY: No, I don't, Mr. Speaker. I recall, though, that when Albertans oversubscribed for the initial offering of shares, the prospectus which was issued mentioned dividends, and said that at least initially it would not be the intention of the company to pay dividends, but to plough back earnings into building a greater asset base. However, I'm sure the board of directors would be looking at the matter from time to time and assessing that policy.

MR. YURKO: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Inasmuch as the Alberta Energy Company is 50 per cent owned by the provincial government, or half a public corporation, would any dividend paid by the Alberta Energy Company be deductible for corporate income tax payments to the federal government?

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect to the hon. member, the question is not only hypothetical, it is also one that he should address to his tax adviser.

#### Calgary Stampede Facilities

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister Without Portfolio responsible for Calgary Affairs. It's been brought to my attention that north of 17 Avenue from the Stampede to 14 Avenue, the city of Calgary and the Stampede board required most of the land, and the final property is being expropriated. Could the minister inform this Assembly what progress he has made with the Stampede board and the provincial government as to constructing the facilities north of 17 Avenue?

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, might I first say how pleased I am to see the hon. member back, having missed his intervention during the question period.

Mr. Speaker, you may recall a similar question last session. I responded at that time by saying the Stanford Research Institute had done a study for the Stampede exhibition board recommending several facilities for that board in terms of its long-term needs and growth expectations. One of the facilities recommended was a combined agricultural building and trade centre. My latest information from the directors of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede board is that they are doing an internal assessment of the Stanford Research recommendation to determine, first, their needs in terms of an agricultural building and trade centre; secondly, what the cost would be; and thirdly, their capabilities for financing that building. I would expect they will conclude their report very soon and that we will be hearing from them shortly thereafter.

#### Water Pumping Licences

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the

hon. Minister of the Environment. The question is with regard to the permit system now used by farmers for pumping out of rivers. Has the department or the government given any consideration to changing this system of permits, using the rate-payer system which is in the irrigation districts instead of the permit system?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, if I understand the question, the member is referring to licences to withdraw water from a water body. No, we haven't, because volume control as well as the permission to do the activity is involved. So in some way the government has to keep track of the total amount that is being withdrawn.

In the case of the irrigation districts, of course they have the blanket permit that allows them to withdraw a bulk amount. They distribute that among their members internally, and that can be done on an individual rate-payer basis. But in the other case, whether agricultural, municipal, or industrial applicants are seeking licences, I think it's important that the present system be maintained.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister had any input from irrigation districts with regard to changing the licence system to an irrigation right?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I'd have to check. I believe there has been discussion between officials in my department and the Bow River Irrigation District and a group called the Arrowwood Water Users relative to the manner in which they would obtain water by permit or from the BRID. However, those negotiations were not carried out by me but by members of my departmental staff.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may have leave of the Assembly to respond to a question asked of me yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

#### **Public Accounts**

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I was asked when I expected to be able to publish the Public Accounts. I have been in touch with the Auditor General since the question period yesterday, and he will be preparing the Public Accounts for the year ended March 31, 1978, and thereafter. Of course they're done by the Provincial Treasurer under the terms of the new Financial Administration Act. I'm advised by Mr. Rogers that he anticipates the Public Accounts will be available about the middle of December.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have leave to answer a question which the Leader of the Opposition asked yesterday of the hon. Deputy Premier, who referred it to me.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

#### **Fuel Prices**

MR. MOORE: The question was with regard to what discussions have been taking place with fuel suppli-

ers over the course of the last while with respect to the pricing of fuel at various points throughout the province, specifically with regard to the Peace River region.

I would indicate, Mr. Speaker, that I and perhaps some other ministers have had discussions with the industry over the last several months regarding the different prices which existed throughout the province. As a result, there has been what I consider a very significant change in the price differential between points in or around Edmonton and other parts of the province.

By way of a brief example, in the month just concluding the average price for diesel fuel at the farm level in Wetaskiwin, a point near the major refineries in Edmonton, was 52 cents per gallon; at a point some 300 miles northwest, in Falher, the price was 54 cents per gallon, or 2 cents more. For purple gasoline, the price in Wetaskiwin was 54.5 cents; in Falher, 56.1, or 1.6 cents more per gallon. Those prices certainly do not reflect the total cost of transportation, which leaves one with an indication that some price averaging which did not occur to that extent in the past is now occurring.

I might add that if one were to talk about other than farm fuel, bulk station prices, the same thing would apply if you added the 12 cents per gallon farm transportation allowance to the figures I've quoted.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask one question. Is the minister in a position to table with the Assembly the results of the discussions he's had and the kinds of examples he was able to give us today?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to provide to the Assembly copies of the agriculture prices and index survey done by Alberta Agriculture on propane pricing, purple gas pricing, and diesel fuel pricing at various points throughout the province. Generally they're the points where we have a district agriculturist located, and cover the province fairly well.

#### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that the Public Accounts Committee scheduled for tomorrow morning will be postponed. The postponement is due to the fact that the hon. minister to whom the ERCB reports will be out of the city; even more important, the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, who indicated he wanted to pursue questioning of the ERCB, will not be in the city.

#### **head: MOTIONS FOR RETURNS**

149. Mr. Clark moved that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return showing copies of all correspondence between the two chief justices of Alberta and the hon. Attorney General and/or hon. Premier relating to the merger of the Supreme Court and the district court.



DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, having regard to the fact that the Attorney General is not here today, I would ask that this motion stand.

[Motion ordered to stand]

head: **GOVERNMENT DESIGNATED BUSINESS**

head: **GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS**  
(Second Reading)

**Bill 72**  
**The Appropriation**  
(Alberta Heritage Savings Trust  
Fund, Capital Projects Division)  
Supplementary Act, 1978

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill No. 72, The Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Supplementary Act, 1978.

[Motion carried; Bill 72 read a second time]

**Bill 73**  
**The Appropriation**  
(Alberta Heritage Savings Trust  
Fund, Capital Projects Division)  
Act, 1978

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill No. 73, The Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Act, 1978.

[Motion carried; Bill 73 read a second time]

[On motion, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of the Whole]

head: **GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS**  
(Committee of the Whole)

[Dr. McCrimmon in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of the Whole Assembly will now come to order.

**Bill 54**  
**The Alberta Heritage**  
**Savings Trust Fund Special**  
**Appropriation Act, 1979-80**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 54, The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Special Appropriation Act, 1979-80, be reported.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 60**  
**The Special Forces Pension Act**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

There are some amendments to the bill. Are you familiar with the amendments?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, I simply want to say to members of the committee that following second reading I had some additional representations with respect to leaving firefighters within that legislation. After further consideration, I suggest they be removed from the legislation. That is accomplished by the amendments now before the committee.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, during second reading there was a discussion regarding a possible amendment with respect to the use of the word "consent" in Section 3, as I recall, of the bill. The concern, which had been raised by the firemen, was to the effect that that consent might be given by arbitration. At that time I indicated that if that were the case, if that turned out to be the legal opinions I received, I would be proposing an amendment to ensure that that could not occur.

However, Mr. Chairman, I'm not now proposing that amendment for two reasons. I've been advised by Legislative Counsel, and they really confirmed the earlier advice I'd had, that in their view the consent envisaged by the legislation could not be given by arbitration. As the point was raised by the firemen, who are not now affected by the legislation, I don't think there is any need to propose that amendment.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would respond to some questions raised by the hon. Member for Calgary McCall on second reading which I said I thought might be more appropriate for committee stage. The first question he asked was when the 25-year period referred to in the bill would become effective. I think that's answered by Section 10, which provides that a member may "retire at any age, if his pensionable service is not less than 25 years". The present provision in the local authorities pension plan is at age 55, with 25 years of pensionable service.

