

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA**

Title: **Friday, May 25, 1979 10:00 a.m.**

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

**PRAYERS**

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file with the Assembly the joint agreement between the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the government of the province of Alberta with regard to the Piegan settlement in southern Alberta.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file a copy of a letter dated April 6, 1979, to the hon. Martin O'Connell, former Minister of Labour, Canada, in response to the International Labour Organization observations concerning certain Alberta labor legislation.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file a copy of a contract between Her Majesty the Queen in right of the province of Alberta as represented by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, and D. Getty Investments Limited.

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file with the Assembly and distribute to all Members of the Legislative Assembly a copy of the report of the minister's advisory committee on student achievement and a copy of the executive summary of the same report. Only the report will be distributed to members, since they received a copy of the executive summary in the mail last week.

DR. BUCK: What about the birds and the bees?

MR. KING: Ask a question, Walter.

AN HON. MEMBER: Do you know the answer?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file three copies of the contract between Her Majesty the Queen in right of the province of Alberta and Mr. Robert Dowling of the city of Edmonton as Commissioner for the 75th Anniversary Celebrations.

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to file the manifest of Alberta government services aircraft with respect to air travel of the Executive Council and government agencies for the 1978 calendar year.

MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to table the twelfth annual report of the Ombudsman for the period January 1, 1978, to December 31, 1978.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to

you, and to members of the Assembly, the Alberta committee for the International Year of the Child. The men and women of this committee represent communities across this province, from Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie in the north to Wrentham and Medicine Hat in the south. These volunteers have worked hard to make this, the International Year of the Child, a significant part of our activities in Alberta.

I now ask Dr. Audrey Griffiths and members of her committee to rise and receive the traditional welcome of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Possibly I should remind hon. members that pending readoption of certain temporary standing orders, we have only one heading under the daily routine for the introduction of visitors and special guests. So if there are any other introductions to be made, perhaps they could be made now.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I too wish to take this opportunity to introduce some very special visitors to the Alberta Legislature. They are here on an International Year of the Child grant from the city of Lethbridge and are all students at the Lethbridge Correctional ... Pardon me, the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute. [laughter]

MR. R. CLARK: That's the chairman of AADAC.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the following students seated in the public gallery to stand and be welcomed by the members of the Legislature: Miss Shelley Hironaka, Miss Debbie Gommeringer, Miss Susan Hoffman, and Miss Sandra Ferguson. I would ask them to rise and be welcomed by the members of the Assembly.

MRS. FYFE: Mr. Speaker, I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome a group of students in the Assembly today, a class from my constituency from the Horsehill school. These 60 grade 5 students are accompanied by their teachers. They are seated in the public gallery, and I would ask them to rise and receive the welcome of this Assembly.

DR. C. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this Assembly, 55 grade 8 students from the Glen Avon school in St. Paul. They are accompanied by their teachers Mr. Zukewski and Mr. Malech, and by their bus driver Mrs. Krawchuk. I would ask that they stand to be recognized in the usual manner.

head: **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Department of Social Services  
and Community Health**

MR. BOGLE: Nineteen seventy-nine marks the twentieth anniversary of the proclamation of children's rights by the United Nations. To celebrate the anniversary, 1979 has been designated as International Year of the Child, to reaffirm the belief in those basic rights.

Alberta has officially recognized the importance of the year, and on September 25, 1978, two committees were appointed to plan and implement International Year of the Child activities in our province. Under the

chairmanship of Dr. Audrey Griffiths from Leduc, the Alberta committee has reviewed and approved 96 community projects from all parts of the province designed to encourage the celebration of the joy of childhood and the very special place children have in Alberta society. Within government, an interdepartmental committee has approved eight projects to promote the celebration.

Albertans will also be actively involved through numerous projects being planned by service clubs, schools, children's groups, churches, and municipal governments, which will complement the projects approved by the Alberta committee. Albertans are reaffirming their belief that an investment in children today will pay dividends in the future.

At 1:15 p.m. today, on the steps of the Legislature, a flag-raising ceremony in honor of International Year of the Child will take place. Mr. Speaker, I invite you to attend this ceremony and to welcome, on behalf of this Assembly, the 250 children who will be present. I also invite all members of the Assembly to attend this ceremony.

This is truly a significant occasion to commemorate the International Year of the Child, as many of the activities throughout Alberta during the coming months will reflect on the theme of the United Nations.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, responding to the ministerial statement: on behalf of my colleagues in the official opposition, we're pleased to lend our support to recognition of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations endorsement in this area. Might I say to Dr. Audrey Griffiths and her committee that we commend them on the work they have done across the province.

Might I also say I'm sure all members of the Assembly would agree that the greatest resource we have in this province is our young people. It's important not only that we recognize young people on this occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations proclamation but that we carry that emphasis with us in all our endeavors in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: If the Assembly agrees with the suggestion made by the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health, I'll repair to the front steps with the Table staff at the appropriate time and express a welcome on behalf of all members.

#### head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

##### Gifts to Public Officials

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Premier. It concerns the free air line tickets the Premier received over the past several years. I'm sure the hon. Premier would appreciate the opportunity, as it is, to clear the air on this issue. Is he prepared to apologize to the people for having free-loaded at the public expense, and will he admit that what he ...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Order, order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hon. leader well knows that that kind of innuendo is absolutely out of order in a question, leaving aside whether it's proper in debate. If the hon. leader wishes to make some

formal accusations, means of doing that are amply provided in the *Standing Orders*.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, then I'd ask the Premier this question. Is the Premier prepared to admit to this Assembly that taking the free tickets was wrong in principle?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I believe I answered that question on well over 30 occasions during the months of December and January. As far as I'm concerned, that was a matter I presented to the people of Alberta as an answer for the circumstances. We had an election campaign, and certainly that was an issue the citizens of Alberta had to decide upon. I'm prepared to rest my answer with the decision the people made on March 14.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Will the Premier allow his cabinet ministers now to accept such gifts if offered to them?

MR. LOUGHEED: As I've said on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, each of these circumstances will be responded to as circumstances dictate. We will be answerable to the citizens of Alberta on the actions we take.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question. What written directives exist to prevent such gifts being accepted, and what penalties are applicable if violated by members of the cabinet?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, it's a judgment decision made by the ministers. There are no written directions. They know they're answerable to the people of Alberta for the actions they take, and they'll continue to do so.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister responsible for Personnel Administration. What penalty would apply to any public servant accepting such a gift?

