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Committee of Supply -- Subcommittee A

Department of Culture

Thursday, June 21, 1979

Chairman: Mr. Campbell  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Kushner

8 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll call Subcommittee A to order.

MR. VICE-CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This evening we're dealing with the estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980, for the Department of Culture. Now I'll call on the minister to make her opening remarks.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Before I start, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to introduce some of my staff. At any given time throughout the night, I'm going to ask them to speak if I don't know. I'm also going to ask that they don't speak in paragraphs but in one or two sentences. We do have rather a long budget, and I think we can get to the point very quickly.

Les, would you like to introduce the staff, please? This is Les Usher, my deputy minister. Before we start, I'm sure you all know Sheridan McVean, my EA. Would you introduce the rest of my staff, please?

MR. USHER: Yes, surely. The two assistant deputy ministers over here are Walter Kaasa in cultural development and Dr. John Lunn in historical resources. Jan DeVries, financial services; Rai Batra, director of finance and administration; and June Edey back here is also in finance.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, first of all, as Minister responsible for Culture, I have the good fortune to be responsible for one of the most exciting and most varied of all government departments. I'm very grateful to my dedicated staff in Alberta Culture for helping me in these first few months of my ministry. I've been amazed at the enthusiasm they bring to their work. As a matter of fact, I often wonder how they keep up with my pace, and theirs, day and night. They do it in very good grace, and usually in good humor. I would like to thank my deputy minister, whose patience and support I have very much needed these last few months. As you all know, this is a brand-new step for me, having never been involved in this aspect of government.

Mr. Chairman, I think all members of the House are aware of the culture explosion that's happened in our province over the last few years. Almost every day, staff in performing arts are helping individuals and groups with skills -- performing artists -- to tour, arrange performances, or upgrade their skills. Last year they co-ordinated 650 performances held before an audience of well over 200,000, which produced box office receipts of almost

\$50,000. I'm not going to go through all this, because I think that as we go through the vote, Mr. Chairman, you will see the growth and where we have been.

Our library services: we have increased interlibrary loan services by over 50 per cent. Our cultural heritage branch has had a big year as a co-sponsor for many of the Festival '78 events during last summer's Commonwealth Games. The historical resources division of the department is responsible for the orderly development, preservation, and promotion of our heritage. One of the finest museums in Canada is right here in Edmonton. Every weekend the museum is alive with film shows and craft demonstrations. Our archives might be quiet, but we do have an audio-visual display, so we and our children can see and hear what Alberta is all about.

I could go on, but I won't because I think we have some questions tonight. I would be prepared to start now, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mary. We'll start right off by outlining some of the rules. If anybody has a question to the minister, would they direct it through the Chair, please? Without further adieu, and of course as the minister mentioned, we really don't need any speeches. All we need is a question and an answer.

We'll start with Vote 1, Departmental Support Services.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to your comment about speeches or questions, I'd like to start by asking the minister: could you outline, Mme. Minister, where the plans are now for Alberta's 75th anniversary? What kind of budget plan are you looking at? I'm very interested in numbers there. Thirdly, plans to involve various communities across the province?

MR. CHAIRMAN: With all due respect, I wonder if we could leave that to the end? We could continue with this, and certainly this will give the group here some enlightenment as to what Culture's involved in. We could take that up at the end.

MR. R. CLARK: Without trying to be difficult, Mr. Chairman, why would we leave it to the end? We're talking about International Assistance in Vote 4.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The thing is, let's discuss it in Vote 4, then.

MRS. LEMESSURIER: I could answer that fairly easily right now. Mr. Clark, at the moment the budget for the 75th anniversary is \$75 million. It is not included in this budget because it actually doesn't contain only this budget; it contains many things. As far as programming, Mr. Dowling as you well know is the Commissioner. We are working on programs. Our programs have certainly not been established. As a matter of fact, the key staff have not even been seconded at the moment. At this stage, all I can say is that Homecoming is part and parcel of that \$75 million, and it's just under the \$5 million mark. I'm sorry, what were your other questions?

MR. R. CLARK: How do provincial organizations or community groups now start to do some of their own work on these things? How would they be fitted in, and what route would they go?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: What they are doing right now is corresponding with our office, and when we receive these replies they are immediately sent to Mr. Dowling's office. They are then correlated, and when Mr. Dowling has his staff on hand, which hopefully will be within the next 10 days, they will start going through the various programs, and we will see exactly what route we're going to go.

MR. R. CLARK: Is it the anticipation that there would be money for capital projects to communities across the province?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: At the moment we are going cabinet with an RFD asking for their direction whether we go the program route or the per capita route.