He also asked whether the 2 per cent factor still applied. Mr. Chairman, that of course is the factor used to calculate benefits. The benefits will be calculated at 2 per cent of salary times the years of service until age 65. Then the pension will be reduced by 0.6 per cent, in accordance with Section 19(3), because at that time the person becomes eligible to receive the Canada Pension.

The hon. member also asked about the 65 per cent of the pension that would be paid to the surviving spouse, and what the present arrangement is. The present arrangement is that approximately 50 per cent of the salary is paid to the surviving spouse.

The last question he asked was with respect to the minimum monthly payments, which is 60 monthly payments, and he asked what the present arrangement is. Again, the normal pension under the local authorities pension plan is payable for life, with a five-year guarantee period or 60 monthly payments.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, he asked whether certain provisions of the bill will be retroactive. The answer is no, no provisions in the bill are retroactive.

DR. BUCK: I'd just like to make one or two very brief comments, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to compliment the minister on the fact that he does listen once in awhile. I believe the request by the Fire Fighters Association was reasonable, so I do compliment the minister. Really, Mr. Chairman, that's what the system is all about: if laws we are enacting are not desired by the people they are meant to serve, they shouldn't be brought in.

So I would just like to say to the minister that it's not always that I disagree with the government. I do disagree a little bit with my hon. friend the Member for Calgary McCall, because he was waxing eloquent about how great this was going to be for the firefighters, and the firefighters didn't want to get into the thing. [interjections]

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care won't have to worry too often about us worrying with some of the things he's doing. But I am happy he's going to have a holiday. You know, everybody who is retiring seems to be getting a little trip around the world. So it's his turn.

But I do sincerely say to the Provincial Treasurer that it was a good move on the part of the minister and the Legislature that this section be deleted.

MR. YOUNG: Just so the record is clear, my understanding is that the amendment being adopted this afternoon effectively removes the possibility for a force of firefighters to opt into this pension plan. It is not now open, even by the voluntary option of the firefighters to enter into this. I want to make that clear because I, like many others, have had representation from the firefighters. My firefighter representation has been strictly from the city of Edmonton, I believe, although it may also have involved the city of Calgary. I think it should be clear that we have not necessarily heard from firefighters in some of the smaller centres, and we may at some time have to look at that. Is my understanding correct?

MR. LEITCH: The hon. member's understanding is correct. Under the legislation as amended by the proposed amendments, it would not be open to an association or unit of firefighters to become part of the plan.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Chairman, I was concerned about the possibility of firemen being arbitrated into the act. The hon. minister gave the information the other day that this would not happen, even if the bill went ahead the way it was. I think that was important. Now that the firefighters have been taken out entirely, I imagine there will be representations from some sections of firemen who want to come under this. I suppose that can be done by amendment at a later date.

MR. LEITCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If, at some later date, additional groups were to be added to the plan, that could be done by a bill amending this legislation.

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 60, The Special Forces Pension Act, be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 66**  
**The Fuel Oil Administration**  
**Amendment Act, 1978 (No. 2)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 66, The Fuel Oil Administration Amendment Act, 1978 (No. 2), be reported.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 72**  
**The Appropriation**  
**(Alberta Heritage Savings Trust**  
**Fund, Capital Projects Division)**  
**Supplementary Act, 1978**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 72, The Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Supplementary Act, 1978, be reported.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 73**  
**The Appropriation**  
**(Alberta Heritage Savings Trust**  
**Fund, Capital Projects Division)**  
**Act, 1978**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 73, The Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Act, 1978, be reported.

[Motion carried]

DR. HORNER: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

DR. McCRIMMON: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole Assembly has had under consideration bills 54, 66, 72, and 73, and reports the same. The Committee of the Whole Assembly has had under consideration Bill 60 and reports the same with some amendments.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the report, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, could I have the leave of the House to proceed to third reading of bills 51, 54, 60, 66, 72, and 73 to enable the Provincial Treasurer to take part in the goings on in Ottawa starting tomorrow?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: **GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS**  
(Third Reading)

[It was moved by the members indicated that the following bills be read a third time, and the motions were carried]

No.	Name	Moved by
51	The Alberta Income Tax Amendment Act, 1978	Mr. Leitch
54	The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Special Appropriation Act, 1979-80	Mr. Leitch
60	The Special Forces Pension Act	Mr. Leitch
66	The Fuel Oil Administration Amendment Act, 1978 (No. 2)	Mr. Leitch
72	The Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Supplementary Act, 1978	Mr. Leitch
73	The Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Act, 1978	Mr. Leitch

head: **GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS**  
(Second Reading)  
(continued)

**Bill 77**  
**The Hospital Visitors Committee**  
**Amendment Act, 1978**

MR. MINIELY: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill No. 77, The Hospital Visitors Committee Amendment Act, 1978.

[Motion carried; Bill 77 read a second time]

**Bill 259**  
**The Burial of the Dead Act**

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill No. 259, The Burial of the Dead Act. I appreciate

the opportunity of moving second reading of what started out to be a private member's bill and has now become a government bill.

The objective of the bill is to provide for the burial of the dead in the event of a labor dispute. In the case of a lockout or strike the act would empower the Lieutenant Governor in Council by order to direct an employer or employees to provide those services necessary for the burial of the dead or to permit the burial of the dead.

As I indicated in introduction, the bill would remove the added anguish to grieving relatives caused when work stoppages occur, such as the one in Calgary last spring when a number of caskets were kept in a local ice hockey arena. There's no intention of laying any blame for what happened in Calgary last spring upon either the employer or the employee. The bill proposes only to ensure that such services not be interrupted in the future.

[Motion carried; Bill 259 read a second time]

[On motion, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of the Whole]

head: **GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS**  
(Committee of the Whole)  
(continued)

[Dr. McCrimmon in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Committee of the Whole Assembly will now come to order.

**Bill 48**  
**The Litter Amendment Act, 1978**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

There is an amendment to this bill. Are you all familiar with the amendment?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Chairman, I move Bill 48, The Litter Amendment Act, 1978, be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 49**  
**The Land Surface Conservation and**  
**Reclamation Amendment Act, 1978**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

There's an amendment to the bill. Are you all familiar with the amendment?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I beg that Bill 49 be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 61**  
**The Students Finance**  
**Amendment Act, 1978**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move an amendment to Bill 61. The amendment is to Section 6:

8.3(1) The Students Finance Appeal Board shall consist of not more than 12 persons appointed by the Minister, one of whom shall be designated by the Minister as the chairman of the Appeal Board.

Mr. Chairman, it is our feeling that this person be a student. The amendment is:

Section 6 is hereby amended as follows: 8.3(1) is amended by striking the clause, "one of whom shall be designated by the Minister as the chairman of the Appeal Board.", and replacing it with the following: one of whom shall be a student in attendance at a recognized post-secondary educational institution in Alberta, and one of whom shall be designated by the Minister as the chairman of the appeal board.

I'd like to move that amendment, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you copies of the amendment for the Chair and the Government House Leader? Perhaps we could wait until the amendment has been passed around to members.

Is there any discussion with respect to the amendment?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I don't know as it's too good an idea.

DR. BUCK: Better think quickly. Why isn't it?