MR. SPEAKER: Is the hon. leader asking for enlightenment on a point of law?

MR. R. CLARK: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the hon. Minister responsible for Personnel Administration to answer the question of what consequences there are to a public servant in Alberta who accepts a free gift such as an air line ticket.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Order, order.

MR. R. CLARK: Well, is the minister aware of any regulation that would affect a public servant if he or she took a free air line ticket?

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. leader is asking about a regulation properly known as a regulation, then of course that's a matter of law, of public knowledge. If he's asking whether there is a policy in that regard, the question could be proper under that guise.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister then. Is there a policy with regard to gifts, specifically free air line tickets, for public servants?

MR. STEVENS: Mr. Speaker, there is a code of conduct for public employees and all employees of Crown agencies which adopt that code. I'm quite confident that that code was tabled and circulated to all members when it was adopted.

MR. R. CLARK: Can the minister explain to the Assembly what effect on a public servant, if that public servant takes a free air line ticket the same the Premier did ... Mr. Speaker, I see you wincing in your Chair. Let me rephrase the question. Is the minister aware that if a public servant of Alberta accepts a gift that does not comply with the code, that public servant is subject to dismissal?

MR. STEVENS: Mr. Speaker, the code is quite clear. Gifts of the nature described in the code would require review by the manager of the employee in question, and that employee would be subject to disciplinary action.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier for clarification, if I may. In view of the fact that the Premier paid back CP Air, would the Premier consider that his action in this particular case would in fact set a precedent for all other elected members of this Assembly and members of Executive Council?

MR. LOUGHEED: No, Mr. Speaker, the circumstances were entirely related to the office of the Premier. As I have explained on many occasions, it was a misunderstanding that arose. As soon as I discovered the misunderstanding was there, I made full compensation to the air lines involved.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Is it then the position of the Alberta government that there is a difference between public servants who are appointed and must [therefore] live by the code set out and would be dismissed if they breached that code — or at least subject to disciplinary action — and that as far as elected members are concerned the only disciplinary action is the people?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I think the case is quite clear. With the decision with regard to members of the Executive Council — is one, as I've said, answerable here on the floor of the House, related to The Legislative Assembly Act. With regard to the code of conduct and ethics for the public service, of course they serve as guidelines and relate to a number of exceptions involved, and those exceptions have to be responded to as circumstances would dictate.

#### Government Appointments

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the second question to the Minister responsible for Culture. It relates to the document filed today with regard to a certain Mr. Robert Dowling. Could the minister inform the Assembly of the procedure followed to find the best qualified person to serve as Commissioner for Alberta's 75th Anniversary Celebrations?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, I think the record of Mr. Dowling shows that he is an extremely capable

man. We have put our assurance in him that he will do the job.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Was the position advertised publicly?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, the position was not advertised. Mr. Dowling was available, and it was on the decision of many people in the government that we chose him.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question. Were other nominees considered?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, no other nominees were considered for this position.

MR. R. CLARK: Then to the minister. Was Mr. Dowling's political point of view a factor in the appointment?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, it was not.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, could the hon. minister indicate to the Assembly when Mr. Dowling's appointment was first discussed with him?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, the discussion with Mr. Dowling was undertaken by me. About March 19 I asked him to come into my office. I thought that quite clearly we might be in the fortunate position of having Mr. Dowling accept that responsibility. As far as I'm concerned ... [interjections]

Well, let's just be absolutely clear, Mr. Speaker. The position of the government on this is very firm. We will appoint, as we have since 1972, to any position that we wish, people we think are the most qualified. We are very determined to take the position, as we have in the past, that if we are able to benefit by the experience of people who have served in this Legislature, as has been the practice in past administrations as well as current ones, we will in fact do so. We in our judgment feel it is extremely important that with the management of the affairs of this government be the opportunity for people to move into this Legislative Assembly and move out and, as they move out, if they continue to serve the people of Alberta, the people of Alberta will be well served. We put that position, and will continue to put that position, very firmly to the people of Alberta, who I know will support us.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, then so it's on the record in *Hansard*, what is the former hon. Mr. Dowling being paid for this highly non-political appointment?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, there was a document tabled in the Legislature — I'm not aware of the amounts involved — and the hon. member can read it. He will be paid appropriately, as would be the circumstance of anybody in that position. As far as I'm concerned the people in this province are extremely fortunate to have a man of Mr. Dowling's capacity, understanding, and awareness serving the people of Alberta.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister responsible for Culture, so that the salary does in fact appear in *Hansard*. What salary are the people of Alberta paying Mr. Dowling in his capacity as Commissioner for Alberta's 75th Anniversary?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Premier just answered that question. The contract has been tabled for all to view.

MR. R. CLARK: Don't you know?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, it has been tabled.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. And I'm not going to resign my seat to become director of dentistry or anything for the province.

MR. NOTLEY: You wouldn't get appointed, Walter.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Premier. Was the past president of the Commonwealth Games, Dr. Van Vliet, considered for this position?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, no, he wasn't considered for the position. We thought Mr. Dowling's experience was clearly the one we wanted, somebody who had his experience right across the province, although the head of the Commonwealth foundation is a good friend of mine. We will continue to make these appointments, as we have in the past. Whether they come from political parties represented by the hon. member or others, although I know they are fewer, we will continue to make the appointments based on what we think are the best people to serve the people of Alberta. I think the people of Alberta are very fortunate Mr. Dowling is prepared to do this job.

DR. BUCK: Not as fortunate as Mr. Dowling, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Premier, too. The Premier indicated that he discussed this matter of Mr. Dowling's appointment on March 19. Would the Premier be able to advise members of the Assembly whether to his knowledge any discussions took place with Dr. Hohol and Mr. Farran prior to March 14 concerning their respective appointments?

MR. LOUGHEED: Yes, Mr. Speaker, both those discussions took place. I can't give the hon. member the exact date, but I think it would be last summer, when I discussed with them whether they wished to continue in the Executive Council. In both cases they decided they did not wish to continue. I asked them if they were interested in continuing with a public service position with the government. In both cases we discussed the positions they ultimately were appointed to. I said it would be subject to the concurrence of the Executive Council subsequent to the provincial election. That was the decision made.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Is the Premier in a position to advise the Assembly when discussions took place with

Mr. Getty with respect to his appointment as a consultant and his appointment as a board member of Alberta Gas Trunk?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that I can answer the questions with regard to the contract with Mr. Getty relative to continuing with the government. We followed that practice in 1975 with Mr. Dickie, who had retired as the minister of energy, so perhaps I could refer that portion of the question to the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources.

