

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: Friday, June 15, 1979 10:00 a.m.

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **READING AND
RECEIVING PETITIONS**

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to have the following petitions read and received: of the Newman Theological College for an amendment to an Act to Incorporate Newman Theological College; of Christian College Association (Alberta) for The Kings College Act; of the city of Edmonton for The Edmonton Convention Centre Authority Act; of Richard A.N. Bonneycastle, George MacKay, John M. Dodds, Donald C. Matthews, and James S. Palmer for The Stockgrowers' Insurance Company of Canada Ltd. Act; of The Merchants and Traders Assurance Company for The Merchants and Traders Assurance Company Amendment Act, 1979; of William I. Friedman, William Steinberg, Leo Charles Friedman, Felix Adolf Leew, and Otto Schenk for The Prairie Trust Corporation Act; of Robert G. Elliot, Gordon A. Reid, Lyle P. Edwards, Peter Morrey, and Ronald Graham for The Highfield Trust Company Act; of the governors of the University of Alberta for The University of Alberta and St. Stephens College Perpetuities Act; of Canadian Union College for The Canadian Union College Amendment Act, 1979; of Les Filles de la Sagesse for The Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital, Castor Act; of the Western Union Insurance Company for The Western Union Insurance Company Amendment Act, 1979.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Bill 28

**The Assured Income for the
Severely Handicapped Act**

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce a Bill, The Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act. This being a money Bill, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the contents of this Bill, recommends the same to this Assembly.*

The purpose of this very significant Bill is to implement the announcement made by our Premier and my predecessor to provide to severely handicapped Albertans who are age 18 through 65 and not resident in institutions, an income which will be equivalent to that guaranteed to Alberta's senior citizens.

[Leave granted; Bill 28 read a first time]

Bill 229
The Adoptee's Origins Act

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill No. 229, The Adoptee's Origins Act. The basic principle of Bill 229 would be to give adoptees the ability and the right to acquire information regarding their natural parents.

[Leave granted; Bill 229 read a first time]

Bill 213

**An Act to Amend The Alberta
Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act**

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill 213, An Act to Amend The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act. The Bill abolishes the investment committee, which is made up solely of cabinet ministers and which is able to dictate the spending of 80 per cent of the fund, and provides that expenditures and investments be made only on the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

[Leave granted; Bill 213 read a first time]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file copies of the annual report of The Local Authorities Pension Act for the year 1977-78 and of The M.L.A. Pension Act for the same time period. These documents are not required to be tabled by statute. Copies will be available for members.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file an inventory of activities funded by the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority. A copy will be made available to each member.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file two copies of the report required under The Wilderness Areas Act.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure this morning to introduce to you, and through you to members of this Assembly, the 1979 Premier's 4-H award winner, Miss Sheralyn McRae of Condor, Alberta. Sheralyn has assumed a number of roles in 4-H and has been very active in other pursuits, such as public speaking and sports. As a Premier's award winner, she will represent 4-H at a variety of functions in the coming year and will be the Albert 4-H delegate on the Northwest Territories exchange this summer.

Sheralyn is seated in the public gallery. I would ask her to rise and receive the recognition of this Assembly.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased today to be able to introduce some visitors from the Parent Finders Association as well as the Alberta adoptive parents' association. Along with the visitors is Mrs. Penny Callan, the Edmonton president of the Parent Finders Association. They're seated in the public gal-

*See page 381, right column, paragraph 3

lery. I would ask that they stand and be recognized by the House.

MRS. FYFE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you, and through you to the Assembly, a group of some 60 students from Wild Rose school in St. Albert. They are accompanied today by their teacher Mrs. Johnson. I would ask them to stand and be recognized. They are seated in the public gallery.

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce to you, and through you to the members of the House, 50 grade 5 students from Caernarvon school in Edmonton Calder. I believe they're seated in both galleries. They're accompanied by their teachers Mr. Badger and Mrs. Hein. I ask that they stand and receive the welcome of the members.

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you, and through you to the members of the Assembly, 10 students from the Grande Cache junior high school. I can't see them, but I believe they're in the gallery over the back of my head. I would ask them to stand and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

head: MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Department of Advanced Education and Manpower

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the government of Alberta plans to allocate more than \$100 million in capital funds to our postsecondary institutions. These funds are required to meet the challenge of growth in enrolment and program development.

Major construction at our advanced education facilities resumed last year. This year, approximately \$50 million will be needed to continue or complete the following projects: the Agriculture/Forestry Building at the University of Alberta, scheduled for completion in October 1980, \$6.125 million; the completion of two additional floors of the Biological Sciences building at the University of Calgary, \$1.5 million; Phase 2 of the University of Lethbridge, expected to be completed in September 1980, \$9.32 million; and the Jasper Place campus at Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton, also scheduled for completion in September 1980, \$5 million.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague the hon. Mr. Chambers, Minister of Housing and Public Works, will be responsible for completing the following projects at four institutions:

- increased student service facilities at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, scheduled for completion in August 1980, \$6.1 million; as well as additional instructional space, to open in January 1981, \$3.367 million;
- the Campus Centre at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, now ahead of schedule and expected to be completed in May 1980, \$8.8 million;
- the joint-use theatre and new downtown campus at Keyano College in Fort McMurray, expected to be completed in May 1980 and March 1982 respectively, \$7.6 million;
- the student residences at Fairview College, to be

ready for occupancy this fall, \$2,081 million.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recommend a major addition at the University of Calgary — a civil engineering facility. It is estimated that the total cost will be \$5.2 million, with \$1.5 million to be allocated this year. This expansion to the engineering complex will house the much-needed structures research facility, laboratories, offices, and associated classroom space.

As well, the government of Alberta intends to increase the three Alberta universities fund from \$2 million to \$3.5 million. The fund provides matching grant moneys to the universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge, which receive substantial donations from the private sector for capital acquisitions. Moreover, the government is prepared to match the \$950,000 provided from private donations for the construction of the Max Bell Building at the Banff Centre for Continuing Education. Additional space is required for instruction in the fine and performing arts to accommodate the expansion of the centre to year-round programming.

I further recommend that an additional \$43,586,194 be allocated to the postsecondary educational facilities in our province. These funds would be used throughout the system for furnishings and equipment, major and minor renovations, planning, energy conservation, and various other projects. For these purposes, Mr. Speaker, I propose the following distribution: \$17,820,276 to the University of Alberta; \$6,683,000 to the University of Calgary; \$2,085,713 to the Banff Centre for Continuing Education; \$1,060,355 to the University of Lethbridge; \$261,850 to Athabasca University; \$9,626,000 to the 10 public colleges in Alberta; and \$6,049,000 to the provincially administered institutions, including the northern and southern Alberta institutes of technology.

In addition, Alberta Housing and Public Works will expend \$4,093,000 for major and minor renovations at the four vocational centres and two technical institutes.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the province of Alberta has demonstrated a strong commitment to its citizens through our advanced education system. I am recommending the approval of these funds as a reflection of our continuing support and confidence in our system and our students.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, in responding to the announcement by the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, might I say we welcome it. We think it's a positive step in the right direction, and I commend the minister.

I further commend the minister for the insight he has shown in following through with the 3AU campaign of the Alberta government, to let this Legislative Assembly match dollar for dollar raised from the private sector. I think the private sector in this province has a long reputation of making funds available for postsecondary education, and I commend it.

I want to say further, Mr. Speaker, that I would be even more enthusiastic about the minister's announcement had he at this time given the Legislative Assembly a commitment to operating funds, so that we'd be in a position to take quotas off faculties such as business and commerce, engineering, agriculture, and forestry. The announcement today is good, as far as it goes. But it's essential that we fund our postsecondary educational institutions in a manner that every young

Albertan who has the academic qualifications and the desire to become involved in postsecondary education in this province has that opportunity. The announcement today will go some distance in that direction. We can't rest on the laurels of that announcement. We have to make the operating funds available. My colleagues and I will do our bit to push in that direction.

head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

RCMP Manpower Shortage

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Solicitor General and ask how large the shortfall will be of RCMP officers supplied to Alberta this year by the federal government.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, the number originally requested was 120 for the provincial contract and 72 for the municipal contract, of which we obtained 29 for the provincial contract and 17 for the municipal contract.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, what steps has the Solicitor General taken to enable the law enforcement agencies of the province to meet this shortfall?

MR. HARLE: A number of things, Mr. Speaker: first of all, continuing approaches to the federal Solicitor General to point out the need for additional RCMP in this province. The hon. Leader of the Opposition will no doubt recall that moneys were provided last year for auxiliary policemen for the RCMP; 90 auxiliary policemen were added for that service. No doubt he will have noticed that in the budget for this year there is an increase in that allocation. We hope to add probably 300 for this year.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Is it a fair assumption that we're going to be at least 180 officers short of the request put forward as far as the provincial and municipal need is concerned?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I suppose it depends on what one would say is being short. Certainly the RCMP have been going through a redeployment of people. Pressure to improve efficiency has obviously been placed on the RCMP by the federal Solicitor General. I think it's only right to say that in my discussions with the assistant commissioner in Alberta for K Division, he feels quite confident that he's able to provide as good policing as has been provided in the past. Certainly it has meant some changes, but maybe changes that were needed. But that does not mean I won't be continuing to press for additional positions for Alberta.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the Solicitor General. In the course of discussions between the Solicitor General and the commanding officer of K Division, is the minister aware that K Division is now making decisions as to which cases they will follow up and which they won't, based on the severity of the crime, and that the RCMP in Alberta are simply not able to follow up on a number of cases because of their shortage in manpower? The Solicitor General may call it efficiency, but people who lodge ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, as in all police work, I think decisions have to be made as to how far complaints are handled in every case. I think it is only right and proper that from a point of view of personnel demands upon the system they must devote greater efforts to more serious crimes. They are doing that.

Now we could put as many policemen — one supervising every individual, if we're prepared to bear the cost. I don't think we are. I think police ratios, worked out to provide for the types of criminal activity that might exist, demand that certain efficiencies be obtained. If we're not able to handle every incident, perhaps we should be looking at it from the point of view of making sure the police are doing the best they can with the tools they have available.

Parole System

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Yesterday William Outerbridge, the National Parole Board chairman, indicated that violent crimes in Edmonton were committed by parolees. The minister has indicated those are the kinds of crimes pursued by the RCMP. I wonder if the minister has had any discussions with the National Parole Board chairman or K Division with regard to that problem.

MR. HARLE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I had a meeting with the chairman of the federal parole board this morning. I might say that he indicated to me, as he has indicated publicly, their concern with the type of incident that has been alluded to. Nevertheless, I think the fact of the matter is that it's a very small percentage of the total.

MR. R. SPEAKER: However small it is, it's still a concern to the general public.