MR. R. CLARK: That decision has not been made yet?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, it has not.

MR. R. CLARK: What are we looking at as far as Mr. Dowling's staff is concerned?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: The immediate staff is six, and as the season goes along and we get further into the 75th anniversary, you most probably or you might see -- I can't say if you will or you won't -- us looking at additional staff. When we say what programs we're going to accept, that's when we'll look at the staff.

MR. R. CLARK: And a decision hasn't been made as to whether that \$75 million is all capital, or . . .

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Well, it definitely isn't capital, because we've already spent just under \$5 million on our Homecoming -- or we will be looking at \$5 million.

MR. R. CLARK: Then of the \$75 million, you have \$70 million left, in ballpark figures?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Right.

MR. R. CLARK: Has any decision been made as to what portion of that would be committed by the province -- let's compare it to the Jubilee auditoriums?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, there hasn't.

MR. R. CLARK: And as compared to communities like Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Grande Prairie? No decision has been made by cabinet?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, you're a little premature at the moment. We have not got into that area yet.

MR. R. CLARK: No, I'm just ahead of you.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Well, you might be ahead of me, but I say you're premature.  
(laughter)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good, does that take care of that end of it, Bob?

MR. R. CLARK: For now, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, we'll proceed. Departmental Support Services, Vote 1.1, Minister's Office, \$112,434 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 1.2, Deputy Minister's Office, \$102,323 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, perhaps this is an appropriate place to ask the deputy minister how many assistant deputy ministers he has, so we have some kind of comparison with the 13 in Utilities and Telephones.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're discussing Culture here.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Excuse me. May I make one comment, please? If somebody is going to ask a question, would they address it to me? If I can't answer, then . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Through the Chair.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Thank you.

MR. R. CLARK: Make up your mind, you two. (laughter)

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Well, through the Chair to me, and if I can't answer, then to my deputy. Thank you. Then I'll ask Les.

MR. R. CLARK: How many deputy ministers?

MR. USHER: One deputy minister, two assistant deputy ministers. You see the two on the minister's right, Mr. Kaasa and Dr. Lunn. One heads up each of the two major programming divisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good. Vote 1.3, Financial Services, \$381,420 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. VICE-CHAIRMAN: A little more volume, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 1.4, Personnel, \$75,837 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order. Visiting hours are from 9 to 5.  
Vote 1.5, Planning and Development, \$180,916 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 1.6, Communications, \$84,368 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 1.7, Department Library, \$60,149 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clark.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. This may not be the place to discuss assistance to provincial libraries.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, this is strictly in-house.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good. Vote 1.8, Records Management, \$32,725 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 1.9, Executive Director for Finance and Administration, \$43,793 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 1.10, Special Programs, \$335,765 -- agreed?

MR. L. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, can I ask a question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You'll have to be fast.

MR. L. CLARK: I just want to know if Special Programs is where the new museums come that are going to be built.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, this is operating funds for, say, the native cultural officer, citizen recreation, field services, translation services -- that type of culture agreements.

MR. L. CLARK: What department would they be under?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: The museums?

MR. L. CLARK: Yes.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: That comes under Vote 3.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 1.10, \$335,765 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Total Vote 1, \$1,409,730 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2, Cultural Development. Vote 2.1, Program Support, \$269,856 -- agreed? Question -- Norm Magee.

MR. MAGEE: This has jumped up 28.9 per cent, Mr. Chairman. I just wonder if the minister could give us an explanation of that.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: You'll see on the the first -- well, one of the major portions of that is our regional heritage productions that will be going on throughout the province, festival types of productions in the various areas; i.e. items like the Jasper story that we had, this type of thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that satisfactory, Norm?

MR. MAGEE: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2.1, \$269,856 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2.2, Visual Arts, \$1,163,146 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2.3, Performing Arts, \$3,681,757 -- agreed?

MR. VICE-CHAIRMAN: Are we agreed on that last figure?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. VICE-CHAIRMAN: Please let me know; I have to mark these down. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2.4, Film and Literary Arts, \$301,795. Mr. Pahl.

MR. PAHL: Mr. Charman, I'd like to ask the minister whether Film and Literary Arts would be the sort of funds that go for films at the museum and that sort of thing.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, not really. It's the approval of one new staff person, the increase in travel, typewriters for the new position: it's that sort of area we're in in this budget.

MR. PAHL: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I have a question in that area. I don't know where to find it, so if I could just ask it now. The concern I have is: I've been associated with the Old Strathcona Foundation's efforts to run the Princess Theatre, and one of the things that has occurred to me is that a fair amount of our competition was from organizations that receive grants to show films (not recorded). I wonder whether the budget would reflect continuation of that program, and whether it would show any expenditures for the need considered by the Old Strathcona Foundation in that area.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I think you'll find that in Vote 3.