With regard to the matter of the appointment of Mr. Getty to Alberta Gas Trunk Line, I believe I actually had those discussions about March 15.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. With respect to Dr. Hohol and Mr. Farran, did both these hon. gentlemen indicate an interest last summer in the particular positions they were appointed to, the Racing Commission and the Workers' Compensation Board?

MR. LOUGHEED: Yes, Mr. Speaker, they did. I asked them in both cases. It struck me that Dr. Hohol had just superb qualifications for the position in terms of the Workers' Compensation Board, having brought that legislation through the House and with the management experience he had. I asked him about that position. He expressed interest in it. With regard to Mr. Farran, I have known his long-term interest in this particular area, and of course it was a section of his departmental responsibilities.

So I discussed those specific matters with them and asked them, and they expressed interest. I said it would have to await the decision of the new cabinet, which I believe was made on a rather precise date in late March.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. With respect to former ministers of the Crown being appointed to public service positions that are appointed by order in council as opposed to the merit system, and for that matter executive assistants — I believe a former executive assistant is now the Deputy Minister of Regional Transportation — my question to the hon. Premier is: what safeguards have been developed to ensure that other people in Alberta who have qualifications will have these qualifications considered fairly in the case of order-in-council appointments?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we vary the practice, depending upon the circumstances. It's a matter of judgment. In some cases we'll advertise; in some cases it's our best judgment that the best individual is the one who comes to our attention or somebody we think is eminently suited for a particular position. That's the position we take and will continue to take. It seems to me very obvious that somebody who has had important responsibilities here in this Legislative Assembly and this government, with their knowledge and experience — obviously those qualifications have to weigh very, very highly in our selection process. That's the nature of the appointments we make and will continue to make.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Premier. With respect to both Mr. Getty's appointment and at least one of the executive assistants

who's now, I believe, joining NuWest, has a policy been developed which would parallel the federal guidelines set up by the Ottawa government — I should say, pushed on the Ottawa government by the Conservative Members of Parliament, including the Prime Minister-elect — that no elected or senior public official should take a position in private industry, in a field where that individual had public jurisdiction, for at least a year, that there should be a cooling-off period? Has any consideration been given to applying that kind of guideline in the province of Alberta?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, consideration was given to establishing that kind of guideline, and totally and completely rejected. It is our judgment that that is absolutely wrong, that what we're involved in in government today is that we want to get the most qualified people we can, the management people who have experience. We want people who will come in from the private sector, serve in this Legislature, perhaps not consider themselves professional politicians. They'll serve here for a period of time. As they leave we want them to continue to be involved in the government service.

We do not accept that as an idea that has any merit whatsoever. That's been the view of this administration since 1972, and will continue to be.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Premier. Is the Premier considering appointments of other retired MLAs who wanted to go back to their families and to the private sector? Will we see other appointments in the next few months?

MR. LOUGHEED: We may very well, Mr. Speaker. There's certainly nothing imminent at the moment. But if we can have the experience of the people who have served in this Legislative Assembly, as we did in the past ... I think the hon. Member for Little Bow recognized the merit of Mr. Manning's decision with regard to Randy McKinnon. I thought that was an excellent decision. We have continued it. I think there's merit in continuing to use the people who have had experience here. Frankly, I think that's what the citizens of Alberta believe as well.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Premier. To save himself any further embarrassment, has the Premier considered establishing a senate in Alberta so he can elevate his political friends to the senate rather than go through this process?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has difficulty — and I know the reasons — in understanding the views of the citizens of Alberta with regard to many of these matters. I think the reflection of that should have been obvious to him on March 14.

What I think is apparent is that the people of Alberta expect their government to continue to appoint and to utilize the benefit of experience that we have in this Legislative Assembly. And we will continue to do that. We will, as we've said a number of times in the House, appoint people who happen to be involved in other political parties, as we've done. We're having a little difficulty in that, for reasons I've expressed on a couple of occasions, but we will continue to do that.

In our judgment, Mr. Speaker, there is not the slightest embarrassment in what we're doing. And I

hope it's clear to the hon. members we take a very determined view, Mr. Speaker, that the best thing for Alberta is to have people come into and move out of the elective process and continue to be involved in serving the citizens of the province.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the Premier is convinced this principle is correct, can the Premier indicate why he did not indicate to the people of Alberta these appointments had been made before March 14?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, it's not something new or surprising. We've had this practice before. [interjections] Mr. Dickie had the contract after the last election. The hon. members were well aware of that.

DR. BUCK: After the election, Lougheed.

MR. LOUGHEED: It was a practice. As he retired, we involved him. We will continue to involve people. It's been obvious since 1972 that we have had this practice, and the people of Alberta are well aware of our view. [interjections]

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question, if I can, to the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. The Premier didn't have the details on this, but I'd like to know if the minister can advise the Assembly when the discussion took place with respect to Mr. Getty's consulting contract and the Alberta Gas Trunk appointment.

MR. LEITCH: I'm delighted to do that, Mr. Speaker. There were no discussions between me and Mr. Getty regarding the appointment to the Alberta Gas Trunk Line Company Limited. The first discussions I had with Mr. Getty about a consulting contract occurred, as I remember, shortly after I learned I was to be appointed Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. I was certainly anxious to have him continue in a consulting capacity, if he agreed.