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. In the minister's capacity, will the department or the government be taking a position with regard to the parole system as it exists, and making representation to the federal government as to how we feel about its leniency or harshness?

MR. HARLE: I don't think so, Mr. Speaker. I would obviously convey to the federal Solicitor General, when I meet with him, the concern of Albertans in the general area. But it is a federal parole system, and I think all citizens have an opportunity to express their concerns to the federal minister.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Could the minister indicate what specific recommendations, if any, were made to the National Parole Board chairman this morning?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, the discussions were of a general nature, describing his particular system, expressing the general concerns of Albertans in this area as we perceive them, and checking to see that we have a smooth flow of information passing between the federal parole system and officials in the Solicitor General's Department.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary for clarification. From the minister's answers, would the minister indicate then that from his position as a repre-

sentative of the government there is really no concern with regard to crime in the streets caused by parolees?

MR. HARLE: Certainly far from it, Mr. Speaker. We're as concerned as all citizens. I have expressed that concern, and I indicated in my earlier answer that that concern was expressed in the meeting this morning.

RCMP Manpower Shortage
(continued)

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. In light of the shortfall in the federal budget to train officers at Regina, has the minister had any discussion with his federal counterpart to offer to help reopen the training facility at Penhold, Alberta, to train additional RCMP and provincial correctional officers?

MR. HARLE: No, Mr. Speaker.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary. Has the minister had any discussion with K Division in the province to find out if the efficiency of centralizing police detachments would be better served by decentralizing them to get them back into the smaller communities?

MR. HARLE: There's a continuing dialogue between me and the assistant commissioner on the matter. I've had one meeting with the assistant commissioner specifically relating to the set-up of the RCMP in this province, and I will be continuing those meetings after the session.

MR. R. CLARK: I'd like to direct one further question to the Solicitor General, a supplementary from the minister's earlier comment with regard to economic efficiency in the deployment of police officers. What studies have been done to compare the costs of extra policing not presently being provided, because of the shortfall in RCMP, to the costs of crime being committed because of the inadequate number of RCMP officers?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member's conclusions are put forward in that question. Certainly, as I've tried to indicate, we have our own concerns, and officials in the department will continue to ensure that there is adequate policing. That will be our objective.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. What studies is the Solicitor General's Department able to present to the Assembly to show the great benefits of efficiency you mentioned here this morning, as opposed to getting more RCMP officers? Surely the minister must have some studies to back up what he's been telling us here this morning about the great benefits of efficiency.

MR. HARLE: I think the hon. member must realize the RCMP is a federal force.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. HARLE: It is absolutely certain that they have their work, and they have their studies. As Solicitor

General I feel it is most important that I know what they are doing, and I will continue to do so.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister: Mr. Minister, can you present to the Assembly

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. R. CLARK: Can the minister present to the Assembly any information to back up the statement he made earlier, which in essence was that the position of the Alberta government is that we're in favor of efficiency, and we're not going to press the federal government for more RCMP officers for Alberta, even though they are your federal cousins?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, that's not what I said. I said I will continue to ask for an increased number of RCMP for the province.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, what has the minister done to do that? Has he got hold of his federal counterpart?

MR. R. SPEAKER: Don't they talk to you any more?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, a letter went out from my office yesterday.

MR. R. CLARK: Well, hooray.

Parole System
(continued)

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question . . . [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. NOTLEY: If I can, to the hon. Solicitor General. Has the Solicitor General discussed the question of the operation of the National Parole Board with any of the Edmonton area Members of Parliament, in view of the fact that statements have been made by these hon. gentlemen, and at least one of those hon. gentlemen is now in the cabinet?

MR. HARLE: I recall only one discussion, and that was with a federal aspirant.

RCMP Manpower Shortage
(continued)

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, will the minister table the letter he says he sent to the federal Solicitor General yesterday?

MR. HARLE: I could take that matter under review and respond, yes.

MR. R. CLARK: Well, why in the world don't you [inaudible].

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. [interjections]

MR. R. CLARK: Why don't you know what you're doing for a change?

Correctional System Study

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the hon. Solicitor General. Last August a \$250,000 study of the correctional system in the province was commissioned by the government. As the report was supposed to have been completed in March, can the minister indicate to the Legislature if that report has indeed been completed?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I would have to have more details on it. I'm not aware of what he's referring to.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, can the minister then assure the House that he will check with his department and report if that report is available? It was a report commissioned last year, and a Chicago-based firm has that contract.

MR. NOTLEY: There are so many reports, Walt.

DR. BUCK: Can the minister find out if that report is available?

MR. HARLE: I can take that as notice.

Parkland Nursing Home

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the hon. Minister of Labour whether the government of Alberta plans to take any action with respect to the labor dispute at Parkland, which has now dragged on for two and a half years. In view of the fact that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member's question is complete. I think it's obvious he's now adding some gratuitous debate.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, the matter of the dispute at Parkland is difficult at the moment. While the department stands ready to assist, and has in fact endeavored to assist, there now appears to be some question between the would-be owner and the maybe owners. It is difficult for the department to identify at the moment just whom it can usefully assist.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Has the department developed any time frame for attempting to settle this dispute, in view of the fact it's gone on for two and a half years?

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, generally with respect to labor relations it's not good to develop hard and public time frames, inasmuch as that simply establishes an end position by which the parties to the dispute can remove their responsibilities, which they have in the first instance and continue throughout a dispute. It makes it possible for them to remove their responsibilities to a third party, namely the government. So it is not a practice or policy to establish firm time frames.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Labour. Has the minister given any consideration to the proposal of the Alberta Federation of Labour last year that in fact there should be a public inquiry into the Parkland dispute, in view of the inordinate time this dispute has . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member has rather abundantly emphasized that point so far.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, as I've mentioned, we're exploring and continue to explore the matter of the Parkland dispute, because it's very vexing. All kinds of considerations have been given to it. That's one of them.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Will that exploration include the calling of a public inquiry?

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, since it's under consideration, I'm unable to say anything more definite than what I've just responded.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Certainly one could never accuse the government of rushing in two and a half years.

I'd like to ask the hon. minister whether any consideration is being given at this time to amending The Alberta Labour Act to bring in a trusteeship clause — we have back-to-work orders — so we could have an even-handed approach to settling disputes?

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure I understand the question placed by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview. I don't know what would be achieved by a trusteeship clause.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, by way of explanation to the hon. minister: if in The Alberta Labour Act at the present time we can send people back to work and stop a strike in the interests of the public, we must also have some opportunity to qualify management's right to manage. That's what trusteeship is.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is whether any consideration has been given to trusteeship in this particular case.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, surely if the question has to do with balancing the ability of both parties to influence the outcome of a labor dispute, that exists. Because under Section 163 of The Alberta Labour Act it is possible to order the matter to binding arbitration. Binding arbitration affects both sides of the dispute; it's binding on both. So I don't see what would be gained by a trusteeship clause.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, without being argumentative, the government is not prepared to look at the official request of the Alberta Federation of Labour that trusteeship would be one option to voluntarily settle this dispute.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, I've already responded in the context of the understanding of what trusteeship means, given to me by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview.

Labor/Management Relations — Ports

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is with regard to the longshoremen's unrest that has just been terminated. Now that there are hopefully three years of labor rest, I wonder if the Premier is considering developing some type of labor

strategy or recommendations that could be made to the federal government with regard to this essential service provided by longshoremen? It certainly affects the Alberta economy very extensively.

One, is the Premier considering developing some type of strategy to recommend to the federal government? Number two, would this be an item at the next western premiers' conference?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I will refer that question to the Minister of Economic Development.

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I think all of us appreciate and are thankful that the present dispute has been settled for a three-year period. The whole question of labor/management relations relative to our ports is an important one.

As I noted yesterday in my announcement about our discussions with the province of British Columbia, I am hopeful that new federal ports legislation will be brought into place and will contain an avenue for provincial input, because after all a great deal of the product going out of those ports comes from interior provinces such as Alberta. So we'll be very concerned about that kind of legislation and the whole area of labor/management relations at the ports that service Alberta particularly.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the comments of the Deputy Premier. Would the Deputy Premier consider presenting to the Legislature, say in the fall session or early in 1980, a potential position paper of the Alberta government with regard to that type of legislation, which in turn would be presented to the federal government?

DR. HORNER: Well, Mr. Speaker, we are attempting to develop a joint position among the four western provinces, and we'll be working on that. Whether I can give any commitment on a time line is very difficult, because we would like to have that joint position relative to the management and administration of the ports that serve western Canada. So I'll be pleased to report our progress in that area, but I'm not able to say at this time whether I can provide a position paper.

Water Pollution

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, my question to the hon. Minister of Environment relates to pollution of the Bow River by the city of Calgary sewage treatment facilities. It arises from the South Saskatchewan River basin eutrophication control study mentioned previously in the House in the question period. A review of it would appear to indicate that the study is going to be limited only to the question of weed growth, of phosphorus levels, and in fact is not going to address whatsoever the question of bacteria levels.

I wonder if the minister could advise the House whether that is in fact the case.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, perhaps for the benefit of the Member for Calgary Forest Lawn I could expand just a bit on the total study.

There are three kinds of problems within the particular system. One is a chemical problem, which deals with nutrients: phosphorus, nitrogen, calcium, potassium, the various elements that are continually ana-

lysed. The other is bacteria in water, which I could perhaps allude to further. The third is the algae problem, which deals with weed growth, et cetera.

The major study I spoke about last week is primarily designed to deal specifically with the weed problem in terms of algae, and the eutrophication of the water system.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: A supplementary question to the minister. It arises from a review of a previous study prepared for the Department of Environment in December 1978 by a member of that department, Mr. Klaus Exner. In that report he discusses the bacteriological samplings of the Bow River even within the city of Calgary and points out at five different sites within the city bacteria levels that are termed borderline in the study, and which in fact are some 80 times higher than levels in Lake Bonavista in Calgary, which is presently the subject of a considerable study and a great concern to the citizens.

In light of the results of this study, would the minister be prepared to consider expanding the terms of reference of the three-year study he spoke of earlier, to include the question of bacteria?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, we do a continuous year-by-year study of the bacterial content of water systems throughout Alberta.

For the benefit of concerned Calgarians, and in view of the question, perhaps I may refer to the present information I have regarding fecal and coliform bacterial problems. Both fecal and total coliforms are measured routinely on samples taken from the Bow River. Data for the Bow River at Ronalane bridge shows that the level of fecal coliforms was less than the maximum permissible level for raw water fecal coliforms of 1,000 colonies per 100 millilitres, established in the 1968 Canadian drinking water standards and objectives. So we're well within those standards.