MR. GOGO: Well, Walter, I'm thinking why. First of all, here we have an amendment to The Students Finance Act to broaden it to 12 people. I think that's recognition by the minister that the appeal board was not big enough, and it should be 12 people in order that it can meet some of the demands of the appeals around the province. In order to go along with the amendment — to have a student as chairman — it seems to me one of the pitfalls would be the vulnerability of the committee if the student, who may be here today and gone tomorrow . . . I don't see a sense of permanence at all with regard to having a student as chairman. I can think of some of the drawbacks and pitfalls whereby a student, for whatever reason, suddenly decides to leave the institution in mid-term. It would leave the appeal board short a chairman. If the student, for whatever reason, decided he couldn't function, it would leave the appeal board short a chairman. Then we'd be back to where the minister or the government would have to reappoint a chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With respect to the hon. member, I don't think that's what the second section of the

amendment says. It doesn't say that the student shall be the chairman. I think, if you would reread that . . .

MR. GOGO: Well, I understood ". . . one of whom shall be designated by the Minister as chairman of the Appeal Board." I'm addressing my remarks to the remarks of the hon. Member for Clover Bar, who proposed it. I understood he was proposing that the chairman of the appeal board be a student.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion with respect to the amendment?

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, in quickly reading the amendment proposed by the hon. Member for Clover Bar, I have some concern with it. It has been my understanding that The Students Finance Amendment Act, put forward by the minister, was to put in place the ability for a fair and impartial committee to hear appeals, and that those who will be part of this committee should be totally and completely impartial. I do not see that the amendment being proposed here can in fact provide that total impartiality.

I certainly don't agree that we can support this kind of amendment, because of the inconsistency of the ability to have someone on the board and on this committee to take into consideration all the necessary aspects. By simply requiring, in the legislation, to have a student is not — I really don't see that it has any validity or substance whatsoever. I don't believe we should support this amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion with respect to the amendment?

[Motion on the amendment lost]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

DR. HOHOL: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 61 be reported as approved.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 62**  
**The Crowsnest Pass**  
**Municipal Unification Act**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

There are two amendments to Bill 62. Are you familiar with both amendments?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 62, The Crowsnest Pass Municipal Unification Act, be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 67**  
**The Consumer and Corporate Affairs**  
**Statutes Amendment Act, 1978**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions,

or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the bill be reported.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 68**  
**The Maintenance and Recovery**  
**Amendment Act 1978**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. ASHTON: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 68, The Maintenance and Recovery Amendment Act, 1978, be reported.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 69**  
**The Municipal Taxation**  
**Amendment Act, 1978 (No. 2)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

There is an amendment to this bill. Are you all familiar with the amendment?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 69, The Municipal Taxation Amendment Act, 1978 (No. 2), as amended be reported.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 70**  
**The Social Care Facilities**  
**Licensing Amendment Act, 1978**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask the minister when that bill will be effective.

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Chairman, it's in the bill. It comes into force on the day it's assented to. Your guess is as good as mine.

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MISS HUNLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the bill be reported.

[Motion carried]

**Bill 75**  
**The Companies Amendment Act, 1978**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 75, The Companies Amendment Act, 1978, be reported.

[Motion carried]

DR. HORNER: Mr. Chairman, could I have leave of the House also to do committee study of Bill No. 259?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

**Bill 259**  
**The Burial of the Dead Act**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any sections of this bill?

There is an amendment to the bill. Are you familiar with the amendment?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 259, The Burial of the Dead Act, as amended be reported.

[Motion carried]

DR. HORNER: Mr. Chairman, I move the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

DR. McCRIMMON: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole Assembly has had under consideration the following bills and reports the same: 61, 67, 68, 70, and 75.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole Assembly has had under consideration the following bills and reports the same with some amendments: 48, 49, 62, 69, and 259.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the report, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: I should perhaps respectfully draw the attention of the House to the unanimous consent given with regard to Bill 259 so that it might proceed to another stage on the same day. I believe that, under the rules, unanimous consent must come from the House rather than from the Committee of the Whole. Does the House wish to confirm that unanimous consent?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: **GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS**  
**(Second Reading)**  
*(continued)*

**Bill 34**

**The Landlord and Tenant Act, 1978**

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege today to move second reading of Bill 34, The Landlord and Tenant Act, 1978.

In moving second reading I would point out that in my view this is perhaps one of the most important pieces of legislation we will be dealing with this session. I say that because the bill deals with something which, quite obviously, is going to affect quite a number of people, in some cases in a very material way. It's true that certainly in some of our urban areas tenants make up probably 50 per cent of people residing in accommodations.

I think it's also very important to realize that landlords, in turn, are people who invest in rental accommodation. To some it is very much an investment, to some it is a source of income and, in some cases, the whole income of the landlord, and to some it's an alternative to a pension plan. We obviously see landlords who are small landlords and landlords who are large landlords.

The Institute of Law Research and Reform was asked in February 1974 to do a study of the law relating to landlord and tenancy matters, particularly as they related to residential tenancies. In February 1977 the Speech from the Throne pointed out that important amendments to The Landlord and Tenant Act relating to security of tenure would be proposed. The institute gave us a report in February 1977, and we as members of this Assembly have all had the opportunity to go over that report and its recommendations. The Assembly also had an opportunity to debate the security of tenure proposal of the institute when it debated in this House Bill 208, a private member's bill. I would refer hon. members to the debate that occurred on March 30, 1978.

I think one of the keys to this bill is the recognition that no matter how you slice it you eventually come to the point where you have to say there will be an eviction. I was therefore rather interested when Bill 208 was debated in the House to see what reasons might be advanced for the security of tenure provision that was contained in the recommendation of the Institute of Law Research and Reform. I would ask hon. members to look at that debate, because I think it provides some key to the reason we did not accept the recommendation proposed by the institute. In fact the institute could not make a recommendation to us, and gave a variety of reasons and left it as a matter of policy.

There has to be an eviction. That was the argument made at the time of the discussion of Bill 208. And I think we all have to realize that just as it is never a very pleasant task to ask for money, also it is never a very pleasant task to have to evict or terminate a tenancy.

So this bill we are debating here today has been presented, and in it are some very important provisions relating to security of tenure. The bill therefore provides an important and substantial statutory security to the tenant by providing that a monthly periodic tenancy cannot be terminated without cause

on less than 90 days' notice. A substantial breach is required to terminate a tenancy on shorter notice.

We have not gone so far as to require that the tenancy can only be terminated for reasons set out in the legislation, or that reasons must be given with every notice of termination. Why? I share the hesitancy of the institute, which pointed out that such a proposal has very serious economic and social consequences. Alberta relies on the private investor and on many small landlords to provide rental housing in this province. This province needs more housing, perhaps of all types, including rental housing, to keep up with the demand. I think the amount of housing that has been put in place over the last two or three years is very substantial and proves that the private investor is prepared to put his money into this form of housing.

I've said publicly that the security of tenure proposal of the institute was a reasonable proposal. In fact an argument can be made that the proposal of the institute was so broad that no landlord would be prevented from evicting a tenant: if the worst came to the worst the landlord could sell the property and perhaps buy it back later and so avoid the apparent rigor of the security of tenure proposal of the institute. Or in fact the landlord could raise the rents to a point that results in the tenant actually having to leave.

I'd point out that most security of tenure proposals are not nearly as flexible or as generous when they apply to landlords. I submit that the statutory security of tenure contained in the bill we are debating is a much more realistic solution, by providing for a certain 90 days notice to terminate a monthly tenancy agreement. An argument might be made that it should be longer. But no matter what time frame is selected, it comes down to this: there has to be an eviction at some point in time. When for some reason the landlord and the tenant cannot continue the relationship, I submit that either party should be able to call it quits, the tenant by a month's notice and the landlord by 90 days' notice. I submit that this is a very useful, very meaningful, and in fact absolutely certain security of tenure for tenants.