I don't need to remind the members of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, of the two major projects in the energy field, the Alsands project and the Cold Lake project, and their immense importance to the province of Alberta. Mr. Getty, of course, is the former minister and had been working on those two projects. Frankly, I was simply delighted when he agreed to continue on as a consultant and to concentrate his efforts on those two very, very important projects.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question. The hon. minister indicated he discussed this with Mr. Getty after he learned he was going to become the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Would the minister advise the Assembly whether that discussion took place after March 14?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, that's a sort of facetious question. As I remember, some of the members of the opposition were announcing that they were going to be the government after March 14. I certainly wouldn't be so presumptuous as to have those discussions before March 14. [laughter]

### Lamb Processors' Co-op

MR. MANDEVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Could the minister indicate what progress has been made with regard to selling the lamb plant at Innisfail?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge the negotiations are still going on. I have no current information I could pass on to the member. But, if and when information is available in regard to the future of the lamb plant, I would certainly be quite pleased to bring it before this session.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister indicate whether they've had any offers at this time as far as selling the plant is concerned?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge we have parties interested in the future of the lamb plant, and of course have to have that interest before negotiations can carry on.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister indicate whether the plant is operating at a profit or at a loss at this point?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, I have no financial statement I could offer to the Legislature at the present time. The plant is operating, of course, to its best capacity. I know we have been very versatile in the handling of livestock that can be and have been utilizing the plant. I could certainly check into the future of the plant itself and give the House some indication as to the availability and number of lambs being processed and other areas of livestock being utilized.

### Kingston Communique

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier and is with regard to the Kingston agreement. I wonder if the Premier has had any response from the Prime Minister-elect, and whether the Premier has indicated any changes with regard to that agreement.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I think that would be very premature. As hon. members are probably aware, in sending my congratulatory telegram to the Prime Minister-elect I did refer to the Kingston communique. Perhaps I could read it into the record. After providing the congratulations I stated:

We note your commitment to building upon the strengths of Canada, to striving for increased domestic energy supplies and to starting a new era of Federal/Provincial co-operation. We believe our Kingston Communique of September 1977 issued after the conference between yourself and the Progressive Conservative Premiers will form a solid foundation for a new federalism for Canada.

I would think it would be many months and certainly many conferences before one could effectively answer the important question directed by the hon. member.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, to the Premier. One of the main concerns in this last provincial election was with regard to protecting our natural resources, and

the Kingston communique doesn't cover that particular subject. Has the Premier at this point in time a plan to make Alberta's position very clear to the Prime Minister-elect at an early date?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I think our position has been made clear to the people of Alberta and Canada. I would presume that the Prime Minister-elect would be aware of the energy policies of this government, as stated at first ministers' and other meetings. Certainly we will note, and will have to watch with regard to the follow-through, the statement by the Prime Minister-elect during the latter stages of the campaign that he felt there was a tremendous potential in Canada for increasing the supply of oil and natural gas from domestic sources. We'll have to watch and observe whether or not the new federal government responds to that as we get into discussions with regard to projects over the course of the next months and years.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Premier. One of the principles in the Kingston communique was with regard to limitation of federal spending. This would have implications for medicare and balance billing. I wonder if the Premier has any feeling now with regard to that particular matter.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I think that's somewhat off the track in terms of the areas involved. The spending power had to do with a general view of the federal spending power that I think, to be fair to the former federal government, was accepted by them. In the discussions of, I believe, about December 1977, when we renegotiated fiscal arrangements between the provinces and the federal government, they were reflected in that. It was a matter — if you look at the date of the agreement, of the Kingston communique, it was September '77 — of about three or four months after that, to be fair to the federal government of the day, that they did in fact respond to a fairly large degree in the renegotiation in which Alberta had been taking a leadership role in getting away from the situation of payments, but more a shift of tax points.

### Prison Security — Fort Saskatchewan

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Solicitor General. Can he indicate what steps have been taken to ensure no further breakouts will occur in the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, two steps have been taken: first of all, to have those inmates considered to be the most dangerous transferred to the Edmonton Institution. They were in the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution as a result of being on remand and, therefore, their cases being currently before the courts.

The second step, taken some years ago, was a decision to build the Edmonton Remand Centre. That centre will be ready for occupancy later this fall. When I visited the new centre just recently, the work crews were advancing the work. We hope to have it turned over to the government in order for us to complete the interior work.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Can the minister indicate what steps have

been taken directly in the Fort Saskatchewan institute, as well as the measures mentioned by the minister, to make sure that the security has been beefed up internally?

MR. HARLE: I just received on my desk the report of the breakout that occurred in April. A number of steps have been taken: first of all, by having correctional officers in the cell blocks at all times. Some modifications have been made to the venting system in order to prevent its being used again.

I think it's fair to say also, Mr. Speaker, that those who are incarcerated in jails do attempt to escape. I cannot guarantee at all that there will not be a future escape. But I can say that an assessment is made of each inmate when they enter these institutions, and those who are deemed to need extra precautions are put in more secure facilities.

I think I should also state that part of the problem in the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution is the overcrowding, the fact that remand inmates are mixed in with those who have been sentenced. There is more unrest among those in the institution on remand than among those who have had their cases disposed of by the judicial system.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary. Can the minister indicate if any provisions are made by his department to compensate people who have received injury or property damage as a result of the latest escape?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that question as notice. As far as I am aware, anyone who has a claim as far as personal injuries are concerned would perhaps fall under the crimes compensation Act. I would have to check further with regard to destruction or damage to property.

DR. BUCK: A last supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate to the Legislature the future of the female section of the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution? Is it going to be phased out or not?

MR. HARLE: As far as I'm aware, Mr. Speaker, we're doing further work in the female area, and it will not be phased out. In fact, we'll be increasing the amount of space available for female offenders in the total system. I think we're finding that the number of crimes committed by females is perhaps increasing, and there's more demand for space in the inmate population. In addition, of course, the actual facilities within the institutions occupied by females have been improved substantially, and that is the case within the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution.

DR. BUCK: A final last question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if there has been or will be any review of the training methods available to the people working in the correctional institutions?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, there's a continual process of training of those corrections officers who work in the correctional institutions. The training not only goes on for those who wish to apply for the Correction Officer I and II categories; in addition to that, there is training on a monthly basis for those who have special responsibilities, especially those on the tactical teams

and on teams needed whenever there is an incident within the institution.

I might say that in visiting the institutions in the last month or so I've been very impressed with the amount of training done. I think it's fair to say that the correctional officers themselves and the people who work in these institutions need the support of the public, because after all, they are looking after the problem people within our communities. It's very easy to criticize, but the training, the support we give them financially, the fact that we are well advanced with the Edmonton Remand Centre, are all steps which I think will resolve some of the difficulties we've seen in the last several weeks.

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. I wonder if the minister would confirm to the House whether the number of staff present in the institution is not a main factor in the breakout, and whether the staff/inmate ratio meets an acceptable national standard.