My information is that the total coliforms exceeded the raw-water total coliform standard on one occasion, I think around December 1968.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. My understanding is that that information was derived from a site study some 50 miles downstream from Calgary, whereas the information that I am referring to is right within the city limits. In light of that fact and in light of recent statements by the medical officer of health for the city of Calgary, Dr. David Hosking, who stated that if people choose to immerse themselves in this portion of the river — and he's referring to the Bow within Calgary — they may well be at some health risk. He has also stated that anyone who drinks the water may . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Possibly the hon. member could come directly to the question.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: I would ask the minister whether he has had any communications with the medical officer of health of the city of Calgary, in light of his statements.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of a direct correspondence with the medical health officer. I would appreciate any dialogue he might wish to

direct to me.

I might expand just a bit on the question of coliform bacterial content. We all contain coliforms. Part of the problem of coliforms comes from people themselves, and part of the problem in the Bow River — in fact most of the problem — is due to people.

DR. BUCK: You're beginning to approach the point now, Jack.

MR. COOKSON: In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I might say this. The city of Calgary is presently expanding its sewage treatment facility on Fish Creek. This facility is designed to be in production the latter part of this year, and then we will be further analysing the content of the effluent leaving that treatment plant, to make sure the water quality in the main stream is meeting our standards.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. The question of water quality in the Bow River at Calgary has now gone on for a couple of weeks. The minister has been inactive and hasn't really given us answers, putting off the question. The question is, when will the minister advise his staff to examine the immediate problem and give us an answer in this Legislature, saying the water is good or the water is bad? Why do we have to wait until fall for the study, while the water flows all summer, affecting the people of Calgary? I can't understand that kind of action.

DR. BUCK: Inaction.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, I know that the Member for Little Bow has a little difficulty understanding responses. I think I have made it quite clear that the analysis . . . [interjections]

I don't know which of these members would like to speak at this time, but I'd . . . [interjections]

AN HON. MEMBER: It's taken about two weeks . . .

MR. SPEAKER: It has only seemed that long. [laughter]

MR. COOKSON: I'm beginning to think we've got a coliform problem over here.

However, we'll continue . . . [interjection] The hon. member has a more serious problem, perhaps, than a coliform problem.

We'll continue to analyse the water, and we'll maintain the standards that this province lays down for clean water.

Social Assistance to Single Parents

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. It relates to families on social assistance as a result of family break-up. Are a significant number of spouses on social assistance as a result of the delinquency of corresponding spouses in meeting either court-directed or mutually agreed support?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, in the area of public assistance, support for single-parent families is, in a volume sense, the greatest single area. I think it accounts for

about 42 per cent of the total budget. Surely one of our main concerns rests with the spouse who has some legal obligations to his partner and their children. Through our maintenance and recovery, attempts are made to ensure that that individual acknowledges and pays his legal obligations.

MRS. CHICHAK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the hon. minister indicate what degree of success is being achieved by the department in the recovery process, out of the percentage undertaken under the legislation?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, the question was dealt with last evening in the subcommittee estimates. If I recall the figures accurately, we're currently recovering about \$4.8 million, which I think is a volume increase of 12 per cent over the previous year.

If the hon. member is asking if I'm satisfied with that, no, we're not. Until we find a way of collecting and ensuring that the legal and moral responsibilities of spouses are met, we're not going to be satisfied. To that end, officials in the Department of Social Services and Community Health have been working with officials in the Attorney General's Department and the Solicitor General's Department to better co-ordinate our activities through the court process and the legal system, to ensure that we're able to get at the identified individuals and carry out the law.

MRS. CHICHAK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does the hon. minister have any evidence of spouses working in collusion in order to obtain funds from the department under the social assistance program, when in fact there is capability of payment by the corresponding spouse?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, there are some examples of that, and we do have in place a process of recovery for overpayment. I've reviewed a couple of such cases that have been brought to my attention by hon. members of this Assembly, where they feel an injustice or hardship is being forced on the individual. But surely we try to pass laws which will meet the needs of our citizens, we try to implement programs to enact the provisions of those laws, and in our regulations we clearly specify what will happen if someone is caught abusing the system in some way. It's my feeling that that provision must remain in place. I believe it calls for up to 10 per cent per month of the benefits accruing to the individual and family to be withheld until the overpayment is repaid.

MRS. CHICHAK: I have one more supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the hon. minister advise whether he has in place a mechanism for citizens who are aware of an abuse being carried on, whereby they may report without becoming personally involved?

MR. R. CLARK: Phone the minister.

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, the question really is: how does one go about reporting an abuse of the system? That could be done in a number of ways. It could be done directly through the department, through an MLA, or directly to my office. But I want to make one thing clear: if someone is bringing an abuse to the attention of the authorities, he must be prepared to

document it. In other words, we want something in writing, so that it's not merely word of mouth.

Flood Relief

MR. PAHL: Mr. Speaker, a question for the hon. minister responsible for Alberta Disaster Services. In view of the heavy rainfall yesterday and the resultant flooding in areas throughout the province, but particularly in the residential area of Mill Woods where the flooding has been recurrent, could you tell the House whether Alberta Disaster Services has been involved, specifically in the residential area of Mill Woods but elsewhere in the province as well?

DR. HORNER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Alberta Disaster Services is monitoring the situation in conjunction with the Department of Environment. My information this morning is that there have been some minor road closures in Mill Woods, but we don't anticipate that it's going to be anything major.

There has been some flooding on the Sawridge River in the Slave Lake area; both the Swan and Paddle rivers are also high. At the moment it doesn't appear that there will be significant damage, but that will have await further evaluation later today.

MR. PAHL: A supplementary question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. Does the Alberta disaster fund have a policy with regard to disaster services in areas where the municipality perhaps could have taken remedial measures to prevent the flooding?

DR. HORNER: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, the criterion is that that particular damage is not a reasonably insurable damage. There are other guidelines, of course, but I think that is the major criterion.

Population Statistics

MR. WEISS: Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the hon. Provincial Treasurer. I've often referred in the House to Fort McMurray being a rapid-growth area, contributing significantly to the growth of Alberta and the economy. For comparative purposes, I would like the minister to provide this Assembly with, one, Alberta's current population; and two, the average annual population growth of Alberta.

DR. BUCK: Put it on the Order Paper.

AN HON. MEMBER: Look it up.

MR. SPEAKER: If the question is in order, it should appear on the Order Paper. However, if the facts are public knowledge of course it shouldn't even appear on the Order Paper.

MR. WEISS: Perhaps I could redirect and clarify my question. I would like this Assembly to know Alberta's current population.

MR. R. CLARK: Check the library.

Drought Threat

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. I might say that in the Three Hills

area we have the opposite problem to that of the Member for Edmonton Mill Woods. I wonder if the hon. minister could tell us if he has any reports on the drought situation in the southern part of the province.

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, the reports are not conclusive. At the present time it's the understanding that in certain spots in the east and southeast parts of this province, some damage occurred due to high winds because of extremely dry conditions. Perhaps by Monday I'll be in much better shape to give an overall view of the situation in regard to the moisture conditions for the province.

Transport of Chemicals

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question, on the relocation of rail lines or rerouting of tank cars around the town of Fort Saskatchewan, to the hon. Minister of Economic Development. It arises from a question asked in the Legislature and also a representation made in the cabinet tour. Can the minister indicate what steps have been taken with the CNR and possibly the CPR on the rerouting of hazardous chemicals around the town of Fort Saskatchewan?

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I have taken as notice a number of questions asked on this matter, I think on Wednesday when I was absent, and I have an outstanding commitment to the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview to place a document before the Legislature relative to the matter of transportation of hazardous materials, which I'll do. I think that will bring us up to date.

I'll just point out again to the hon. Member for Clover Bar that rerouting it out of one town doesn't really solve the problem, because most of our railways go through a number of towns to get to their destination. Further to that, I would hope that all members would understand that there have to be national standards, because 85 per cent of our production of whatever it might be moves out of the province and therefore has to conform to the national standard, and that's why the input into the national Bill relative to transportation of hazardous materials.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister in his responsibility for Disaster Services. Can he indicate what co-ordination there is between industry, the town of Fort Saskatchewan, and the department as to what steps would be taken — if there are steps — if a disaster did occur in the town of Fort Saskatchewan?

DR. HORNER: I can check, but I'm sure a contingency plan has been developed by the town of Fort Saskatchewan, in conjunction with officials of Disaster Services and, perhaps more importantly, with the industry and the transportation companies in the area; more particularly, the Canadian National and the things they have done, as I would hope the hon. member is aware, in moving their yards further north outside the town and other matters relative to upgrading the track.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Transportation, a follow-up to the question I asked about the movement of hazardous

chemicals by truck transport. In light of the fact that a sulphur tanker split in two on Highway 15 two days ago, is the minister in a position to indicate what steps the Department of Transportation is taking to limit the amount of damage that could be done by a spill by road transport?

MR. KROEGER: Mr. Speaker, the report of this spillage the hon. member refers to hasn't come to me yet. But I have been discussing this kind of approach, and we will be making an exchange with the Minister of Economic Development to see how the two correlate.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition wishes to trade places with the hon. Member for Little Bow. Perhaps we could have a final short question and answer.

MR. R. CLARK: Just for question period.

ERCB Hearings — Power Line

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a yes or no question to the Minister of Agriculture. I want to ask the question because the ERCB hearings with regard to the 500 kV transmission line from Alberta to B.C. begin on Monday. I wonder if the minister has had a number of representations from farmers requesting that the hearings be delayed. Has the minister been able to consider that delay in the hearings, or made representations to other ministers?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, I've had no correspondence or contact with individuals asking for a delay. Perhaps that request went to another department.

MR. SPEAKER: We've run out of time, but if the Assembly agrees, I believe two hon. ministers would like to supplement some information previously given.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Oil Development — Suffield Block

MR. LEITCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give the answers to two questions asked of me earlier this week.

On Tuesday the hon. Member for Bow Valley asked whether the Alberta Energy Company plans to produce heavy oil in the Suffield Block, and the answer is that the Alberta Energy Company has been producing heavy oil — which was the subject of the question — for the past two years at a rate of approximately 500 to 700 barrels per day. They are starting a pilot study on a joint venture basis with AOSTRA and two other companies in respect to the fire/flooding project, in the hopes that that experimental project will lead to an increased production of heavy oil from that area.

Sessional Papers

MR. LEITCH: The second question, Mr. Speaker, was asked by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday regarding the filing of the annual reports of the Alberta Oil Sands Research and Technology Authority and the Petroleum Marketing Commission. I've now had the opportunity to check further on those two reports, and I do not believe they will be available by the time of

adjournment of this spring sitting.

I want to call to the Assembly's attention, Mr. Speaker, that in those questions yesterday there was an implication that the failure to file them during the first 15 days of this session was in breach of the applicable legislation. While I haven't had the opportunity to do a careful check of the legislation, I have been able to review it briefly, and it seems to me that that's clearly not the case. The legislation calls for them to be filed when they're prepared and delivered to the minister, if the House is then in session. If it isn't, they are to be filed 15 days after the next sitting of the session.