The bill also provides for a number of other matters. It applies notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, and a waiver of the bill is in fact void. The Crown, the government, will be bound by the bill. The removal of uncertainty when payments are made for arrears of rent has been provided for in the bill. In other words, making a payment does not operate as a waiver, the reinstatement or creation of a new tenancy, unless the tenant and the landlord so agree. The court can declare a notice of termination void where the landlord has terminated the tenancy because the tenant made an application or filed a statement under The Temporary Rent Regulation Measures Act, The Rent Decontrol Act, or this bill. I might say that in the course of the administration of those two existing pieces of legislation, this provision has been found extremely useful.

We've also provided that the court can declare a notice of termination void where the tenant has made a complaint, assisted in any investigation, or given any evidence under the same acts or under this bill. We've continued the provision that a tenant who has refused to pay a rental rate not in accordance with those two pieces of legislation, The Temporary Rent

Regulation Measures Act and The Rent Decontrol Act, can object, and the court can refuse to continue the notice of termination. We've provided that a tenant may withhold rent until he has been served with a copy of a residential tenancy agreement if the agreement is in writing.

Two very important statutory covenants in favor of the tenant have been added. The first is that the residential premises will be available for occupation by the tenant at the beginning of the tenancy, and that the premises will be habitable. I think the old saw that you can rent broken-down premises no longer applies if this bill becomes a statute of this province, and I think that is a very important improvement in the existing law. It used to be that only furnished premises had to be habitable.

The second statutory covenant in favor of the tenant is that the landlord will not in any significant manner disturb the tenant's possession and peaceful enjoyment of the premises. Under the present law that has usually been one of the aspects of a tenancy agreement. In other words, the creation of a tenancy depended upon the tenant's having possession and peaceful enjoyment of the premises. To be able to provide a mechanism that would be known to tenants, we have provided that the right of the landlord to enter the residential premises is restricted so that only in an emergency may the landlord enter without consent or notice.

I can say that we had some discussion of what the word "emergency" may mean. I think it should be left up to the courts to determine, if in fact it becomes an issue. I think it only proper that the emergency that can arise will have to be determined by experience. But I think it's intended that, for example, if there's a tap flowing, a fire, a gas leak, or some concern where material such as water and gas are escaping into other premises, someone be able to deal with the problem.

Also we've provided that if the landlord wants to inspect the state of repair or wishes to make the repairs or show the premises to a prospective purchaser or mortgagee, the landlord must give at least 24 hours' notice and name a reasonable time for entry. This in effect restricts the landlord's right to enter the premises.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal further with the bill, and I understand it's now the end of the hour for Government Designated Business. Therefore I beg leave to adjourn debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed with this next item, I believe hon. members may recall that on bills 72 and 73 we went on to the committee stage today. Leave was given, I believe, with regard to third reading. There had not been any leave given to proceed with the committee stage today. I wonder if hon. members would like to approve that step unanimously so that it will be regularized.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: It is so ordered.

## head; MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

209. Moved by Mr. Ghitter:

Be it resolved that the government, with input from senior citizens' groups, consider embarking upon a comprehensive home care program for Alberta senior citizens with the priority goal of achieving an available home chore support service.

[Adjourned debate April 11: Mr. Kushner]

MR. KUSHNER: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to be able to take part in this debate. It touches me very closely. The government has already embarked on a senior citizens' help program; it's certainly not into the senior citizens' home care program, which I believe is very essential in our way of life. It's a program that's well overdue, to encourage senior citizens to live in their own homes.

I don't think I have to be talking about anyone else's experience. I don't think my experiences are much different from anyone else's. I can speak of my own mother, and even my mother-in-law who is today living in her own home. It's very hard, not simply because they can't afford it, but certainly from the point of view of safety, of being able to repair their own homes.

We are by far not so poor a province that we could not provide this kind of care. I know there are not very many in this Legislative Assembly who can't maintain their own home in regard to painting or repairing the windows or even changing the windows, come spring or winter. So, Mr. Speaker, I think we must encourage in every way possible that we do not force senior citizens to go into lodges or any other kind of institution. I know it's not very easy to leave a home or the environment where you have lived most of your life. The reason they will have to leave is that they simply can't afford.

I don't have to speak of too far away from my own neighborhood. My next-door neighbor, Mr. Robson, hardly has any family nearby and depends on neighbors and friends to assist, and it makes it very, very hard. If financial assistance or care of some sort is not provided, he will be forced to leave his house, and it will break his heart. These people are the men and women who have made many, many sacrifices in this province of ours so that we are able to enjoy some of the better things they were not able to.

Therefore I for one support this motion very strongly, that we do not try to regulate people's lives, particularly senior citizens'. It is a known fact that many of them have to depend on their sons, daughters, or brothers in order to maintain their own home or even to be able to stay. So there again, they also want to feel very independent. The least we as a government can do is give them that security, that independence, so they won't have to depend on their relatives or friends in order to be able to live in their own castle, which they might even have built themselves. So I congratulate the hon. member Mr. Ghitter on the motion he has brought forward.

As late as yesterday I had a call from my other neighbor, Mrs. Robertson. She is a widow who lives by herself. There again the situation is very much the same. She is not able to maintain her home alone, not only because of money but because of not being

in the best of health. Yet she is capable of living in her own home if care were provided, such as repairing a fence, maybe painting, or in trying to use a ladder. Some of you probably even recall or have experienced in your own families those who have tried to do the best they could to be independent, have gotten hurt from time to time, and to some extent were not even able to recover.

We are not a poor province; we have a huge heritage trust fund. I think providing home care for senior citizens should be a top priority.

As late as last night we had a nomination meeting in my constituency, and I took part. [interjections] Mr. Speaker, we had very, very many staunch, strong Conservatives supporting that meeting.

AN HON. MEMBER: Large numbers.

MR. KUSHNER: Very large numbers. I would say 850 cast their ballots.

Mr. Speaker, we must do everything we can to foster and give them the courage to have pride and dignity in the last few years of their lives. I think as members of the Legislative Assembly we owe them that. It should be our responsibility. Rightfully it is, and we are in a position to do it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will support this motion in every way I possibly can. I hope it will become a government motion and in fact become a reality. I don't want to create the impression that we are just talking about it and have no intention of passing it and making it real. Whatever is necessary to make it a government motion, I hope members of the cabinet will push it in that direction; so they will be able to enjoy some of the better things in life, especially in the last few years, as I have mentioned before.

DR. BUCK: [Inaudible] backbenchers are so powerful.

MR. KUSHNER: Well, Walter, I hope you will be with us.

This is about all I wanted to say at this time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to join in this debate. I agree we should certainly consider a home care program, perhaps for some different reasons than those of my hon. colleague from Calgary Mountain View.

I'm going to be very crass and pragmatic, I hope. It's obviously much cheaper for society to keep people in their own homes than in senior citizens' lodges or nursing homes. It's much healthier for the people, and it's certainly going to contribute to their well-being.

I think all of us should read George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, just as informative material and, more, to keep reminding ourselves of where this society is going. In that book they supply great quantities of gin to the population. The idea was to keep the population in a semi-comatose condition so they didn't recognize the misery in which they lived, that they had dull work in dull surroundings. However, their physical needs were taken care of; they didn't freeze to death.

Mr. Speaker, in Britain many people are living in their own homes. They have a kind of neighborhood watch program of volunteers who make sure people

are still able to look after themselves. Just this year I had an aunt die who was 90 years old; she lived in her own house for the last 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I point out to you that they have entirely different conditions over there. They have vast public housing tracts. These are council houses, owned by municipalities or the state. The yards and the insides are maintained; everything is done for them. I would point out too that in England the weather is better. They don't have snow problems like we do.