MR. HARLE: As far as I'm aware at this time, Mr. Speaker, the staff-to-inmate population is well within the required bounds. When it comes to supervising inmates, part of the problem is that if you have a corner of a wall, inmates can hide behind that and escape into a duct that happens to be hidden from the sight of a correctional officer. That was the case in the breakout in April. In the other one, where a disturbance is created and the individual correction officers are dealing with the disturbance, their eyes are shifted from individual supervision of other inmates, and of course if it's coincided and worked on within the institution, there is an opportunity for someone to cut some bars.

DR. PAPROSKI: One other supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister would indicate to the Assembly whether he is reviewing the matter specifically regarding the quantity of staff with a view that this may be improved in spite of the fact that it has met the national accepted average.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, in terms of numbers, the staff complement is probably at its highest right now, because we're recruiting staff for the Edmonton Remand Centre.

DR. PAPROSKI: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. If in fact the review is done, would the minister indicate to the House whether he would accept a positive response to that review if the review indicated that a greater number of staff would be indicated in spite of the fact that it meets the national standard?

DR. BUCK: Set up a caucus committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Probably for the opening day we shouldn't object too strongly to three "ifs".

DR. BUCK: If you need another committee, set it up, Ken.

MR. R. SPEAKER: If you need a thousand bucks a month ...

### Water Management

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the hon. Minister of Environment. Would the minister inform the House whether he has received the report of the Environment Council of Alberta with regard to the public hearings on water management of the Oldman River?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, I might respond to the Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest in this regard: the report is pretty close to being completed some time in the near future.

MR. BRADLEY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the hon. minister inform the House if he expects the report will be tabled in this session of the Legislature?

MR. COOKSON: I don't know, Mr. Speaker, whether I can give the member that commitment, but we'll certainly endeavor to do our best to get it before the people of Alberta as quickly as possible.

### Oil Negotiations

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might direct my question to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. A report from the U.S. Senate foreign relations subcommittee on offshore oil was released earlier this month. It indicated that security of foreign supplies of oil in North America and the United States in particular is questionable, especially with Saudi Arabia being politically unstable. I wonder then, how far along is Alberta now in the negotiation process of developing a schedule for the federal/provincial tax agreements on unconventional supplies of crude that might alleviate Canada's problems?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, that's a very important question. I'm not sure I can say how far along we are, because discussions have been going on with the federal government, discussions at both the government-to-government level, the official level, and by industry to the federal government, regarding the tax regime that might be in place for projects in the oil sands or heavy oils. But my difficulty in saying how far along it is is that they are in negotiations and one can never say precisely where one is in the negotiating stage. But I would be hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that those would come to a conclusion certainly in a matter of months.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Cypress.

MR. HYLAND: My question was a supplementary already asked by the Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest.

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might quickly revert to introduction of guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS (reversion)

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure today to

introduce from beautiful Calgary Glenmore 48 members of the Band Booster Club from St. Stephens junior high who are sitting in the members gallery accompanied by Mrs. Jean Pearson. I wonder if they would stand and receive the welcome of the House.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### head: CONSIDERATION OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Moved by Mrs. Osterman:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Ralph G. Steinhauer, Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of history about this Legislature and the traditions that have evolved and been maintained that I participate for the first time by moving acceptance of the Speech from the Throne. I wish to thank the Premier for honoring me and the constituency of Three Hills in asking us to make this very important motion.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Three Hills constituency, I would also like to congratulate you on your election and invite you and all those here who are interested to participate with Three Hills this summer in the central Alberta summer games to be held August 3 and 4.

My constituency is very large geographically and varied demographically. Through redistribution several small rural blocks were lost to adjacent constituencies. However, an area adjacent to Calgary, including Airdrie, was added, giving the constituency an entirely new dimension, with approximately one-third the population now residing in that area. Within our boundaries are the hamlets of Balzac, Huxley, Kathryn, Keoma, Sunnyslope, Wimborne; the villages of Acme, Beiseker, Irricana, and Linden; the towns of Airdrie, Three Hills, and Trochu. Rural governments with jurisdiction in the constituency are the municipal district of Kneehill, the county of Mountain View, the municipal district of Rocky View, and the county of Wheatland. It is indeed a challenge to assist all these local governments as relates to provincial concerns, especially when many have gone in a very few short years from a kitchen table operation to fairly sophisticated government.

Mr. Speaker, in the throne speech we have emphasis on continued economic development in order to assure the high level of employment expected by the people of Alberta. Equally we address ourselves to the quality of our life. Standards that once were considered acceptable in relationship with our ability to pay now can be researched and, if necessary, updated. We now set our sights higher.

Programs initiated by the Department of Environment, such as reclamation projects throughout the province, several of which are in my constituency, are excellent, and the continuation of this program is very



welcomed. The Vegreville project, an environmental laboratory and research centre, will undertake the study of environmental problems and help to solve them. As custodians of Alberta's resources we have an obligation to continue strong support for such an endeavor, and no doubt it will enhance the quality of our lives and many others outside our boundaries.

Mr. Speaker, a major portion of the Three Hills constituency is involved with farming. The well-being of the towns and villages is to a great extent determined by the position of the primary producer. In the past two weeks I have met, in pre-session meetings, people throughout the constituency who are pleased with our government's initiatives taken to assist in solving grain transportation problems. Many forces are at work in the international market place. The United States now shares in the Russian grain market; their improving relations with China could also mean a shift in that market. Transportation efficiency is imperative so as not further to erode our ability to compete.

Historically, Mr. Speaker, we in this province have been looked upon as hewers of wood and drawers of water, although those in the rest of Canada may now be substituting oil for water. To our benefit, we have steadily evolved away from our former state of affairs. The development and commercialization of new agricultural products, cited in the throne speech, is also key to a healthy rural economy. Encouragement of short line farm machinery manufacturing is an excellent step. Witness the possibilities as exemplified by the success of light industrial development in Linden. This community, in the heart of the Three Hills constituency, was incorporated as a village on January 1, 1964, and now houses 375 people. An amazing 266 of these work right in the village in the light industrial manufacturing enterprises whose products are mainly used in farming. They do an astounding business worth some \$20 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, the overall growth experienced in the rest of the province is no less prevalent in all the communities in my area. However, the town of Airdrie is not just trotting along in its expansion, it is galloping. In 1951 the population was 265; 1961, 524; 1971, 1,089; 1978, 2,240. The 1981 projection is 10,700, and the 1989 projection is 20,000 people. This growth was precipitated by the major Alberta Housing project in 1966 and initially the building in 1975 of Transportation's southern region facility. Agriculture also has a fine facility in the provincial veterinary laboratory and the food testing laboratory, which were opened in 1977.