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, this morning I introduced Bill 28, The Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act. In my enthusiasm I indicated to my colleagues that this was a money Bill.* That is not the case, although many Albertans will benefit very directly from the legislation.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Assembly agree to revert briefly to Introduction of Special Guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS (reversion)

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly 28 grade 9 students from the Seba Beach school in the Stony Plain constituency. They are accompanied by their teacher Mrs. Thursby, parents Mr. and Mrs. McAllister, Mrs. Carlson, and Mrs. Hoines, and an old member of this Assembly who doesn't need any introduction, Dr. J. Donovan Ross, a former Minister of Lands and Forests. They are in the members gallery, and I would ask them to rise and receive the recognition of the House.

They're not there. [laughter]

MR. SPEAKER: They'll be able to read the hon. member's introduction in *Hansard*.

head: GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

7. Moved by Mr. Hyndman:

Be it resolved that this Assembly approve in general the fiscal policies of the government.

[Adjourned debate June 13: Mr. Hyland]

MR. HYLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I had known the hon. Member for Stony Plain wanted to make a speech that badly, I would have yielded my spot to him.

Mr. Speaker, when I adjourned debate, I was talking about agriculture, and will continue with that for a couple of points. Assistance to young farmers received a lot of discussion during the election period at the

*See page 373, left column, paragraph 9

forums and on personal contact. Throughout the campaign we heard what a number of parties thought would be the answer to assisting young beginning farmers.

For the consideration of the Minister of Agriculture, I would now like to put forth one thing that was never on any platform: that young farmers starting out give a portion or a share of their crop to make the payments, as one does when renting land. I believe there is a very good precedent for that. After the war the VLA did that very thing for the veterans. Possibly many members of this House paid for their farms on a crop-share. I believe that crop-shares for repayment of farm debts should be looked at.

One thing I must say is that we always talk — and coming from an agricultural background, I guess I am as guilty as anyone — about assistance to beginning farmers. But let us never forget there are other businesses, and what we do for the young beginning farmer we should do for the young beginning businessman, whatever business he may carry on in the province of Alberta.

In his comments on the budget speech, the Member for Spirit River-Fairview indicated the number of people employed in agriculture and the fact that the number is dropping. I would submit to the member that that just goes to show that the agriculturalist is becoming more mechanized and more productive. He is probably one of the most productive persons involved in industry throughout Alberta, which I think is a very nice feather in his hat. That is one of the reasons the number in agriculture is dropping in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, during the previous month I, along with the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, had the opportunity of touring the University of Lethbridge and meeting with the staff, the board, and the students. It was very interesting for me, because I could see the deep interest, concern, and feelings that the staff, students, and board had for their university. These people had a very deep dedication to their particular university, and I wish to acknowledge that in this House. We often hear things that aren't particularly complimentary to university staff, students, and so on, but I feel they are a very good example of the people who are teaching and going to university, and a very dedicated group in their walk of life.

Mr. Speaker, also in the budget speech is the indication that average hospital support is up 18.6 per cent throughout the province. This is going to assist the hospitals greatly in delivering service, but I believe we still have problems and we're going to have to work them out together. It's not going to be done just by the hospital boards and administration delivering the services or, indeed, by the government. It's going to have to be done by both parties. Also in the hospital budget is some \$300 million plus for capital construction.

I note that Medicine Hat hospital is listed in the budget speech. I'm not trying to steal the thunder of the Member for Medicine Hat, but Medicine Hat hospital is a regional hospital used by many of my constituents. I know the hon. member and Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower has worked hard in previous years to get construction started on the expansion of the hospital. We're very happy indeed that a short time ago the member was able to take part in sod-turning ceremonies and get the expansion of that hospital going.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the hospital board and administration have worked very hard to put their plans together and get to the stage they're at now. That is indeed a compliment to them: to put a plan together, use an existing building, add onto it, and provide for service in the future. They are to be complimented that they didn't just decide to build a whole new building, but to use what they had. Once it's remodelled, it will be perfectly good for the purposes they desire.

Mr. Speaker, I have assistance to municipalities in my notes, but after second reading a few nights ago on the Bill of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, there's no need for me to repeat the words I said that night. They're a matter of record in *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker, in the field of transportation we see the increase in primary highways is up some 24.6 per cent, and in secondary highways some 16 per cent. We also have the new highways allotment, to do with exploration for natural resources. We have \$8 million for towns and village to upgrade their streets, a very welcome grant indeed; \$2 million for hamlets, a program never in existence before. No matter how much we have in highways, there always seems to be a need for another mile of road or pavement.

As many of you know, I come from quite a large constituency which requires many miles of road, often to serve just one family. I would like to say that consideration should be given to increasing this more next year than this year. As I said, we can always use another mile of road. I'm sure all members from other large rural areas realize that with the vast expanse one has to travel today and the increase in size of farm vehicles, last year I believe roads cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000 per mile of gravel road, and it may have increased. These roads have to be built to a very high standard in order to stand up to the heavy traffic.

Last but not least in transportation, Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge the Minister of Transportation to make a very strong commitment to twin Highway No. 1 from Strathmore to the Saskatchewan border. This road goes many miles from the Saskatchewan border into Medicine Hat, and indeed after it gets through the Hat, through the town of Redcliff — now part of the constituency of Cypress — and on to the constituency of the hon. Member for Bow Valley. I'd like to urge the minister especially to get on with the twinning of the portion north of the South Saskatchewan River, where the bridge will be completed in Medicine Hat, through the town of Redcliff and toward Brooks. We don't need to wait until we join up the other end with the extra two lanes. We can also start from Medicine Hat and go toward the Saskatchewan border.

I see that a letter from the Yellowhead Interprovincial Highway Association quotes the Deputy Premier on March 30: "Deputy-premier Hugh Horner has confirmed government intentions to make the Yellowhead Route a four-lane thoroughfare across the province." I'm sure if we can get a commitment such as that from the Minister of Transportation, the hon. Member for Medicine Hat and I will make every attempt to see that the Medicine Hat Chamber of Commerce or the southern Alberta tourist association will provide such a letter, and we will see that the commitment is published in the same.

MR. CARTER: And support from Calgary Millican.

MR. HYLAND: My hon. colleague says I will also receive support from Calgary Millican. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague from Calgary Millican tells me he is my number one part-time constituent in Cypress.

The other day in the budget debate, we heard the comments of the Minister of Recreation and Parks on what he sees happening in the parks of Alberta. I look forward to the minister's outlining of the capital expenditures this year for work on the Cypress provincial park. I also look forward to the minister's proposed park that will be something between a highway campsite and a provincial park. I have a couple or three areas in my constituency I'd like to see in this category. I look forward to working with the minister to promote these areas.

Mr. Speaker, I think one document that tells more in very few words than any we've received with the budget and the appropriate estimate books is that small piece of paper, 1979 Budget Highlights. I believe we should do our utmost to get this into the hands of many citizens of Alberta, because it does indeed tell the story about the huge amount of money we are spending on many people and the various services provided for people in Alberta. The last page especially shows the very thing we have talked about for years, our tremendous dependence on our non-renewable natural resources. The circle graph indeed makes one wonder, with 52 per cent of our income based on that resource, what we are going to do when the well runs dry.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, may I revert to introduction of visitors?

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you sure?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS** (*reversion*)

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, this is probably the first time in this Assembly that any group of students has been introduced twice in one day. I guess they had a very interesting tour. My sheet showed they'd be here at 11 o'clock, but they got in about 10 after.

It's my pleasure today, Mr. Speaker, to introduce to you and members of this Assembly 28 grade 9 students from the Seba Beach school. They are accompanied by their teacher Mrs. Thursby, parents Mr. and Mrs. McAllister, Mrs. Carlson, and Mrs. Hochstein, and a long-time friend of this House, once the Minister of Lands and Forests, Dr. Ross. They're in the members gallery. I would ask them to rise and receive the recognition of the House.

head: **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS** (*continued*)

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to offer a few thoughts on the budget and to tell some of the new members about the Highwood constituency.

Before I start, I must comment on suggestions about

the budget made by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview the other night. It reminded me of listening to my wife reading fairyland stories to my grandchildren. The speech was a great fantasy that didn't have much relationship to the great stewardship and responsibilities we have to the administration of the province of Alberta.

The hon. member quite often makes reference to Saskatchewan as a model. I'm a former stubble-jumper from Saskatchewan. I quite frequently visit my family there. I guess I need new glasses to see it in the perspective of the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview. I haven't been able to see it as he describes it. I have problems when I go there because — I blush to say it — my brother-in-law is a heck of a fine fellow, but he supports the NDP. [interjections]

MR. NOTLEY: Wise brother-in-law.

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: My congratulations to the new members elected this year to the Assembly. I've certainly enjoyed the quality of their speeches and learned a lot about the different areas of Alberta.

I'd like to tell them a little about the constituency of Highwood. I believe it's the most beautiful constituency in the province. I see that hon. Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest has suddenly taken notice. But I believe I have more beautiful mountains and foothills in my constituency than anywhere else in the province.

To begin with, I'd like to inform you that Highwood is the home of the present Prime Minister of Canada. He was born and raised there. It's also where the Prince of Wales chose a ranch many years ago, and where Alberta first became known as a real supplier of petroleum products. The Turner Valley oil fields started Alberta on the road to becoming one of the have provinces. It is also the residence of the former Solicitor General, Roy Farran.

The budget presented on June 8 will certainly be a real help to my constituents in Highwood. That isn't to say that there aren't some programs we would like to have, that would possibly benefit Highwood more than other areas of Alberta. To tell you why I say that, I believe Highwood is the most diversified constituency in Alberta. There is some irrigation. There's dryland farming, mixed farming, ranching — both small and very large operations — lumbering, mining, recreation, and fishing. Part of the beautiful Kananaskis Park and Kananaskis Country is in the constituency of Highwood.

It is also the location of the Stampede Ranch, about which the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health knows well. I believe one of the ministers was speaking about it the other day. It's a pioneer concept in the treatment of young boys who have run afoul of the law. One of their projects at present is a contract they're working on, whereby they're making toilet facilities for some of the parking lots in Kananaskis Park and Kananaskis Country.

We have owners of very small acreages, all the way up to some ranching operations that include a township or more. The foothills area is beautiful. I'd invite anyone who wants to drive through a serene, quiet countryside and see the beauty of Alberta to go through the foothills and mountains of Highwood.

The small-acreage owners have a problem unique to the areas surrounding some of the cities. They have a

problem with taxation, mainly with assessment. There are also towns that are feeling the growing pains of being close to a city, and I'm glad to see the increase in assistance for sewer and water for those areas.