MR. PAHL: Okay, if that's where it is, do you want me to ask the question again?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Could we wait till Vote 3?

MR. PAHL: With respect to films?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good. Vote 2.4, \$301,795 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2.5, Library Services, \$3,296,347.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. How do we stand now in comparison to the rest of Canada as far as library grants are concerned?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Clark, I'm afraid to say we would still not be ranked among the highest on a per capita basis. An 8 per cent inflation factor has been added to our budget from last year. We are number four out of five.

MR. R. CLARK: That's four from the top, or four from the bottom?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: We are four from the top -- well, we're ranked number four.

MR. R. CLARK: You mean the total support that this department gives to libraries is the fourth best in all of Canada?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, no.

MR. R. CLARK: Would you explain that?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Excuse me. The way you're putting it, we are fourth from the bottom.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good.

MR. R. CLARK: Just a minute, I'm not quite finished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You asked this in the House, too, Bob.

MR. R. CLARK: Jack, I'll be very direct with you. If we're just going to run this committee through in a very few minutes and be very technical, then we can do the same kind of thing in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good.

MR. R. CLARK: Now, if you want to make the committee worth while -- and ask a number of questions here and have this kind of explanation, all well and good. If you'd sooner we don't, I'm quite prepared to go in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Clark, I think you realize the fact that we all sat in the House while you asked this very question. I just pointed out that fact.

MR. R. CLARK: And I'm just . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that not correct that you asked this in the House?

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Chairman, I think we're aware of that.

MR. R. CLARK: And I'm just explaining to you, sir, that whether it's myself or any other member, if we want to get -- the purpose of the committee is to have a chance to have a face-to-face, direct discussion with the minister, and for the ministers to have their officials here so we can get a great deal of information out on the table, so that the estimates can go through the House very quickly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Carry on.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm very willing to ask any questions that are asked.

MR. R. CLARK: I'll ask them.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I mean, I'm very -- what did I say? (laughter) I'll answer them. Sorry about that.

MR. R. CLARK: Through the Chairman to the minister. What's our long-term objective as far as library services are concerned? I don't want to get involved in an argument here, whether it's fourth or where we are. But more important, how long before we can be in the position we should be, in my judgment: if not at the top, then very, very close to the top?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Well I share your sentiment on that. I think libraries are terribly important, and this is one of the areas that I really feel needs additional funding. At the moment, I can't react. But I think you will see that in the future, libraries are going to take a . . . Well, I'd like to see that libraries -- the extension and the financial means to libraries are increased.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Could we get some kind of view of how libraries sit in the minister's overall priorities in the department? What I'm trying to get at is this: can we kind of expect that libraries would be one of the minister's top priorities, as opposed to some other areas, in trying to get additional funds for another year?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I am very concerned where libraries are in this province. I think that you will understand that I'm very much in favor of the regional library system, and that I will be paying a lot of attention to libraries. Hopefully, they are one of my top priorities.

MR. R. CLARK: Can I put just this last question, Mr. Chairman, to the minister? What I'm really trying to get some kind of feel for is: next year when we come back and look at the budget, in ballpark figures let's say there's an 8 or 10 per cent increase. I would expect to see some branches or areas in the department that would get more than the 8 or 10 per cent, and some less. I get the feeling from the minister that libraries would be one of the areas that would get more than 10 per cent. That would be a priority area. Now, is that an accurate assessment?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: That is an accurate assessment, and hopefully I can achieve that.

MR. R. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Eric.

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. A couple of years ago when a survey or review of the library system in Alberta was done, one of the recommendations was that a centralized, computer-organized referral system be established relating library services throughout the province. Is this part of your long-range plan?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes, it has already begun on a very small scale. This is something that we will be looking at, to see if we will increase it. Would you like to speak to that, Walter?

MR. KAASA: Yes, we already are contracted to Saskatchewan, to the Pacific northwest, to all libraries -- as many libraries as are on the computer system -- for referral and loan . . .

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Excuse me, I don't think you can hear down at this end.

MR. KAASA: Sorry. We are already on the system, and have contract agreements with Saskatchewan and the Pacific northwest district for interloan of library materials. This is working very well, to the limited extent to which it is set in place.

MR. MUSGREAVE: I have one other supplementary question that I wanted to try -- it doesn't concern you, yet it concerns tax dollars put out for libraries. That is, I understand that one of the elements of library services in the province of Alberta, in the educational system, is far superior to what's available in other provinces. Now, do you officials have any comment on that, or are they aware of that? Would they like to say?