The town also boasts such enterprises as a mushroom plant which services three-quarters of the city of Calgary's needs. There is a furniture manufacturer in Airdrie with a gross production of some \$5 million per year. A unique aspect of the factory is the employment program they have allowed by way of Worth Unlimited, which is partially funded by our government. There are 15 to 20 young offenders who work with five supervisors. These young people, three-quarters of whom come through the Department of Social Services and one-quarter of whom are on probation through the Solicitor General's Department, hope to develop a good work program and record and good work habits. The Worth Unlimited program is under the auspices of the Calgary Youth for Christ. I am very proud we are assisting with it, and hope we can do

more in this area.

Mr. Speaker, through my constituency meetings and through the mail, I am impressed by the willingness of people to come forward to participate in the democratic process. Being involved in the election was one of the highlights of my life. The campaign was almost like food that had its own special taste and smell. The door-knocking at temperatures as low as minus 40, to the hundreds of dogs that greeted you in the course of the campaign, made for quite an experience. Fortunately the dogs in my area are very well fed. The extreme cold the first two weeks of the campaign posed a different problem. On occasions my face was so cold I found it difficult to speak, although my family wouldn't believe that.

In my own area, my neighbor and I ran for opposing parties. He also worked hard for a long period of time, and on election night I thought about how it must feel to come out on the short end after such effort. However, as little consolation as it may be, the many candidates who came forward helped to reflect a broad range of views that were aired publicly, a great assist in the formation of policy.

Mr. Speaker, the democratic process for the most part serves us well, although many times we are impatient about the length of time it takes to make changes in our system. I think about an area I am familiar with, that of surface rights. Back in 1966 we had land expropriated for a major power line, with the possibility of that line being twinned in the future. Little did I realize the extent to which I would become involved. I had a terrific group of farmers who stayed with me through brief after brief to successive governments until, finally, major changes were made with the introduction of The Surface Rights Act in 1972, The Expropriation Act in 1974, and many amendments since then. At the time we noted the encroachment, as we saw it, on a basic right, the quiet enjoyment of our land and property.

The Speech from the Throne speaks to the areas of power generation and transmission, and decisions that must be made. Our appetite for energy of all kinds goes on unabated, creating the need for many more delivery systems such as power lines, pipelines, et cetera. Where do we place these systems? Should the emphasis be placed on preserving prime agricultural land and its integrity? If we plan to use semi-wilderness areas, what about the effect on flora and fauna? The balancing act will become more difficult as the complexity of our society increases. I pray we have the wisdom necessary in striking the right balance where the public need conflicts with individual rights.

Mr. Speaker, in my opening I mentioned traditions of the Legislature. As I stand before you, I am reminded that I am only the second woman in the history of this Legislature to move adoption of the Speech from the Throne. The first was Mrs. Rose Wilkinson of Calgary on February 23, 1945, in the First Session of the 10th Legislature. At that time the Lieutenant-Governor was John Campbell Bowen and the Premier, Ernest Charles Manning.

Since our beginning in 1905, only 17 women, including our present number of six, have served in this Legislature, while there have been 559 men. I believe it was Charlotte Whitton who said: a woman has to be twice as good as a man to succeed, but fortunately that's not difficult. [laughter] I really don't believe that. Although I recognize there have been few

women in politics, I look forward to our numbers increasing as our awareness of the need for our presence increases.

It is interesting to note that a member's first speech is called his or her "maiden speech". I hardly qualify as a maiden, so I'm not sure in what position that puts my male colleagues in the House for the first time. I had a friend tell me yesterday that I should call this my "macho speech".

It has been noted, Mr. Speaker, in *An Encyclopedia of Parliament*, that a member's first speech, by courtesy:

... is not subject to interruptions, and a member wishing to make his [or her] maiden speech is given precedence over other members who rise at the same time. ... According to Sir Alan Herbert, the advice given by old hands in the House of Commons is not to be in too great a hurry to make your maiden speech. He himself did not take this friendly warning to heart, and, as he says, 'roared into action' on the second day ...

I'm thinking about some of our members now.

... of the new Parliament and produced what Sir

Winston Churchill described as 'a brazen hussy of a speech'.

My hope is that none of us shares the fate of some members who have risen and have had to sit down without saying a word. There's an anecdote about one such fellow, nearly in this category, by the name of Joseph Addison, who rose and said, "Mr. Speaker, I conceive", paused and commenced again, "I conceive, Mr. Speaker", stopped again until encouraged by the cries of "Hear! Hear!" He tried once more with, "Sir, I conceive ...". But the power of utterance was denied and he sat down. Now another member remarked to the Speaker, "Sir, the honorable gentleman has just conceived three times and brought forth nothing." [laughter]

In a more serious vein, Mr. Speaker, and still reflecting on the document tabled yesterday by the Lieutenant-Governor, we welcome the further initiatives in housing, especially for the benefit of the lower- and middle-income buyers. Of particular interest to us is the new pioneer repair program. Under the previous program, 137 senior citizens in the Three Hills constituency received grants, and I look forward to many more in my constituency under the new program.

Another event of special significance, Mr. Speaker, and therefore being given priority by our government, is the designation by the United Nations of 1979 as the International Year of the Child. A concern held by many in my constituency, which I also share, is the proliferation of abortion. We feel that it is especially fitting to discuss this concern in the context of this special year because we believe we speak of the unborn child.

One cannot talk about the child without talking about the family. Until recent times it has been traditional for the woman to be mainly responsible for raising the family, although many women have entered the labor force and have endeavored to do both jobs. The personal satisfaction that some women have had with second careers has led to changing attitudes about raising children, and we now see many youngsters in day care centres. We also see problems. Some school-age children are left to their own devices until a parent or parents are home from work. What rights do children have? It is crucial for us to give our attention

to the rights of children and who should be held responsible to see that they enjoy those rights.

I believe that most children have the necessary material things in life, but what about love? Schools can educate, help children to develop a logical thinking process; religion may impart a sense of morality. But the institution cannot love. Children must be provided with emotionally stable surroundings in order to cope with the pace of this day and age. I believe the responsibility for this rests entirely with the parents.