During the campaign this year, I used some of the knowledge I gained in 1975. This time I stayed clear of farmyards where there were rams that last time lowered the dignity of an aspiring politician. This time I was also able to avoid the dogs that wanted to test their teeth, and I didn't go home with a knee out of my pants. The only time I was in serious difficulty, the dog happened to grab my wallet; it didn't hurt a bit.

DR. BUCK: It was full of money.

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: But if that dog believes everything I told it, it's certainly not going to brag about its ancestors!

Highwood includes the towns of Okotoks, High River, Nanton, Turner Valley, Black Diamond, the villages of Cayley and Longview, and the hamlets of Aldersyde and De Winton. Add to this the miles and miles of beautiful mountain and foothills country ... I'd better get back to the budget before I get too wound up about Highwood.

I didn't speak on Bill No. 21, The Municipal Debt Reduction Act; I think enough was said about it. But I know the taxpayers of this province are going to be well pleased with it, because so many of their hard-earned tax dollars have gone to pay the interest on municipal debt. It's very commendable.

I've read some editorials and heard some of the opposition members condemn and criticize the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. They certainly aren't communicating with the people I've talked to in Highwood. Most of them are well satisfied with our trusteeship and handling of that fund.

Employment and manufacturing in the budget: remarkable performances. Regarding taxes, tax incentives, and income tax reduction, it's all self-explanatory.

Then there are programs for people. I don't know how some people can insist that this government is old and tired and has no regard for people. Anyone who reads this document has to be impressed with the way it was so ably presented by our Provincial Treasurer. It has all the clarity for anyone to be convinced that this government does provide and has provided for people. I'm also pleased to see there won't be an increase in the health care insurance premiums.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, particularly about the beauty of Highwood constituency, but I know other members wish to make some remarks. With that, I'll call it quits.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, as several other people before me have. I would like to compliment our hon. Provincial Treasurer on what I feel is a very responsible budget. I would like to comment on a few of the remarks the Leader of the Opposition made in his address last Monday.

A week ago today, I was in Cardston for a sod-turning ceremony for an addition to the Cardston hospital. It would be very hard for the people of Cardston to understand the position the hon. leader took last Monday, in comparison with the position he took when he was in my constituency during the elec-

tion. There was quite a difference in his attitude.

We have 2,900 people a month coming into Alberta, and our labor force is growing by leaps and bounds. The government should be very proud of the fact that we have been able to hold our unemployment rate below half of the national average. I realize the private sector is basically responsible for holding that down, but this government has done a great deal to encourage the private sector and, in its own way, has done a great deal to hold the unemployment rate down. The capital project spending in our budget is one way the government is holding the unemployment rate down between 4 and 5 per cent.

I don't think any of us on this side of the House need to apologize to anyone that our capital project spending increased by 39 per cent last year, and that we propose to increase it to 41 per cent this year. At this time in our history, I think it's good that we are able to do this.

Another thing I'd like to talk about is the remarks he made on upgrading the Legislature grounds. As everyone knows, Alberta became a province in 1905. There were 170,000 people in Alberta at that time. I think the first budget was around \$1.5 million. This building was started in 1907 and completed in 1912. It cost \$2.2 million.

Mr. Speaker, many times I walk into this building and consider the number of people in Alberta at that time, what a dollar was worth, and what a terrific project this building and its grounds were to the people of that day. Compared to what we do today, I expect it would be something like one or two Syncrude projects.

From my point of view, the people before us felt the importance of a legislature and made a real effort to have a building they could be proud of, we can be proud of, and I hope the people 50 years down the road can be proud of. I would like to commend the people back in those days for their vision and foresight in putting this building up. I suppose there were detractors then, too, who were saying we shouldn't spend money in this area. I suppose there were people like the hon. Leader of the Opposition who felt we should spend money on the 1912 equivalent of battery-operated smoke detectors. But I'm very thankful they didn't.

I would like to go on to parts of the budget that more or less interest me. I'm glad to see a 16.7 per cent increase in secondary roads. The Alberta Wheat Pool closed the grain-buying point at Whiskey Gap last July, and these people have to haul their grain about 30 miles to an elevator. In the past, our government assured the people of Whiskey Gap that when this rail line was closed, special attention would be paid to upgrading the secondary roads in that area to haul their grain out. I would just like to have the Minister of Transportation know that I will probably be talking to him on this subject.

I'm glad to see the aid to the handicapped set up the way it is. You know, years ago — and I believe this government did it — there used to be a disability pension. We have lumped that disability pension in with social assistance. Several people in my constituency who were getting this disability pension absolutely refused to take social assistance. I, and I suppose other people in this Assembly, approached the former Minister of Social Services and Community Health, and I'm glad to see that we have today a program these people will be not only entitled to, but proud to take

advantage of.

I think another area we have to look at is day care. We should be very careful in this area, because it's one of several where the provincial government is directly competing with small business. When I say small business, it's very small business. These people have the restriction of having to make a profit in their operation; the government doesn't have to make a profit. So, although these facilities are necessary, we should still take a hard look at just how we handle this program, to see that it does not really hurt the private day care centres.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a responsible budget that the people of Alberta will be happy to accept. I thank you for your attention.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, in rising to participate in the budget debate today, may I take this opportunity to pay my respects to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, who has so ably represented Her Majesty the Queen in this province for almost five years. For the record, I'd say how much I personally appreciated his many attendances and visits to my constituency of Medicine Hat. I know that the people I represent have accorded him a great deal of respect and honor, and that he has found a place in their hearts.

As well, Mr. Speaker, may I congratulate you on your re-election. I look forward to working with you over the next term, particularly since I have some new responsibilities as Deputy Government House Leader. I will try to have all the information available that you request, although it hasn't always happened to date.

I look forward to working closely with other members of the Assembly, and with the official opposition when it is my occasion to do so . . .

DR. BUCK: We'll keep you honest, Jim.

MR. HORSMAN: . . . to ensure that the business of this Assembly proceeds in an orderly fashion, particularly as my colleague the Attorney General and I undertake to fulfil the roles so ably filled in the past by the Provincial Treasurer and by my predecessor, now retired from the Assembly, the former Member for Red Deer.

I would like to congratulate all hon. members on their election or re-election, as the case may be, including members of the opposition. I firmly believe it is essential to have some opposition members; I think we have just about the right balance. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that in a way I'm sorry I'm not sitting where I did last year, directly across the Assembly from the hon. Member for Clover Bar. It's always exciting to hear him participate in the debate. However, I'm just as happy to be sitting where I am rather than where I was, for obvious reasons.

DR. BUCK: You're being overpaid.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, as I approach my responsibilities as Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, I want to describe for a few moments my attitude toward the department and toward the opportunities we have to serve in higher education and in the manpower field.

I am an optimist by nature, Mr. Speaker. Even though I may scowl from time to time, beneath that scowl is a smiling soul. [interjections] I want members

of the Assembly to know that I know people talk about problems in Alberta, but I don't think of them as problems. Because of my optimistic nature, I regard them as challenges we can meet and solve in the years ahead.

In approaching my responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, I determined that I would like to visit the 25 institutions with which I am directly involved as minister. In the two months prior to the opening of the session, I had the pleasure of visiting 21 of those institutions. Before the end of this month I intend to conclude my visits to each of them. As I travel about Alberta, it's an exciting prospect indeed to see the role being played by these institutions in the development of Albertans and Alberta.

I met with boards and administrations, students, support staff, and faculty. I indicated to each group at each institution that in my opinion all the institutions in Advanced Education and Manpower exist to serve the students first, and that that would be my emphasis during the term I occupy this portfolio. I was impressed not only with the diversity of the institutions, Mr. Speaker, but indeed with the obvious dedication demonstrated by all segments of these institutions toward providing that level of service for the students, for Alberta, for Canada, and for the world, that those students will take with them as they leave the doors of those institutions.

I am convinced, as are other people associated in this department, that we have and will continue to have the best system of postsecondary education in Canada. I will do what I can in the next four years to ensure that that continues and that we continue to improve.

I want to comment on the budget before this Assembly at the present time, and to add to those of other speakers my congratulations to the Provincial Treasurer who, in my opinion, has done an excellent job in bringing forward a balanced budget. I say "balanced" not just in the sense that dollars match dollars, but in that the budget represents a balance of growth and attention to the needs of the people of this province as we fit into Confederation. It is a budget which deals not just with the nuts and bolts, if you will, of the economy, but pays particular emphasis to people's needs and people programs. For that, I congratulate the Provincial Treasurer.

Dealing briefly with my constituency of Medicine Hat, I want to thank those people for having returned me to this Assembly, and for having given me a somewhat increased majority over the last time. I want to draw that particularly to my colleague from Clover Bar, since prior to my leaving here last fall he indicated he would be into my constituency to campaign against me to make sure I did not return. [interjections] No doubt if he had come . . .

DR. BUCK: I was derelict in my duty.

MR. HORSMAN: . . . my margin might have been even larger than it was.

DR. BUCK: Remain humble, Jim, remain humble.

MR. HORSMAN: In talking about Medicine Hat, I want to add my remarks to those earlier expressed in the House by the Member for Cypress, with respect to the Trans-Canada Highway. May the record show that I have been concerned for many years, and I'm even

more concerned now, that we move forward with a dramatic program to ensure that there is a safe — and I stress the word "safe" — Trans-Canada Highway from the Saskatchewan border to the British Columbia border. I recognize the fact that part of the Trans-Canada Highway is within the national park, and I know the hearings are under way at the present time. But I can assure members of this Assembly that I believe safety on that highway requires a rapid program to ensure that it is brought up to four-lane standards at the earliest opportunity.

Since in a way I am addressing the matter of national parks, I now want to turn to two specific items relating to the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower. In doing so, I want to direct the attention of members of the Assembly to the fact that it is a very broad-ranging department with a very broad policy. I want to pay particular emphasis to the fact that, as the budget is balanced, so is growth and development with the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower.

I want to pay particular reference to the Banff Centre. Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne the Lieutenant-Governor announced that the Banff Centre has been given approval for year-round operation of its programs in the visual and performing arts. This is a significant turning point in the development of the Banff Centre, and I wish to take this opportunity to comment.

The Banff School of Fine Arts was founded in 1933 as a summer school in theatre, operated by the University of Alberta under a Carnegie grant. Senator Donald Cameron was appointed as director in 1936, guiding and developing the centre until 1969. The current director, Dr. David Leighton, was appointed in 1970, and has continued in the tradition established by his predecessor. During this time the centre matured. The University of Calgary assumed responsibility for its operation in 1966. The Banff Centre Act was proclaimed in 1978, establishing the Banff Centre as an autonomous institution.