One concern I have about this motion, Mr. Speaker, is that some of the people promoting it are what I would class as would-be bureaucrats. It's great for them to develop these schemes, because these are the kinds of people we'll see on the payrolls in the future.

I point out, Mr. Speaker, that right now in the city of Calgary, and I imagine in the city of Edmonton and many other cities in this province, there are home garden services. All you have to do is look in the yellow pages of the phone book. I'm quite sure that if more money were provided for people, there would be a home snow removal program they could take care of. All they have to be made aware of is the phone number. I see the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo does not agree, but that's too bad.

As we progress down the road of life — and some of us are becoming more conscious of this than perhaps others whose hair is darker than mine — I'm getting a little tired of this patronizing attitude that many politicians in particular are taking towards us. You know, the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View mentioned the pioneers and the people at the meeting last night. I point out, Mr. Speaker, the reason they were pioneers is because they left their homeland. Why did they leave their homeland? Many of them from mid-Europe left because they thought of freedoms in America. Many from England, where my parents came from, had a chance to get a job, work, and not be living in the misery of the slums of industrial England. So let's not forget why these people are here. They had the courage and initiative to come, but they came here to better themselves. Let's not forget that.

I think our society is bringing these people out for special occasions. You know, when some service clubs want to do a do-good project, they take the senior citizens to a picnic. My mother is a senior citizen, lives in Jacques Lodge in the constituency of the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo. She regrets it's going to be him instead of the Premier, but that's one of her problems. The Rotary Club brings these people out once a year — great gesture. Then they put them back in and forget about them until next year. Politicians — you know, we get buses out by the dozen, bring them to the meetings, get them to vote, put them back in the homes, and forget them.

Mr. Speaker, I'm getting a little tired of it. I would like to think we would be conscious of what we're doing to people. We're putting them away in ghettos and separating them from society. I think it's regrettable. I can tell you, as I get closer to it I'm going to object to it and fight it strenuously.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View mentioned that we were rich, we had a heritage fund. I'm distressed to hear a government member suggesting the heritage fund can answer all



our problems. It can't. In relation to the way we're spending it, it is not that big. I'd point out to the hon. member that we have put \$1,000 out to any senior citizen homeowner who's living in his own home and wants a new roof, painting done, new rugs, new fences. Whatever they want done, the money has been made available to them, if they had less than \$9,000 a year. If they had more, obviously they didn't need it.

Mr. Speaker, I think we've got to remember that housing stock is a valuable asset in our community. I know the hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View mentioned his neighbor. I would suggest to you that houses are worth roughly \$75,000 to \$100,000, and that's not cheap. I would suggest that it's time we thought about looking at the idea of perhaps putting on a mortgage or something of this nature, that any of this kind of work can be looked after over the life of the person living there. I'm getting a little tired of people saying, let's do this for mother or dad and let the government pay for it. Then when the old folks die, what happens? My hon. friend from Calgary Buffalo has to keep the heirs apart as they scrap over the inheritance. I would suggest that it's time we took a look at this. We can be rich, but we're not that rich.

Again, we know of grasping children who come to nursing homes. We've all heard horror stories of children coming to nursing homes, wanting to pick up the pension cheques and get them cashed, and away they go. They couldn't care less about their parents.

Mr. Speaker, I support the concept. But if it does become a government motion, I urge the government to treat it with caution and look at these other points I've raised today.

Thank you.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I too wish to join in the debate of supporting in principle the motion by the Member for Calgary Buffalo. In the past three years I think many of us have become acutely aware of the interest shown by the Member for Calgary Buffalo in certain segments of our society, not just in those who are in conflict with the law. Although I'm tempted to suggest, when the Member for Calgary McKnight talks about 1984s and gin in the glasses to keep people in a comatose state — you know, it was only 35 years ago, I guess, that in Alcatraz they would give inmates four packs of cigarettes and 4,000 calories a day. The intent there was exactly the same: keep them fat, lazy, and reluctant to break out of jail, although I don't know how on earth they'd have swum across that stretch of water anyway. I don't think that in any way the intent of the Member for Calgary Buffalo was that we should try to find some place to put senior citizens. That's not the intent of the resolution at all.

The Member for Calgary Mountain View points out very quickly that these people are prepared to participate and continue participating in our society. Be it at nominations, whether they're bussed or otherwise, they're quite prepared to participate. I would hope that they're prepared to continue participating, because the very gist of the motion by the Member for Calgary Buffalo is "with input from senior citizens groups". So it's a two-way street. The Member for Calgary McKnight very clearly puts it that surely we're coming to the point where governments' re-

sponsibility in financial commitment is reaching the saturation point, because it builds higher expectations. Again, he puts it very clearly: that's not the purpose of the heritage fund. And he's so right.

I think we should all remember the gist of what the Member for Calgary Buffalo is saying: "with input from senior citizens groups". The ones I'm familiar with — and I'm sure all members know that Alberta has 8 per cent of Canada's people, and 8 per cent of our population are senior citizens. We're so fortunate compared to Manitoba, where about 13 per cent of its people are senior citizens. Their problem is far more acute. It wouldn't be unwise for us to look at some of the problems Manitoba has experienced with home care programs without some proviso in there to be medically based. For years Manitoba had a line-up at its hospital doors. Manitoba's 5,000 nursing-home beds — a very impressive system of nursing-home care. They went into the home care program with a view to lessening the lines at the hospital door. What's been the experience? Very simply, the initial experience has been an additional cost to the system, to the point where the new government in Manitoba has had to shelve a projected \$500 million in hospital costs that the previous government had on the drawing boards. If their experience is in any way similar to ours, where the operations of hospitals equal capital costs of hospitals every two and a half years, then certainly I think the Manitoba experience — and if we should learn from anything, we should learn from that — was headed in a very dangerous way in terms of the share of the resources of the province that we're going to use for health delivery matters.

I think it has already been put forward, Mr. Speaker, that of 135,000 senior citizens in Alberta we have about 60,000 in their own homes and another 25,000 in government accommodation of one sort or the other. It's probably important to remember at the same time that we're now subsidizing the self-contained senior citizen residences to the tune of about \$250 to \$255 a month subsidy over and above the 30 per cent rent they pay. So accommodation is a very, very expensive thing. Then we have about 60,000 senior citizens who are in rental accommodation.

The Member for Calgary McKnight also mentioned what steps the government of Alberta has taken, the highly successful senior citizen home improvement program. It was initially designed to keep senior citizens warm and dry. That has been expanded to covering floors with carpets. I don't know about outdoor sprinkler systems. But I think it's gone a long way, and it's proof positive that it was a very needed program.

However the motivation of the Member for Calgary Buffalo is beyond that. I gather he's saying that it's not enough to keep them warm and dry; grass has to be cut and walks shovelled. We've seen very significant changes in our society in the last quarter century. We're not like the half million Italian group in Toronto who still have a sense of responsibility toward their parents. When their parents get to the age where they can't look after themselves in terms of cutting grass and shovelling snow they move in with the youngsters. Our society has changed. Today's youngsters say, no way, we don't want you. They may not say it directly, but they sure bring pressure on MLAs to make sure there's suitable

accommodation for those parents.

I think we should also be cognizant of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that there's been a tremendous shift in the role of service clubs and organizations. When you say to yourself that we have a million people unemployed in Canada, yet claims are being made whereby senior citizens cannot obtain casual help to shovel walks, cut grass, and put on storm windows, you begin to wonder where the priorities of citizens are in Canada, not the priorities of governments.