The family as we know it seems in danger due to lack of caring. Men, women, and children have a right to individual identity and fulfilment, but I believe those of us who are parents must find these within the context of our first responsibility, that of our spouses and children.

There are many things we can do to carry out our responsibilities. I was once told that if the couple is okay, the family will take care of itself. I have come to believe that. I have seen many couples work very hard at gaining an understanding and appreciation of one another, and appreciation is the operative word.

For the woman who chooses to stay with her family full-time, life is made much fuller by a husband who acknowledges the importance of the task she is doing. How often have I heard women almost apologetically say, I'm just a housewife. The importance of the job of mother and the skill and patience required are not always acknowledged, but the results of leaving children psychologically alone or to fend for themselves is evident today. Jean Vanier was quoted as saying, loneliness is the worst ailment in the world. If that be so, a happy home should be the best antidote. Sheer physical presence of people does not make for a feeling of love and belonging; it is the quality of their caring and sharing.

For the families which are already broken, I hope we can find more ways of giving single parents the moral and financial support needed to put them in a position to fulfil better their responsibility to their children. For indeed those children are not responsible for their own presence here.

Mr. Speaker, my experience as a commissioner on the Alberta Human Rights Commission has given me a new perspective regarding discrimination and minority groups. The native people in this province have had a fine example of their people in the public eye in the person of Lieutenant-Governor Steinhauer. I wish the Lieutenant-Governor good health and success in his future endeavors, and best wishes to his wife and family.

Although many of us have come to understand more fully the problems faced by our native people, we do not have the answers and, what's more, at times I wonder if we're asking the right questions.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, a bright future is predicted for this province. It has attracted thousands from outside our borders, who are happily becoming Albertans. In the coming years we will feel the strain of rapid growth, and it will add to the challenge of dealing with the social problems already in existence. There are people of many cultures, and people thousands of miles from the security of their own families. Maybe we will find a way of utilizing the extended family concept by bringing together those far removed, both geographically and psychologically, from their families with many of our senior citizens who have so much to offer and, I believe, at the moment are a great

untapped resource.

In thinking about the underprivileged at home, I am reminded of a statement made by the managing director of the International Monetary Fund. He stated at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, meeting in Manila, that the payments deficits and debt burdens of the world's developing nations are reaching alarming levels. We must keep this in mind and temper our demands for more and more of the material things of life. I believe we have reached a position where we can no longer insulate ourselves against conditions outside our province and indeed outside our country.

Mr. Speaker, our government's position paper on constitutional change called *Harmony in Diversity*, as set out last fall, speaks to the kind of Canada we can have; it may well be applied to our own province. I repeat: harmony in diversity. For to let a man be who he is, I still see as a test.

I leave you with those thoughts, Mr. Speaker, and conclude by saying on behalf of the people of the Three Hills constituency, it is a privilege and a pleasure to move adoption of the Speech from the Throne.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, as I rise to speak in this Assembly for the very first time, I recognize that one is hard pressed to describe in a completely new and different way to the seasoned legislators who sit in this House that very special feeling one experiences at this time. Perhaps it is sufficient to say to both the seasoned and the new members that the feeling is indeed of a very special moment.

As the seconder of the motion of the hon. Member for Three Hills, I wish to seize the opportunity to be the very first to congratulate her on a very thoughtful contribution to the debate on the throne speech. I might add that she has set an exceedingly high standard for the other 28 of us new members to meet.

And, Mr. Speaker, may I simply say to you that your reselection as the Speaker of this House came as no surprise to me. For although I haven't had the opportunity previously to participate in the activities of this House and see you at your work, I have certainly known of your fine reputation, sir, and notwithstanding that there will doubtless be occasions in the days to come when you will have to rule me out of order, none the less I look forward to participating in the activities of this House with you as its Speaker.

I also wish to thank His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of this province for his gracious presentation of the Speech from the Throne yesterday. We are indeed fortunate to have such a fine gentleman as our Lieutenant-Governor, and he will be sorely missed when he steps down from that position.

The constituency of Calgary Forest Lawn, which I have the privilege to represent, is a brand-new one, having been carved largely from the former constituency of Calgary McCall, which was in the last House and will, I am sure, in this present one be most ably represented by the hon. Member for Calgary McCall. But while the constituency of Calgary Forest Lawn is a brand-new one, many of the communities it encompasses certainly are not.

In the Inglewood district is the junction of the Bow and Elbow rivers, well known to many Calgarians as the original site of Fort Calgary, established in September 1875 when the first detachment of the North West Mounted Police arrived under the direction of

Inspector Brisbois.

The Forest Lawn district of the new constituency also has a very colorful and extensive history. About 1901, two rather unscrupulous land promoters arrived on the scene and bought land in the area. They called it Forest Lawn after that well-known California beauty spot, a Hollywood cemetery. When sales of the lots lagged, these enterprising fellows laid hundreds of railway ties from the boundary of Calgary to the centre of Forest Lawn, started a rumor that the street car was coming, sold the lots, and vanished. Regrettably there was no department of consumer and corporate affairs in those days. None the less, and notwithstanding that rather dubious beginning, the district of Forest Lawn has grown over the past many years into a fine neighborhood community with an intensity of community spirit that is hard to rival.

The new constituency of Calgary Forest Lawn, which includes both the mature districts I have referred to as well as new subdivisions, is a constituency which really defies a label. Its residents are from all walks of life, with a sizable representation of small businessmen and self-employed tradespeople. I am genuinely proud of my constituents, Mr. Speaker, in their tradition of hard work and personal initiative. I am truly humbled as well by the responsibility and opportunity that is mine in serving as their member in the Alberta Legislature, and am mindful of the trust and confidence that have been placed in me by my constituents to represent them to the very best of my ability.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne yesterday provided a veritable feast for comment. I propose, however, to deal only with selected items which were not dealt with at length by the hon. Member for Three Hills. My colleague has spoken exceedingly well of the social dimension, of social programs and policies of our government, and I wish to go on record as supporting her focus on those areas. We must continue to be a government with a conscience and help those who are unable to help themselves.