The past 46 years have seen the Banff Centre develop a national and international reputation as a residential centre in fine arts, management studies, environmental studies, and language studies. It is also a major conference centre, hosting hundreds of groups annually for meetings ranging in length from one day to six weeks. All members of this Assembly who are part of the government caucus will recognize the very important nature of conferences held at that centre. Some of the members of the opposition might take note. In co-operation with local school authorities, the centre also offers a wide variety of non-residential community service programs in the arts, including evening courses, plays, recitals, dance and music performances, and displays of visual arts.

What then is the significance of this transition to year-round operation of the Banff Centre, placing greater emphasis on the visual and performing arts? Mr. Speaker, the concept is unique in Canada. There is no other year-round conservatory type of institution for the training and development of professional artists. Admission to the centre is based on talent and those other characteristics which make for professional success. I want to emphasize that the program complements and does not compete with existing university and college programs.

The transition to year-round operation in the arts

will have a considerable impact on the Banff Centre, on other educational institutions, on the town of Banff, and on Alberta and Canada. There will be some change as the program takes place, and the conference activities will be scaled down during the winter months. The centre's population will be less transient in nature, and will allow for better utilization of the excellent facilities available for training in the arts.

There will be some impact on other institutions, of a complementary rather than competitive nature. There will be considerable impact on the town of Banff. It will bring a number of new residents to the town and nearby areas, mainly faculty members from other parts of Canada and other countries.

It will have an impact on Alberta and the cultural life of this province. Its extension to a major year-round arts centre will build upon and enhance its image as an internationally known and respected institution in Alberta. It is hoped that the centre's programs will bring the world's best artists to Alberta. That will assist in enriching the lives of our people through more direct exposure to the centre's graduates, its touring groups, and the annual festival of the arts.

The budget provides a significant increase of 53 per cent in the operating grant support, and further increases will be required in the next few years as the transition process develops. It will have an impact on Canada and on the entire Canadian arts community. By raising the levels of training available in Canada by its emphasis on the development of creative Canadian talent, the long-range effect of the centre on the arts in Canada promises to be considerable. We hope it will keep Canadians at home, draw special talents to our country, and raise the standards of performance and teaching in Alberta communities and throughout Canada. The Banff Centre has a mandate to move to year-round operation in the fine and performing arts and to enhance its already established reputation as a centre of excellence.

This government has shown confidence in the management of the Banff Centre by approving the autonomy of the institution, endorsing the planned move to year-round operation, and providing a significant increase in the level of funding. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is one of the most progressive and forward steps taken by this Assembly to improve the cultural life of the people of this province.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I want to direct the attention of members of this Assembly to the very dramatic developments that have taken place with respect to apprenticeship programs. The Alberta apprenticeship program has continued to grow very rapidly during the past year. The number of apprentices, which now stands at over 20,700, has more than doubled in Alberta in the past five years. This unprecedented growth of apprenticeship in Alberta is indicative of excellent industry involvement and a buoyant economy.

Last year over 16,000 apprentices attended technical training courses varying in length from four to 12 weeks, with an average length of approximately eight weeks. It is estimated that if we can find the space and the staff at the institutions, school attendance by apprentices during the current fiscal year will exceed 19,000 — an increase of almost 20 per cent in one year. But with that rapidly increasing number of apprentices, difficulty is being experienced in many trade areas in providing training spaces in the institutions, particularly for apprentices in Edmonton and area, and

in those trades where there are a large number of apprentices, such as carpentry, heavy duty mechanics, and plumbing.

Some people would regard those as problems; I regard them as challenges we will strive to meet. We will try to increase the number of institutions offering apprenticeship programs throughout the province. I look forward to adding to the number of institutions presently offering training. In particular, the training program for plumbers will be offered at Medicine Hat College during the fiscal year, with possibly another program to follow. Also, I wish to advise members of this Assembly that we intend to extend field service consultation to the 20,000 apprentices, 50,000 journeymen, and over 12,000 employees of tradesmen in this expanding program. Establishing a regional office at Peace River during the current fiscal year is planned, which is in addition to the other eight regional offices at Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton, Hinton, Vermilion, Grande Prairie, and Fort McMurray. Some further decentralization of field services is expected to follow during the next fiscal year, possibly at Medicine Hat and Bonnyville.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 8,000 Alberta journeyman certificates were issued during the past year, including 3,400 certificates issued to graduates of the apprenticeship program. You will recognize that this large number of journeymen certificates — 8,000, with 3,400 issued to graduates — indicates a heavy influx of tradesmen from outside the province. In other words, more than half those tradesman certificates were issued to skilled people coming to Alberta. That's important to emphasize.

Forty-one trades are now designated under The Manpower Development Act, and two new trades were designated last year, namely boilermaker and sprinkler-fitter. We look forward to assessing other trades, and certification will be developed in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize that the dramatic growth in this field has been accomplished by an increase from 145 to 171 in the staff associated with this program. I suggest that very small growth is an example of the dedication of the people employed by that branch, and is a particular tribute to the director, Mr. Gordon Peers, who unfortunately is retiring, having served the people of the province well for many years.

I wanted to emphasize those two areas, Mr. Speaker, and I know other areas will be dealt with as we get to the department's estimates later in the session. Like the budget and the policies of our government, which are balanced, the programs provided by Advanced Education and Manpower are balanced, and developed to serve the diverse needs of the people of this province. On the one hand, from training tradesmen to get into the work force with skills and knowledge to put to use for themselves and for their fellow Albertans, to the development of an exciting program in the arts on the other, this department is very directly involved in the lives of many Albertans.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the next four years and the opportunity of serving the people of my constituency and, through my portfolio, serving the many institutions offering educational services to Albertans. But may I return, once again, to the emphasis I wish to place upon this portfolio and my involvement: that students' lives, education, and development

will rank as my first priority as I go about my responsibilities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TOPOLNISKY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the 1979 budget debate. May I congratulate the hon. Provincial Treasurer for the content of and the manner in which he presented this very fine and remarkable budget.

Mr. Speaker, I want to refer to some specific items in the budget and how they affect the Redwater-Andrew constituency, and to express some constituency concerns, or challenges — if I may call them that. It's a constituency where the oil wells runneth over and the water wells runneth dry.

Mr. Speaker, as highlighted in the budget, one of the priorities of the Alberta government is agriculture. The program to improve grain-handling facilities within the province and at Prince Rupert, which would ensure better movement of grain, and the subsidies to assist in lowering the cost of transportation of rapeseed: all of this is certainly welcome news to the farmer.

A grain farmer cannot continue for very long at the present low quotas of 3 bushels for wheat, 6 for barley, and none for oats. What is needed is markets at higher prices and, certainly, better weather. Having regard for high farm machinery prices and high input costs, there is no incentive to stay in grain farming and keep on buying bins and accumulating the grain on the farm with very little cash flow. The grain industry just doesn't have the shipping capacity needed to match the productive capacity of the farmer. Without action now, Mr. Speaker, there will continue to be lost sales and delivery opportunities for the western farmer.

It is very encouraging that cattle prices have improved. Hopefully they will stay up for quite some time. Many farmers have lost much of their investment, and they now have a lot of catching up to do because of the very low prices in the last two years. I hope the offshore beef imports will be kept at a minimum.

Another constituency concern, Mr. Speaker, is Veterinary Services Incorporated. I attended a number of meetings with cattle producers and veterinarians in the promotion of VSI to benefit the livestock industry. Four counties in northeastern Alberta support the program almost unanimously.

What is Veterinary Services Incorporated? Well, it is a plan by which the major part of the producers' veterinary bills are paid for by a non-profit company, VSI. It has operated in the Peace River area since July 1970. It is jointly owned by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and representatives of the users of the plan. It is governed by a board of veterinarians and non-veterinarians. At present, the MDs and IDs that are involved pay a premium based on livestock population and usage. Both veterinarians and producers benefit. The veterinarian is paid only for the work done. There is no subsidy or salary, so he has to give service. The producer can choose any veterinarian in the area, provided that his vet is a member of VSI. The major portion of the bill will be paid by VSI. In the past six years, the cost of administration averaged 7.35 per cent of the working capital.

Mr. Speaker, I find that both veterinarians and producers are generally happy with it. Greater benefit is received due to prompt use of the veterinarians, and there is closer co-operation between the producer and the veterinarian. About 40 per cent or more of the funds

to operate the company would come from government, 40 per cent from the municipality, and 20 per cent from the producer. Of course these ratios are negotiable, and perhaps the provincial government could contribute a much higher percentage, such as 60 per cent or more.

Mr. Speaker, I feel the program has an advantage to the livestock producer in the province. It increases the efficiency of producers by better utilization of veterinary medicine, herd health, and consultation in management regarding these aspects. The program could be instituted on a regional basis, as approved by counties, and not necessarily on a provincial basis.

Mr. Speaker, I received a petition of some 100 names from livestock farmers asking that the wolf and coyote predators that are killing and harassing their livestock be destroyed. In 1978 the sighting of wolves throughout the entire northern part of the county of Smoky Lake was quite common. Kills were reported mainly in the Smoky Lake grazing reserve. About 20 animals were killed, some confirmed and some suspect. There is increasing concern by many farmers over the apparent lack of control of wolves in the area and the increasing number of these predators around cattle. The opinion of the district agriculturist and the agricultural service man for the area is that there is obvious livestock damage and harassment, and that the predators should probably be destroyed or removed from the agricultural area in the northern part of the county. The Agricultural Service Board does not have any real jurisdiction in this matter.

There appears to be a conflict between agriculture and wildlife, Mr. Speaker. Wildlife people are saying that the wolf and coyote are protected under The Wildlife Act. I'm not against wildlife in any way, but I am on the farmers' side in this situation, because they sustain losses in their product. A few sheep farmers have quit because of heavy losses to predators. While there is the livestock indemnity program, it does not fully cover the farmers' losses, and the fact that the coyote and wolf are protected under the Act leaves the farmers helpless. I would like to see this conflict between agriculture and wildlife resolved in favor of the farmer, who is certainly the main producer of food.

Other highly commendable programs, Mr. Speaker. One is under Social Services and Community Health, a major program priority: the Alberta assured income for the severely handicapped will be of great benefit to people from ages 18 to 65. Aids to daily living, home care, day care, and preventive dental services for children are highly commendable. New programs for our deserving senior citizens — the renter assistance program, the pioneer repair program, the senior citizen facility repair program — are all very useful to improve the quality of life for our senior citizens.

But senior citizens' lodges operate at a substantial deficit, Mr. Speaker, and I believe a review of the two formulas is required. One is that 50 per cent of the deficit over 2 mills levied by the foundation to operate the lodge is picked up by the Alberta government. As far as I'm concerned, that is very inadequate. The other formula is an annual increase of 10 per cent in the amount of the monthly rent paid by the guests. Senior citizens want to maintain the quality of services and high standard of living in these facilities, and I know many of them would pay even more.