I think it was very clearly put — and the Minister of Municipal Affairs would know this better than anybody — that senior citizens are a very, very independent group. When the proposal was put forward in southern Alberta, in Lethbridge, that because property taxes had gone up 200 and 300 per cent in the past three years in Lethbridge, Alberta, due to a general reassessment — and here we had senior citizens who for years were model citizens, raised their families, kept the kids out of trouble, kept their kids in school, and paid their taxes suddenly come to the point whereby, because federal government policies on diluting the moneys of the nation by printing 15 and 20 per cent increases in the money supply on the one hand, by being party to agreements and wage agreements whereby higher salaries were being paid in the public sector, and that filtered down through the municipal level so that tax on property had to be raised to such a degree to pay these bills. Who did it fall on? It fell on the very people we're talking about, the people who bought government of Canada annuities.

It doesn't hurt us to look back 10 or 15 years when the maximum government annuity was \$100 a month. Many people who purchased them thought they were looked after for life, and now if they smoke two packs a day there's no money left for food. People who bought insurance pensions, people who worked for corporate giants such as the CPR who have now been retired on — it's not unusual — \$50, \$60, \$70 a month have found that that one area they had not been concerned about for many, many years, namely the cost of living in their own home, was reaching the point where they couldn't stay there.

The Member for Calgary McKnight points out that their homes are worth \$70,000, \$80,000, and \$90,000. So what? What's that got to do with the fact that a person wants to stay in his home? I don't care what it's worth. They don't want to sell their house. They want to stay in their house.

Now how can they stay in their house? That is the point and the issue.

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I would like to point out that I did not say that the citizens should be selling their homes.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, with respect — and I'm not speaking to the point of order — I clearly drew the message from the Member for Calgary McKnight, when he referred to the value of property, that governments shouldn't be involved in subsidizing. I don't agree governments should subsidize either. I don't agree with that. We do it for most Alberta farmers, but we don't do it for municipalities. Okay.

The point I'm trying to make is that we have systematically made it extremely difficult — and our senior citizens are as well off as or better off than any

in Canada — for these senior citizens to stay in their own homes.

I think we could look and should be looking at the alternatives. It's factual that you can take people from Foothills Hospital in Calgary and put them into the Calgary Inn with maid service and meals and save \$80 a day. I think that's factual. What we're talking about here is the alternative to people staying in their own homes. If mom or dad cannot do the chores within their home, cannot maintain their properties, and cannot in some way receive assistance, whether from a volunteer group or some type of program, is it unreal to expect that pressure is going to be brought to bear and they're going to end up in institutions? I suggest that's the area we should be looking at.

That brings us to the alternatives. If we opt for the alternative of the very ambitious home care program the Minister of Social Services and Community Health announced in the spring — and I think it's a commendable program, and many other governments in Canada would love to have it. It's connected to a health-related issue. The operative part of the program, the trigger of the mechanism, has to be a physician — and at the right source, the local health unit. But is that good enough? Do we have to wait until a person is physically ill to trigger the mechanism under the home care program? Perhaps that is also an issue.

Mr. Speaker, I believe very clearly that when we look at what's happened in our society — on the one hand, the increasing cost of maintaining your own property is in effect forcing people out of their properties. If they're not ill they can't enter the home care program. The only alternative is for them to sell their property and move into rental accommodation. Many of them don't wish to do that, for very valid reasons. I would think, in this day and age — here we are approaching the '80s, and I don't want to get hung up talking about the pioneers and the rights and the rest of it. But in all fairness to those senior citizens who want to spend the rest of their lives in dignity within familiar surroundings — I think it's been proven conclusively, in terms of health-related problems, that once you remove them from familiar surroundings you tend to make them prone to be either ill or hypochondriacs — we should do all we can to try to keep them within that home setting.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by saying I support the motion by the Member for Calgary Buffalo. I don't know how we could assist the Minister of Social Services and Community Health to go any further than what's happened. After all, that program has just been launched. Surely we should wait awhile to see how effective it's going to be before we attempt to judge it. So I'm in somewhat of a dilemma. I'm supporting the resolution that we should ask the senior citizens of Alberta what way the government can assist them in helping others remain in their homes, and trying to balance that off with the very successfully launched home care program.

On balance, Mr. Speaker, I support the Member for Calgary Buffalo. I congratulate him for bringing the motion forward. I think we should proceed in asking the citizens' groups in Alberta how they could help us help them.

Thank you very much.

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, I take a great deal of pleasure in participating in this very important motion, No. 209, sponsored by the Member for Calgary Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, there's an amazing degree of unanimity in this House on this particular question, and there should be. It deals with senior citizens, pioneers as they are referred to. Of course they are a group who have the hearts of all Albertans, I'm sure of people everywhere, and I suppose particularly in Alberta, because without boasting or being immodest I think we have done an awful lot for them, more here than has been done elsewhere. And we should have. We're a rich province. Our pioneers, our seniors are the people who have made the province the opportunity place it is today. So we should care for them, and we do.

With respect to the motion, Mr. Speaker, it is that we embark "upon a comprehensive home care program for Alberta senior citizens with the priority goal of achieving an available home chore support service". I think it might be in order first to review what we have done. As other members have said, we have introduced SCHIP, a senior citizen housing improvement program, which has made moneys available to assist many, many seniors in staying in their own homes. That program was through the Department of Housing and Public Works and was extremely well received.

An additional program that deserves more than casual mention is the program introduced this spring by the Minister for Social Services and Community Health. That is the health care based program for senior citizens. It is expected, Mr. Speaker, that that program will cost the taxpayers of Alberta something like \$3 million in 1978 and in about four years will rise to an annual cost of \$14 million. To participate in that program, Mr. Speaker, the senior citizen must have a health care need that would permit some sort of service to be delivered to him in his home. I think that's an important place to start. I don't say it should be the end of the program, but you have to start somewhere and I think that is a good beginning. It has a number of attractive attributes. One of the most important is that it will be carried out by the local health care board.

So that's where we are today. We have SCHIP to assist in improving the physical housing of these seniors to assist in keeping them in their homes, and a further program to assist in their medical care needs, again to keep them in their homes.

I guess there are two aspects to this debate or discussion. One is financial. I guess we could all concede that; I don't think we need to get into that a great deal. We could all concede, I'm sure, that it would be much less expensive to keep people in their own homes than to have them in one type of institution or another. I don't think that's the issue, Mr. Speaker. The real issue is the human aspect of it.

We've heard members talk about what we owe the pioneer. There can be no debate about that. I think of my own mother. She's 84, extremely fortunate indeed. She lives in her own home in that hotbed of free enterprise, Manitoba. At that tender age she's still able to teach 30-odd music pupils a weekly music lesson. She does that not because she requires the money, but because she's healthy enough to be able to do it; it keeps her interest up and keeps her

involved. That's great. I can be extremely proud of that and wish more of that age could do that kind of thing. But we have to recognize that there aren't. That is why we talk about home care programs.

Traditionally, Mr. Speaker, the home chores, the basis of this particular motion, would be carried out by near friends, relatives, a community organization, and whatever. I have some concern about government intervention, government moving in to displace that kind of service. I concede that our style of life is changing. Because of the pace of life, the demands on all of us, perhaps there may be a feeling that we don't want older people in our homes, that somehow they become sort of onerous, or are a responsibility that some family members don't want. I don't concede that, Mr. Speaker.

I think there are a good number of the old traditional values in Alberta and that with encouragement a good many more people who perhaps are not now actively looking after their senior citizens, parents, or friends, might do so. That may not be accurate. A good many people may be content to see their parents or relatives move into a home, a hospital, or whatever. But I'm sure of one thing: the process will grow even faster if we move in government, a bureaucracy, to do all these things that I see have traditionally been done by the family or friends.