MR. KAASA: The development of the school library is under the Department of Education, and has been for its total existence. There is a co-operative system, where it goes into a regional library development, with the school and community library joining forces. The public library system in Alberta is, I would say, in its infancy compared to the rest of Canada.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bob Clark.

MR. R. CLARK: Two questions, Mr. Chairman, to the minister. How many regional libraries do we now have?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: At the moment we have two: the Yellowhead and the Parkland regional library concept.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, is there some sort of movement by a number of other areas.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: The Marigold regional library has made application to us, and we are working with them. That is sort of from Banff to -- it almost goes right across to the Saskatchewan border. We've had extremely good meetings with them. It looks very positive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fred Bradley.

MR. BRADLEY: On this question of regional libraries. The department will look at regionalization of libraries on the basis of requests from the local libraries themselves, rather than department . . .

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes, definitely so.

MR. BRADLEY: So we ask for the initiative from the local area, rather than forcing it?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shirley Cripps.

MRS. CRIPPS: Are you looking at the efficiency of such libraries as Yellowhead?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes, that has been a situation where we've been aware there has been a sort of problem. We are dealing with that at the moment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good. Vote 2.5, Library Services, \$3,296,347 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2.6, Cultural Heritage, \$1,320,833. Shirley Cripps.

MRS. CRIPPS: You've got financial assistance out of that, \$960,000. How does that work?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Out of Cultural Heritage?

MRS. CRIPPS: Yes. It's over in the other book, \$960,240.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Sorry, I haven't got that.

MR. USHER: That's the other one.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: That would have to be to the . . .

MR. USHER: That's not the difference, that's the total.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: That's like our grants to the Indian news media, the native communications centre. It's our ethnic culture groups, the dancers, people in the various choirs and courses. Would you like to add to that?

MR. KAASA: Yes. Nearly \$500,000 of that goes to two native organizations that were transferred to us from Native Secretariat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that it? Very good. Vote 2.6 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2.7.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask the minister to elaborate on that. At least I didn't know that change had been made from the Native Secretariat over here. What organizations, and could we get the rationale?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: We have now taken on the Indian News Media and the Native Communications. Walter, would you like to add to that, on the native heritage?

MR. USHER: I can do that.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: All right. But speak up, Les, so everybody can hear you.

MR. USHER: Mr. Chairman, these are the two native organizations involved in .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order.

MR. USHER: . . . communication with the native people. The Indian News Media services southern Alberta, and is based in Cardston. The Alberta Native Communications Society serves the northern part of the province, and is based here in Edmonton. Each is given a grant by the provincial government. They also receive grants through the Secretary of State.

MR. R. CLARK: Just to follow that up, and ask the size of the grants and the conditions on which they're available?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: The total increase in the native grants is \$46,600. Have you got the actual breakdown of the figures?

MR. USHER: Yes, the Indian News Media, \$133,000 in round figures; and the Alberta Native Communications, \$336,000. This money is given to them in two phases, half at the beginning of the year, and half that be released halfway through the year, provided they have lived up to the commitments under the agreement; namely, spent money on those things it was intended for.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: May I just add one thing: that \$46,600 is the increase over last year's grant.

MR. KAASA: Ten per cent.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Would it be possible to get a copy of the agreement, just with the Native Communications?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No problem.

MR. R. CLARK: Can you just send a copy?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes, I certainly can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fred Bradley.

MR. BRADLEY: I wonder if the minister is aware of the circulation of both of those publications, the *Kainai News* and *The Native People*.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Well, I'm certainly aware of the Native Communications. I must say I've had a visit down to -- what is it, outside of Cardston -- the Indian News Media, and I was most impressed with the number of people they reach and what they are doing. I can't tell you the exact figures.

MR. BRADLEY: I just had a concern about the circulation of that particular publication in relation to the amount of support that we give.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I'll take that as notice and look into it, Fred.

MR. USHER: Mr. Chairman, if I might. The support goes for more than the publication. They have radio and television programs, as well as education programs of one kind and another.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good. Vote 2.7, Cultural Facilities, \$953,424. Fred Bradley.

MR. BRADLEY: I had a question with regard to the two facilities, the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium and the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. In the estimates, there a difference of about \$200,000 in the support of those institutions, with the Northern Alberta getting about \$375,000 and the Southern Alberta \$577,000. Could the minister explain the difference in the level of support?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Right now we're looking at improvements, with escalators, the replacement of curtains, the sound system. That's what this price is.