Another constituency concern, Mr. Speaker, is health care. That Alberta Hospitals and Medical Care funding for operating costs within active care, auxiliary

hospitals, and nursing homes will be increased by 18.6 per cent is very welcome news. It is commendable that cancer, heart, and medical research projects are planned to further diversify Alberta's economy. To ensure that Alberta hospital facilities keep pace with the population growth, applications by many hospital boards will soon be sent in.

The Alberta government will provide funding to local hospital and nursing home boards for planning and construction of capital projects. I know that additions to existing hospitals in my constituency at Smoky Lake, Willingdon, Redwater, and Radway will make them much more flexible, economical, and functional. The concept of the Radway health care facility, intended to complement the Redwater active hospital, has some problems. I hope these will be resolved in the near future to the benefit of all concerned. Ambulance services would improve the situation in this area.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see the new Department of Economic Development to strengthen our base industries of agriculture and energy, expand foreign markets for Alberta farmers and businessmen, and prevent population and economic erosion of rural Alberta. These are very high and realistic goals and objectives.

In regard to highways and road construction, I mentioned in 1977 that government should take over not only construction but maintenance of secondary highways. The following roads are high priority in the Redwater-Andrew constituency: Highway 855 north of Smoky Lake to connect with Highway 63; Highway 28 should be a four-lane highway as soon as possible, in view of the volume of traffic on that road. I might say that Highway 28 is an important link between Edmonton, Fort McMurray, and Cold Lake. It also leads into the natural resources, lakes, and natural gas and oil fields in northeastern Alberta. Our other priorities are highways 827, 831, 857, 860, 825, and 652.

Other major concerns in the constituency are in regard to Alberta Government Telephones, natural gas systems, and water supply. But I hope, these three concerns will be aired when motions 207, 208, and 211 are up for debate.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the newly established 1,120-acre tree nursery in my constituency — its official name is the Pine Ridge Forest Nursery — is on Highway 28, 90 miles northeast of Edmonton or 11 miles east of Smoky Lake, on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River. It is a unique tree nursery. Initial development of the site began in January 1975. Some nursery functions are seed extraction; bare-root seedling production, 10 million annually; and container seedling production, another 10 million. In October 1978, the seed extraction plant was completed. It is capable of processing 50,000 bushels of spruce and pine cones. One bushel of cones can produce three to four ounces of seed, and four to five bushels produce one pound of seed. That seed is worth about \$60 a pound. The 10 million bare-root seedlings are produced on 48 fields varying in size from 3.5 to 5.5 acres. The container seedlings, 10 million annually, are produced in 20 greenhouses which have an area of about 160,000 square feet. Much of the equipment for seeding and weeding these bare-root fields was produced in Alberta by Alberta Forest Service.

This nursery, nearing completion at a total cost of \$13.5 million, will be the finest facility of its kind in Canada, capable of supplying 20 million seedlings per year in support of reforestation programs by the forest

nursery and Alberta Forest Services. At the present time there are 20 project positions of professional and technical staff, and about 55 wage employees performing various jobs. All wage positions are filled by residents of the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy with the new addition to my constituency of Redwater-Andrew. The area north of Gibbons and east of Highway 37, the Lamoureux settlement, Coronado, and acreages also have some urgent needs: highway improvements, widening or replacing of a narrow bridge, and some school attendance problems. I hope to assist them in some of their major concerns.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, in view of the hour, I think I'm going to keep my remarks fairly short. There's been much discussion on the budget. I think we all appreciate the details that have gone into it. I want to congratulate the Provincial Treasurer on bringing this budget before us. I want to congratulate the new ministers in their responsibilities in carrying out this budget. As we go through the balance of the year, I think we'll see the results of many new programs brought forward. I anticipate they will be well received.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to reflect for a minute on a view of our economy as it's unfolded since Leduc No. 1 came on stream about 32 years ago and significantly changed the whole economy of this province. As we all well remember, prior to that time our economy was almost entirely based on agriculture and forestry. In my estimation, the significant difference that has taken place has been an involvement and a change of our society that's had a long-reaching effect on our lives. We've seen industries that complement our resources come in, pipe construction, fertilizer plants utilizing some raw material, and petrochemical plants. We have significant tar sands development, considered almost impossible to attain in 1947; technology makes this possible. Heavy oil at Cold Lake is on the horizon of development. Upgrading of asphalt-based oil in eastern Alberta will become a reality in the near future, rather than shipping it down the pipeline with a condensate carrier. It will be upgraded to a type of crude acceptable in any refinery.

All this technology and expertise becomes available through the fact that we have an industry that has grown at a sensible and steady pace. We have encouraged people to become experts in different fields. We have developed research to the point that the rest of the world is coming to Alberta for tar sands expertise. This is something we can all be proud of. It didn't happen overnight. It wasn't a gold rush type of operation. I think this province has a long and very exciting future.

There has been talk in the last few years that we have to be prepared for the day our high income from energy resources is depleted. I think we're developing expertise in this province for the transition so that people will be able to transfer their energies and expertise from one industry to another and become a very self-contained, self-producing people who can, in my estimation, develop a lot of different enterprises that will be recognized and exportable from this province.

I think our biggest asset today is our people, who are continually improving their ability to cope with new problems. I think it's being reflected. Our pro-

grams for training and retraining people as they in-migrate are evidence that we are going to be self-sufficient in that need before very long. Our universities are training doctors and engineers and people who have expertise in the oil business. NAIT and SAIT are training a lot of our young people. Some of them have gone out into the work force, and back to NAIT and SAIT for training in specific areas.

This is all very necessary, Mr. Speaker, because times are moving so fast that what is enough education in a particular field today will require additional training five years from now. We're recognizing that with our educational programs. I think they're carried on in an orderly manner. I believe we'll have an educational system that will be the envy of a lot of other areas, because we have on-the-job training opportunities in this province that give an opportunity for employment, encourage the right educational programs, and encourage people to take advantage of them.

One thing very evident in our economy is the fact that a stable government encourages in-migration of not only people but investment. Governments can only create the environment. People and private enterprise are going to make this become a reality.

In view of the time, Mr. Speaker, I will go on with a few concerns that I feel are paramount. In our society I see a real breakdown in some of our values. I think we should all be concerned about them. We see the breakdown of the family influence on our young people. It's a real concern to me, because I think other values are taking over that are not the right influence: the peer group philosophy that our young people are exposed to. I don't have any answers on how to cope with it, other than that I think if we're all vitally concerned about it, there will be a definite effect.

If we make an honest effort to try to cope with this problem, improvements can be made. We went through a time in the '60s when the philosophy of a lot of people was that each human being should be able to do his own thing, so to speak. I think we're reaping the benefits of it today. But I honestly believe there is a turn in people's thinking and a more conservative approach to our whole social structure. I hope this will change.

Once people recognize a problem and it's generally accepted, it's surprising how things change. Not very many years ago, Mr. Speaker, the federal government started to advertise the 'participation' program. Initially the advertising said that the average 80-year-old Swede was in better physical condition than the average 20-year-old Canadian. I think that was the terminology used.

Mr. Speaker, I think we've got definite evidence today of what an advertising program like that can do. You can hardly go down any street in the evening where you don't see some fellow out in jogging shorts. If that isn't definite proof that advertising pays, I don't know what is. In Canada today we're more conscious of health, and what sports and exercise can do to improve it, than I could ever have believed possible. I don't think anything took place but an awakening of people's thoughts on a certain subject.

It convinces me that the power of suggestion in our modern communication systems has a real effect on our lives. It can also have a detrimental effect. I think some of our recreational programs on television can affect the lives of our young people. We are all too well aware of how many hours our youngsters spend in

front of a television set. I'm not of the opinion that you can legislate everything, Mr. Speaker, but I do believe that by example, we can teach our young people that some of the programming coming across for the viewing of all people is not necessarily the way of life we are trying to expect and expound.

Mr. Speaker, mine is of the favored constituencies in Alberta. We're on the verge of very expanded production of the oil industry in our area. It's coming on gradually; there's no panic about it. There's a pre-building of some structures that will be in place by the time the industry brings an influx of people. We welcome the opportunity of having the oil industry participate in our area.

I am concerned that in some areas where the oil industry is moving in, we have groups ready to condemn before they have a problem. In our area that's not the case. I don't know whether it's a different philosophy of people in different areas, or whether some people are being badly led. But as far as I am concerned, if we want to make it more difficult for the oil industry to take advantage of our natural resources, we're ultimately going to pay more for them.

Most of the social programs in our area, Mr. Speaker, are pretty well taken care of. In Hardisty we have a hospital that predates almost any hospital in this province. But I'm quite sure that in a very short time it's going to be replaced by a new one. Wainwright has a good facility, with an expansion of the auxiliary. I'm very proud to say the senior citizens' housing program in my area is just about the best in the province. An additional self-contained senior citizens' housing unit is already under construction, which will make it very adequate for our people. Our previous pioneer home program was initially well accepted. The one coming up that has been announced is going to be equally well accepted.

Mr. Speaker, we can be proud that this government is sensitive to the needs of people and responds where it is needed. As far as I'm concerned, we are being well served both in social programs and in creating an economic atmosphere in which this province can do nothing but prosper.

Thank you.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the concurrence of hon. members to revert to Introduction of Special Guests.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**
(reversion)

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, in the members gallery is a grade 10 social studies class from Louis St. Laurent high school in Edmonton Parkallen. The students are from Edmonton Parkallen and partly from Edmonton Whitemud.

In introducing the students, Mr. Speaker, I just want to remark that during the recent provincial election campaign I had the pleasure of speaking at Louis St. Laurent high school, along with the other candidates. These students are showing their continued interest by coming today to see the Legislature in session. I want to welcome them warmly, along with their teacher Bill Kobluk.

head: **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**
(continued)

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, in participating in the debate today, I would like to reflect on the term of our current Lieutenant-Governor. I think he has served this province admirably; he has performed his duties with dignity and effectiveness. I think all of us as Albertans owe him a great debt for his tenure of office and the way he has conducted himself, and I'd like to extend to him my best wishes in his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate you on your re-election as Speaker of this Assembly. I've had the opportunity to visit the House of Commons and other legislative assemblies in this country. I think we owe you a great deal. A great deal of how we conduct ourselves in this House is due to your effective and capable handling of this Assembly and its affairs.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I was very impressed by the performance of our Provincial Treasurer last Friday night. It was an admirable job. In my years in this position, I can't recall having heard a speech delivered in a more effective manner. Congratulations on that delivery and on the content.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to congratulate the new members of the Assembly. I've been very impressed by the calibre of the members and the quality of debate they have brought to the floor of this Assembly. I'm significantly impressed by them.

I'd like to thank the people of the Pincher Creek-Crowsnest constituency for returning me to this Assembly. I consider it an honor and a privilege to continue to represent them.