But while recognizing that legitimate and proper role of government, I think we must never lose sight of a very fundamental role of government, Mr. Speaker, that of nurturing and maintaining an economic climate in which individual initiative can thrive and individual opportunities are plentiful. So I am delighted to see that economic development will continue to be a high priority with this government. I welcome the creation of the Department of Economic Development, because to the constituents of Calgary Forest Lawn, and indeed the people of this province, economic development first and foremost means one thing: jobs. Without jobs our economic and political system is thrown into disarray, and the other legitimate roles of government become of small comfort to the citizenry.

The economic record of this government is a good one, but we must be vigilant to ensure that that very important role of government is never lost sight of. Tied to that priority of economic development is the continuing emphasis by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Manpower on training programs to develop highly skilled manpower to ensure that while those jobs are being created Albertans are developing the skill and know-how to fill those positions. Of course underlying all this discussion is the reality and knowledge that presently so much of our prosperity is tied to non-renewable resources, which simply accen-

tuates the importance of economic development and diversification for Alberta.

I was equally pleased, Mr. Speaker, to hear of the establishment of a new ministry responsible solely for workers' health, safety and compensation. This clearly shows the priority our government attaches to the well-being of the working person in this province. It is my personal hope that the efforts of this ministry in the area of workers' health can dovetail in some respects with the activities of the proposed Alberta heritage foundation for medical research, for in a growing province such as ours it is important that research be initiated into the effect on workers of employment in various industries over prolonged periods of time. I believe it is a unique opportunity to meet two worthy goals: to ensure maximum health and safety for our workers in their employment and to encourage the growth of Alberta as a recognized world leader in medical research.

This instance of government reorganization is, to my mind, a fine example of government responding to the changing needs of our society, and I will certainly take a very special interest in its activities in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, one of the real pleasures for me in running for public office has been the opportunity to meet and mingle with the many senior citizens in the constituency of Calgary Forest Lawn. They're a wonderful group of Albertans whom I spent most of my time listening to rather than talking at. That is as it should be, because they have a great deal that is worth saying and it's important that it be heard. They appreciate that this government is listening to them, listening, for example, when many people say they would prefer to stay as long as possible in their private homes, in communities they have lived in throughout their lifetime. As the hon. Member for Three Hills mentioned, our government has responded with the new pioneer home repair program, which will double the amount of money presently available to our seniors from this government to renovate their homes for continued use.

I also note with interest reference to expansion of the home care program. I wish to go on record as favoring expansion of the home care program beyond home health care to include helping interested seniors with their day-to-day chores, to enable them to live in their homes as long as they reasonably can. The beauty of this approach is that it both meets the wishes of many seniors and does so at less cost to the taxpayers of Alberta than would institutional care.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, one begins to understand the proud history of this province of Alberta just a little better after having spoken with seniors, after hearing them, in an age when some people talk only of rights, talk of both rights and responsibilities, after hearing them talk of the need for personal discipline in an age when many talk only of personal pleasure, and after hearing them talk of the importance of the family and the need for personal commitment to keep that family concept strong in an age when the rate of divorce is at an all-time high. I found that kind of talk most refreshing and most revealing about what kind of people have built this strong province of ours.

What has been made abundantly clear to me is that in spite of the fortunate energy base and potential we now have, we must never forget that this province was carved out of the wilderness and built through hard

work, personal sacrifice and initiative, and an unflinching belief in the future. At this time we cannot discard that successful formula. I strongly believe that one of the prime objectives of this government must be to continue that tradition and foster the goals of individual initiative and personal responsibility among the people of this province while caring for and assisting those who need assistance, who cannot take a part in the active growth and development and the great opportunities available in this province. We have to be a government of leadership, strength, and compassion.

At this juncture, Mr. Speaker, while I did acknowledge earlier that I don't propose to deal substantially with those items so capably discussed by the previous speaker, I do wish to indicate my pleasure with certain proposals having been made part of the Speech from the Throne, in particular the commitment to hospital and nursing home construction. In a province such as ours, with a dramatically expanding population base, this must be a high priority.

Also the new expanded programs to help the handicapped deserve recognition. I recently had the opportunity to visit Manchester Enterprises, a centre in Calgary for handicapped persons to learn job skills and enhance their own self-respect through useful work. I came away more convinced than ever that government must do all it possibly can to assist these people, and I'm pleased our government is moving even more intensively in this area.

Certainly the expanded lending program, through the Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation, to provide more interest subsidy assistance to lower- and middle-income home buyers will be welcomed by the many constituents of Calgary Forest Lawn who will be eligible for such assistance.

I do wish to make particular reference, Mr. Speaker, to the municipal debt reduction program, not just because of the number of dollars being transferred directly to municipalities from the province, although that amount is enormous, but more because it and the government's stated willingness to consider changes to the unconditional municipal assistance grant exemplify the kind of flexible revenue sharing that is taking place between our provincial government and our municipalities. Needless to say, the municipal debt reduction program is also welcomed by the constituents of Calgary Forest Lawn, who are residents of one of Canada's fastest growing cities with all the massive financial commitments that such dramatic growth entails.

During the course of the provincial election campaign, Mr. Speaker, it became very apparent to me that there exists a tremendous support door-to-door for the position taken by our Premier that strong provinces will make a strong Canada. I think it is important for me to communicate to this Assembly that overwhelming point of view of the constituents of Calgary Forest Lawn. We recognize that negotiations inevitably result in a certain amount of give and take amongst the parties, but I was pleased to hear in the throne speech that that concept, the principle that strong provinces will make a strong Canada, continues to be the position of our province. With the kind of extraordinarily strong political leadership we have in the Premier of this province, I'm optimistic that principle will soon become a reality.

Having spoken of the Premier of our province, Mr.

Speaker, I wish at this time publicly to express the appreciation of myself, my family, and my constituents for the privilege he has extended in inviting me to second this motion. We are indeed honored, Mr. Premier.

Mr. Speaker, in this Assembly I believe we have a group of men and women rich in ideas and initiative, and sincere in their desire to help build a better Alberta, an Alberta that will continue to provide leadership in this country of Canada to which we are all so committed. I look forward to working toward that very goal with the hon. members of this Assembly, regardless of their party affiliation.

It now gives me great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, formally to second the motion of the hon. Member for Three Hills.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, just a word on the business for Monday before moving adjournment until that time. It will be our intention to sit in the evening as well as the afternoon and to continue with the throne speech debate.

[At 11:30 a.m., on motion, the House adjourned to Monday at 2:30 p.m.]