Mr. Speaker, all sorts of community organizations in the cities — the Cubs, the hockey teams, the Girl Guides, community organizations — are looking for projects. With a bit of encouragement, perhaps with a bit of funding, I think they would be more than happy to get out and assist seniors in their area to change windows, cut grass, or do whatever is necessary to assist senior citizens in staying in their own homes.

I think my community organization of Triwood is probably one of the foremost community organizations in Alberta. I know it was the first to have a covered rink paid for entirely by a community group and the first to install artificial ice under the major matching grant program. Parents in that area have a volunteer project to get out and assist senior citizens, be they related or not, in changing windows, removing snow, cutting grass, and so on — to keep the people involved and keep them in their own homes. If more community groups would do that, the basis for this motion would not be nearly as demanding as it is.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I'd like to pay tribute to the Kerby Centre group from Calgary, who called on the Legislature the last time we debated this issue. I believe there were two or three busloads of them. They filled the Chamber here and certainly attracted the attention of all members. Through the Kerby Centre, they do a tremendous service for the seniors of Calgary. They're going through a stressful period at this time, and I would hope that there would be just a very short period before they are back to their usual non-problem type of service to citizens. During their visit here they impressed on us their support for the program. Certainly none of us would argue against the program. I think its probably a question of timing.

It is important to note that the Calgary city council, under its preventive social services program, has supported a shopping plan for the elderly to the extent of \$10,000. Under that program the province will pay 80 per cent of the cost, and the remaining 20

per cent is paid by the city. This program is conducted at the local level, where I believe it should be, either by volunteer or elected bodies, and will assist the people in that area who require assistance in shopping in staying in their own homes.

I think we've made good progress in this area, Mr. Speaker. At the provincial level we have the senior citizen home improvement program, which assists people in financial support for repairs to their home. We also have the new program introduced this year by the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. I believe we should give those programs an opportunity to work before we embark on a further program.

Certainly the motion sponsored by the Member for Calgary Buffalo deserves serious consideration, and I'm sure it will have it. I suggest that over the coming months we should probably analyse the success of the programs we've already introduced, and review them with senior citizens to find out what improvements are necessary. If we are to introduce further financial support for the programs, I would be a strong supporter of doing it through community groups rather than through the provincial government. Agreed, if you pursue it that way, you may not reach all the people you would if it were a provincial program. But I think an important ingredient of any program such as this is the involvement of the community.

As I've said, Mr. Speaker, it is important first of all to involve the volunteer. I think there's a significant component of Albertans out there who, if asked and challenged, would get in and support a volunteer program to assist people in remaining in their homes. I think that's a great untapped resource out there. I think of even Kerby, the people who came here. If they were challenged, with a modest amount of financial support to handle the administration and so on, I am sure they would put together a good program to assist others who are less fortunate than those who were able to come up here. I envisage that they would have some sort of roster of service people who would perform services, and a list of young people, if they're available, which I am sure they are, to do the work that needs to be done. They would also have a corresponding list of people needing the service and would match the two of them, essentially on a volunteer basis, as services are required.

Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely important debate. I've certainly got my mind open to the question. I'd like to adjourn the debate at this time.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

213. Moved by Mr. R. Speaker:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly of Alberta urge the government of Alberta to introduce policies which would stimulate development of the manufacturing sector of the Alberta economy.

[Adjourned debate April 13: Mr. Chambers]

MR. KIDD: Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely astonished that anyone, a member of the opposition, would bring forth such a motion. Where has he been, Mr. Speak-

er? My word! Where has he been?

I can talk so long on this. I should just give you some facts and then sit down. I won't. I'm going to give you the facts anyway, and I'll carry on. But for goodness' sake, in 1973 the growth in Alberta in the manufacturing industries was \$2.8 billion; 1975 — I'll skip, because it goes up so quickly — \$4.7 billion; 1977, \$6.2 billion. Anyone can figure out — I think that's up 300 per cent in four years. Gosh, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if this resolution shouldn't be that the government of Alberta introduce policies to control the absolutely vibrant growth of the manufacturing sector in Alberta.

DR. BUCK: They control everything else, Fred.

MR. KIDD: Gosh, Mr. Speaker, I guess I should go on and say something about this. I think we have to have a primer for what's happening. I think the member who introduced this motion should be sitting in his place, so he could hear about what's really happening in Alberta. We talk about diversification. The Premier's talked about that. Maybe the MLAs here, even on the government side, don't know what's happening.

DR. BUCK: You're right about that.

MR. KIDD: It's possible some of them don't. It's possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Clover Bar will undoubtedly have many other opportunities to compliment the Member for Banff on making true statements.

DR. BUCK: The backbenchers don't know, that's true.

MR. KIDD: Well, sir, you know these little flies in this fluid amber of mine . . .

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the backbenchers not only know but participated very intensely in bringing about this whole program of diversification.

MR. KIDD: I accept the comments of the potentate from Rome. [laughter]

Mr. Speaker, let's get down to educating the group here — just the opposition, because the MLAs on this side are so well educated. We were talking about manufacturing. What are we talking about? We're getting right back to our policy of diversification. What does it mean? What is diversification? I'll tell you exactly, and I'll make it as simple as I possibly can for everyone here.

This is what this provincial government is doing. Number one, diversification is simply stated as this: to become less dependent on the sale of unprocessed resources; that is, we wish all our products to have value added prior to sale. That's it. That's our goal. We want our resources to have value added prior to sale, and that applies to agricultural products, to non-renewable resources, and to raw scientific data. That's manufacturing: add value before sale.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure I don't have to tell you that it's well recognized that the province's industrial goals are very much influenced by a recognition that

our economy is much too dependent on petroleum. It's depleting. We know that. We're very vulnerable in this regard, and we wish our economy to remain strong when conventional wells run dry. How simple. It has been said so often, but these simple things have to be repeated and repeated for some hon. members.

I've told you what our goal is: value added. That's very simple, one sentence. What's our strategy to achieve these goals? First we must maintain a strong economic status as we work towards the goals. Essential to maintaining such a status is obtaining fair market value for all our resources, be they petroleum, natural gas, or agricultural products. Regarding our agricultural products, stability of market, as well as fair market value, is a very important requirement. The Premier knows that; we all know that. He went to Russia, and is down in Ottawa right now having a fight about fair market value for our resources.

But back to achieving our goals. We produce one-third of Canada's grain and 40 per cent of Canada's red meat. At present, agriculture is our largest renewable industry and our second-largest revenue producing industry. Therefore we should look to processing our agricultural products in Alberta — manufacturing again — to the greatest practical degree before export. Presently we send live beef to the eastern markets. If you go down to one of our best steak houses in Edmonton, chances are you're going to get a steak from the United States. I wonder if that's correct, sir. I don't know. [interjections]

Sir, we must work towards value-added agricultural products of all types. To this end we established the Agricultural Development Corporation which, to the end of 1977, had invested about \$110 million in the agriculture industry of Alberta. Sure it had some losses. Anything that does well has losses. But many successes. I'll tell you about successes. Rape-seed crushing plants, alfalfa pelleting plants, cheese processing plants . . .

DR. BUCK: Lamb plants.

MR. KIDD: . . . and meat packing are areas in which support has been provided towards the concept of value-added product. That's manufacturing.

AN HON. MEMBER: That's performance.

MR. KIDD: That's performance. You bet.

AN HON. MEMBER: Give it to 'em, Fred.

AN HON. MEMBER: Tell them, Fred.