In speaking today, I would like first to embark upon a review of constituency projects and concerns, and some of the challenges I see in the future for that area of the province. I'd like to deal with two areas of provincial responsibility: historical resource development and the development of recreational lakes. Finally I would like to make some general comments on the budget.

In commenting on the constituency of Pincher Creek-Crowsnest, I should first like to report on the progress made by the municipality of Crowsnest Pass. The newly elected council took over on January 1 and has been operating for approximately six months. The transition, although hectic, has proceeded smoothly. I'd like to extend my congratulations to the municipal council for the effective manner in which they have handled the first six months of their office.

As hon. members will recall, the unification of the Crowsnest Pass municipalities took place last fall with Bill 62, which brought together four incorporated municipalities and the improvement district: the towns of Blairmore and Coleman, the villages of Bellevue and Frank, and Improvement District No. 5, which included nine hamlets. Bringing together those communities has been a significant challenge for the new council. They've done that job very effectively. They still have some challenges in the future, in the reorganization of some of the boards and agencies which have functioned there in the past, but overall they should be complimented for the job they've done.

I'd now like to turn to the progress being made towards a new Pincher Creek hospital facility. There has been some delay of progress towards that goal. This is basically due to the fact that the people there now have the opportunity to review the plans they have

made over the last few years for the type of facility they would like. They have requested some changes to that facility. In my opinion and that of many people, we'll end up with a much better facility in the new Pincher Crock hospital than had originally been planned for under the commission concept. The people there are looking enthusiastically towards the new facility. They are concerned that there is some delay, but the review of the plans and the additional requests which the people in the area are making with regard to that facility will end in a much better facility to serve the longer term health care needs of the people in that area.

Following along in health care, in the Crowsnest Pass we're currently looking at converting the present senior citizens' lodge to a nursing home. A new senior citizens' lodge is being constructed. The present lodge is connected to the present nursing home, and the renovation of that facility to add extended care beds is needed and is progressing well.

I'd now like to comment on a new highway in Alberta, officially renamed from Highway 3 to Crowsnest Highway 3 in April this year. I had the privilege of attending the official ceremonies to unveil the new Crowsnest Highway 3 markers at the Alberta-B.C. border. I think it's very significant to southern Alberta and the communities along Highway 3 — or Crowsnest Highway 3. I must correct myself. [laughter] It's very significant to the communities along Crowsnest Highway 3 from Hope, British Columbia, through to Medicine Hat, Alberta, in terms of the impact it will have on the travelling public to attempt to divert some of the flow from Highway 1 along Highway 3. It should be beneficial to the communities in attracting and serving tourists, in terms of economic development. It should bring an upgraded, improved highway system to the communities in that area. I think that's important. It also may be viewed as an alternative to No. 1, in terms of transportation of goods and materials by the trucking industry.

The change of name is only one small aspect of the province's involvement in Crowsnest Highway 3. The symbol which has been adopted, a crow in a nest, will advertise that route from coast to coast. It will bring that added bit of advertising to people across Canada, in terms of available alternatives. I believe the challenge now belongs rightfully to the new Crowsnest Highway 3 Association. Government has come a long way in upgrading that facility, and now the Crowsnest Highway 3 Association has to follow through the very important role of bringing this to the attention of people across North America. So I extend that challenge to them.

One other area I'd like to comment on is our skiing fraternity. As a number of people in southern Alberta and Alberta know, the West Castle ski hill has been reopened. I'd like to congratulate the town of Pincher Creek and the municipal district of Pincher Creek for taking advantage of the major cultural/recreation facility program, gaining the support of the former Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife and the present Minister of Tourism and Small Business in getting approval for matching funding for that facility. The people in the Pincher Creek area have raised almost \$130,000, which has been matched by the department, to purchase the assets of West Castle, reopen it, upgrade the facility, renovate, and bring on a day lodge facility.

I think that sort of action by our municipalities —

faced with looking at a drought in terms of downhill ski facilities, they took the initiative. They worked hard at it and convinced government that an opportunity was there and that they required support, and we were able to respond to the initiatives of the municipalities. I think that's important in terms of how we view municipal initiatives in this province. We're willing to support them if they're willing to take the initiative to get things done.

I'd like to comment briefly on the agriculture industry. I'm pleased to see that cattle prices have recovered over the last year. I know in my area a number of our cattlemen were almost at the end of their tether, in terms of the three or four years of low prices they'd faced. The increase in cattle prices was certainly welcomed by the ranchers in my area.

I would be remiss if I stood in this Assembly and didn't take the opportunity to remind members, as the former Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest did, about the very important cultural institution in the Crowsnest Pass, the Crowsnest Pass Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to represent an area which for over 50 years has cultivated, from volunteer groups, a symphony orchestra now about 40 in number. Those people range from students 13 and 14 years old, all the way up to 79 and 80 years old. I must emphasize these are volunteers. In Alberta or Canada or North America there are few communities with a population of 7,500, if any, that have a symphony orchestra.

We are very fortunate in the calibre of this symphony orchestra. I might just let members know the comments of the adjudicator at the recent Crowsnest Pass musical festival. This adjudicator is from Vancouver and a very highly respected person in the musical field. In her remarks after the performance of the Crowsnest Pass Symphony — this is really for the edification of the former Member for Calgary Buffalo, Mr. Ron Ghitter, who referred to us people from rural Alberta as being in "the boonies" — the adjudicator said she hoped the symphony orchestra would have a spring concert and invite everyone from Calgary to the Crowsnest Pass to hear them. Even better, she said, why don't you go up to Calgary and perform there and show them how it's done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. DIACHUK: The Calgarians need it.

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, that's just to edify the former Member for Calgary Buffalo that in the estimation of this adjudicator, we have a symphony orchestra equal to or superior to the Calgary Philharmonic.

MRS. OSTERMAN: Who are they?

MR. BRADLEY: But this orchestra, Mr. Speaker, would not have been able to continue or be as effective as it has been without the support of grants from the department of Culture over the years. We certainly welcome that support. I think the former Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest made the point well that if we in the provincial government make support available to organizations like the Edmonton Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic, and the Lethbridge Symphony, certainly there's room to support an organization like the Crowsnest Pass Symphony, which means so much to the citizens of the Crowsnest Pass and

performs at such a high level. We welcome that support, and I'd like to encourage continued and perhaps increased support for this type of — I emphasize volunteer — musical group.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like now to turn to transportation. I mentioned Crowsnest Highway 3 earlier. A number of highway projects are continuing in the Crowsnest Pass. I think we've already allocated about \$12 million toward highway construction projects there in the last three years. Two sections of that road are still to be completed. We're looking forward to that in the near future.

In conjunction with the questions I raised yesterday in the House with the Minister of Environment, I might mention that this highway project is also reclaiming old coal spoil piles along the route. Currently being cleaned up in Bellevue are the spoil piles from the former Mohawk and Bellevue mines. This will significantly improve the aesthetics of the area. Those coal spoil piles have been there for 50 or 60 years, and I think have a poor visual impact on the travelling public. Their clean-up is certainly welcomed by my constituents.

At this point I'd like to put in a plug for future highway projects in the province. The former Minister of Transportation announced a five-year program to upgrade secondary Highway 922, recently designated as primary Highway 22. I'd like to request that very serious consideration be given to upgrading the section from Lundbreck north to Whitecourt, that in the initial stages emphasis be placed on paving the section from Lundbreck north to the Oldman River.

I'd also like to comment, if I may, about urban transportation outside my constituency. I've had the experience in the last while of travelling through the city of Calgary, and I think the \$750 million which the province of Alberta has allocated for urban transportation over the next six years is sorely needed. I extend my support to whatever can be done in terms of improving the situation through Calgary, particularly in the southern end on the Blackfoot Trail heading north toward the new Calgary International Airport. Anything that can be done to upgrade the Deerfoot Trail should be done, and I'd lend my support from rural Alberta to those members from Calgary to get that improvement done. I know we rural members usually emphasize only the highway projects we'd like to see in our own areas, but I think it's important we support our urban members.

MR. DIACHUK: That would help to get your sympathy to Calgary.

MR. PLANCHE: I'll support your sympathy.

MR. BRADLEY: Given the very serious problems in the city of Calgary, I really think that, as a provincial government, our funds are well spent in improving the transportation systems there.

I'd now like to turn to three items in my constituency relating to the environment. First, the citizens of Pincher Creek-Crowsnest are awaiting very patiently the report of the Environment Council of Alberta on the Oldman River. A number of people there have plans. They'd like to know exactly what is going to

happen to them, particularly those who reside along the Oldman River. I'd like to see that report come forward quickly. I'd like to see us as a government review it and respond as quickly as we can in terms of our intentions — due to the impact this sort of four-year study has had on the people in that area, uncertainty as to what is going to happen to them or where they're going to go — so they can plan for their future one way or another.

I mentioned earlier the reclamation of the coal spoil piles in conjunction with Highway 3. I'm particularly pleased that we've been able to make a commitment to reclaim the piles at Blairmore. That has been a very controversial subject recently. An application to reprocess those coal spoil piles has been withdrawn by the company, and the commitment has been made by the government to proceed in that area.

Finally, in the area of environment, I'd like to discuss the utilities corridor question. We're currently affected there by a Calgary Power application to construct a 500 kV line. The hearings start on Monday in Calgary. I believe the whole impact of the development of utility transmission lines, whether electric transmission lines or gas and oil transmission lines, should be reviewed by the province. My constituency has been crisscrossed an inordinate number of times by pipeline and electric transmission line projects. Currently the Crowsnest Pass, adjacent to the town of Blairmore, has one 36-inch gas pipeline and right beside it a 42-inch gas pipeline. We have three electric transmission lines, a 130 kV and a couple of smaller ones, plus approval was given for a 240 kV line. We have this contemplated 500 kV line. We already have the CPR light of way running through the community, plus the new right of way for Crowsnest Highway 3.

When you add the widths of these various rights of way, I'm sure you get in excess of 1,500 to 2,000 feet going through that valley, all heading in their own direction. It has alienated quite a bit of land. I think there is a significant need for a corridor study looking at this 500 kV line, plus the arctic gas pipeline scheduled to come through that area too. As I say, some of the pipelines were initially put through with no consideration of future urban development in the area, and it has severely restricted the best use of land.

Mr. Speaker, given the time, I beg leave to adjourn debate.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, with respect to next week's business, I thought I might just add a word. On Monday afternoon and Monday evening it is proposed to be in Committee of Supply. We would again devote Tuesday and Thursday evenings to the subcommittees of the Committee of Supply.

MR. NOTLEY: Agriculture first?

MR. CRAWFORD: They'll be alphabetical by department, starting with Advanced Education and Manpower.

[At 1 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 5, the House adjourned to Monday at 2:30 p.m.]