MR. KIDD: The second area of major importance in our economic strategy is upgrading our non-renewable resources. Our first thrust involves petrochemicals. The Dow/AGTL ethylene operation is well under way, as you know.

DR. BUCK: In Fort Saskatchewan.

MR. KIDD: Surely it's reasonable that we produce in this province, for this province, a basic chemical building block, and that we use at least part of that building block in this province. Think of the great opportunities to produce all the thousands of products

that involve plastics. Think of the ancillary small business development. That's what's going to happen in this province. That's performance, and that's how we're stimulating the manufacturing industry.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Right on.

AN HON. MEMBER: Give it to 'em, Fred.

MR. KIDD: Thirdly, and certainly of equal or perhaps greatest importance, we — this government — believe that in the longer term the advancement of technology is the real key to achieving our goals. We have the heritage trust fund, some \$3 billion. It's growing, you know. Not very much, less than one year's budget — 30 per cent of our resources, that's all. Boy, we should have called it a vision the other night and got on record the people who were against the heritage trust fund. I think some over there said, in a subdued way, no instead of yes.

We have the means and we're going to make Alberta the research centre of Canada, a worth-while objective. I trust you agree to that. Now I can't avoid saying this, and I'm very proud of this one. The effort we're making through the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority toward solving the problems of recovery of the vast reserves of the deeper oil sands is an example of research critically important to Alberta's future. Critically important.

MR. JOHNSTON: We have good members on that.

MR. MILLER: Who is on that board, Fred?

MR. KIDD: I think there are some good guys on it.

Let me state one aspect concerning research as it relates to our industrial strategy. We, this government, intend to encourage technology and development by residents of Alberta where facilities and people are available in the province to do so. In any event, and of primary importance, we intend to ensure that the technology developed through our research is available on a priority basis for use in Alberta.

You know, perhaps the greatest opportunity to add value to products in Alberta and to Alberta products is available in the area of sophisticated technology. Look at what's happened here. Starts have been made in Alberta in computer science as applied to geophysics. The raw product is the geophysical records. They come to Calgary from all over the world. We add value to those products there. And a few other things you may all know about. We made a start as a world leader in surveying sciences. Certainly this audience knows of many other areas where we're leaders. I think of Albertans all around the world who are involved in drilling wells in rough, deep, offshore waters — real experts. That expertise was developed here in Alberta. Given the proper climate, it's my view that Alberta technology will be developed in many other areas of industrial endeavor. This government intends to provide that climate.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of increased productivity which we talk about so much these days, it seems to me that the real increase in productivity will be achieved by capital investment in industries with advanced technology. I do not subscribe to the view that individual Albertans or Canadians work less hard

than Individuals in other nations. But let's make sure they're given the right tools to make their work productive.

Mr. Speaker, another aspect of our strategy toward developing this climate and the right milieu for manufacturing industries to develop in Alberta is maintaining an economic climate which provides stability for investors. That's a priority with this government. We as a government are dedicated to the principle that our prosperity depends on enterprise by the private sector. We're sensitive to those areas where stimulation is justified, as evidenced by our drilling and geophysical incentive programs in the petroleum industry.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, the evidence is abundant that investors do believe that the climate for investment in Alberta is favorable. Financial institutions appear to see Alberta as an increasingly favorable area in which to operate. They're coming in in droves. You know, I can't help saying: the lowest personal income tax, no sales tax, no estate tax, lowest petroleum cost, natural gas shelter program, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. They seem to help when people come to this province. But I won't dwell on that, hon. Member for Clover Bar.

You know, other aspects of our strategy might be enlarged upon, such as the development of our tourist industry, hastening balanced growth by providing sewerage and water to the smaller communities, and so on. The role the Alberta Opportunity Company and the Department of Business Development and Tourism have played in developing small business is a very important aspect.

Mr. Speaker, at least a framework concerning our industrial policy towards stimulating the manufacturing industry has been stated. I don't know whether I should go on or not, but maybe you'd like me to. I've got a lot of other good stuff.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sure.

MR. KIDD: In referring more specifically to industrial research, Mr. Speaker, perhaps some comment is required on the role this government perceives for itself in supporting such research. Our primary intent is to assist private-sector industry. In so doing, there are areas of research, often long term, where the government considers it proper to stimulate research by the private sector. AOSTRA is a good example of such a research.

DR. BUCK: PWA, Transair.

MR. KIDD: Areas of research are also being pursued, solely funded by the government, which are perceived to be in the long-term interest of Albertans. Most research projects are those suggested to be done by industry. We're not simon-pure, Mr. Speaker. Researchers being persuasive people, probably there are some research projects which should be done by the private sector; there are probably areas of overlap. We've missed a few little things, but not too many.

Mr. Speaker, the oldest established provincial government research facility in Alberta is the Alberta Research Council. It was founded in 1921, before the National Research Council. It's funded by this province, approximately \$8 million. Mr. Speaker, I think we all know a lot of the things they have done, but

maybe I could mention a few more. It's made some significant contributions to the industrial development of Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, one of my old professors was Dr. Karl Clark. The hot water process he developed for the separation of sand and oil has never been bettered. It's now being used by GCOS and Syncrude, and there have been a lot of efforts to improve on it. But it's such a fantastic thing; anyone here could do it. You just take some of that darn good old tar sand, put it in hot water, stir it up, and the oil will come to the top and the water will go to the bottom. And you've got it almost 95 per cent pure. Isn't that fantastic? It's being used right now.

I might say some of the other things that the Alberta Research Council is doing. Maybe we should be reminded of the good things, the great research areas being covered. First of all, just paraphrasing, after several years of laboratory work a novel process has been discovered for recovering iron from the Clear Hills iron ore deposits of northern Alberta. That needs developing, but they've done something very important there.

They've worked for many years on various aspects of natural gas processing. More recently they have developed a cellulose acetate and other membranes which selectively remove helium from lean natural gas. A pilot plant using that process is now in operation at Peers by Alberta Helium. They've successfully completed the first underground coal gasification field test in Canada at Forestburg, Alberta. We've got to look at the future in these things. You know, you can think that — and I'm one of the doubters on that, I must frankly say. It's 150 BTU gas at best, as against 1,000 BTU natural gas. But we've got lots of coal, and that's one aspect of how we may have great plants with no pollution. We may be using that 150 BTU gas to develop our electricity. Don't discount these things.

The Research Council has done more mundane things. There was an important gap in the knowledge of Alberta's resources related to sand and gravel for construction. To close this gap, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources contracted the Alberta Research Council for a five-year program, starting in 1976, to make an inventory of Alberta's gravel resources. Very important. They have a 10-year program designated to map ground water resources throughout the province, something we don't know much about.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on and tell you about what they're doing. Maybe I should pick out just one more. Here's one that I know is dear to the heart of the minister. They're evaluating the performance of an air-cushioned cable ferry, which is basically a hovercraft operating with cables. I think that's going very well.

DR. BUCK: He doesn't think so.

MR. KIDD: Mr. Speaker, I could go on here, but in conclusion, I hope I've outlined in a little way the things we've done. Maybe it wasn't very clear, but our program of diversification — I've tried to say it in the simplest terms so everyone could understand. But, my gosh, stimulate the manufacturing industry? Good Lord! Stand back, it's exploding.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PLANCHE: I'd like to adjourn the debate, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, before calling it 5:30, we will not be sitting this evening. Tomorrow we will be

dealing with Motion No. 24 in yesterday's Votes and Proceedings and continue the debate on second reading of Bill No. 34. I move we call it 5:30.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[At 5:28 p.m., on motion, the House adjourned to Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.]