MR. BRADLEY: Do these estimates include operating costs of those two facilities, or just capital?

MR. KAASA: They include operating costs. Where furnishings and equipment were purchased for the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in the previous fiscal year, this year it is for the Southern -- the audio machines, new drapes in the front, et cetera. That's the difference.

MR. BRADLEY: I was wondering if one was more expensive to operate than the other.

MR. KAASA: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Norm Magee.

MR. MAGEE: Mr. Chairman, this is not a very large vote under the heading of Cultural Facilities. I notice it's wrapped up in the two auditoriums in Edmonton and Calgary. My question is: what about providing facilities for other cultural centres throughout the province? Where does that fit into the picture?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, I think my friend across the table is making an extremely good point. He is concerned about the Red Deer area.

MR. MAGEE: And others.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Well I only know his immediate concern. There is some financial assistance coming up in this area -- the MR. CHAIRMANR.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good. Vote 2.7 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2.8, Film Censorship, \$124,508. Bob Clark.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. In 1973 we had a legislative committee on the question of film censorship, chaired by the former Member for St. Albert. What's the status of that committee's report?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: There is a proposal that will be coming to the Assembly to look at a different rating -- shall I put it that way?

MR. KAASA: A different classification.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: A different classification of films.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, when can we expect that to come to the Assembly? This spring?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, it will be in the fall.

MR. R. CLARK: And that will be to change the rating in general terms?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes, the overall group ratings.

MR. R. CLARK: The classification?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, is the minister in a position to expand on that?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I think I can say a few words on the fact that one of the areas we're looking at is -- we're having a problem right now with teachers trying to take a class to see certain films, because they are not with their families. This is the type of change we're looking at in classification.

MR. R. CLARK: That's the only, the major -- if I could use a good Conservative word -- "thrust" as far as the legislative committee's report is concerned? (laughter)

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, there are other concerns, but I'm not at liberty to speak about them now. I'm not too fully versed on that area.

MR. R. CLARK: That's something we can look at in the fall?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: You certainly can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, Vote 2.8, \$124,508 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 2.9, Financial Assistance for Major Cultural Facilities -- Administration, \$960,223 -- agreed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Norm Magee.

MR. MAGEE: Well, this is an outstanding increase: 717 per cent. I would like an explanation of the major items that make that up.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, the major item in that is the senior citizen facility grant program, to the tune of \$750,000.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Total Vote 2, \$12,071,889 -- agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 3, Historical Resources Development. 3.1, Program Support, \$278,884. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.2, Archaeological Survey, \$553,055. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.3, Archival Acquisition, Preservation and Storage.  
Mickey.

MR. L. CLARK: I'm still wondering where in this the museums that were quoted are coming. Where is the money for them coming from?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Would you like to speak to that, John?

DR. LUNN: Mr. Chairman, I would like the question clarified. Museums come under vote 3.6, if you'd like to bring it up again there.

MR. L. CLARK: A supplementary, Mr. Chairman. I just was wondering. They have more or less promised some areas some museums. One is a paleontology museum at Drumheller. Not a regular promise, but they said they'd be looking into it. I was wondering where that is going to fit into this.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes, that's with the MCR program, and we will be working along with that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Milt.

MR. PAHL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can see by the vote and the question has developed since I had my first one, that there's obviously not enough money in that budget, Mr. Chairman and Mme. Minister. My concerns related first of all to films, and it seems to be rather peripheral now, in view of the fact that this is not films, but archaeological and historical site preservation. But it seems to be the appropriate vote to bring up the question the level of

priority in the department for the Athabasca Trail and the concept of it, and will these sorts of priorities increase?

In my view, this is the most difficult kind of history to preserve. It's so widely scattered. I guess from an archaeological or historical point of view, it's not that hard to find now. But once an old barn burns down, it's gone.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: It's gone.

MR. PAHL: I would like to express the concern that money seems to be scant in terms of the rate in which these resources are disappearing. I wonder if I could get a reading on the priority, apropos of the trade-off between libraries and preserving our very young heritage.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, historical preservation is also -- and I'm expecting a bit of laughter on this one -- one of my priorities and has been for many years. I agree there are not enough funds.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bob Clark.

MR. R. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister could outline to us . . . I'm in the same situation as my namesake with regard to some of these museums that have been talked about. The answer we've heard twice tonight is, well, they'll be part of the MCR program. I'd be interested in knowing how they're going to be part of the MCR program.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Dr. Lunn, would you like to speak to that?

DR. LUNN: Mr. Chairman, a program for regionalization of museums has already been to social planning committee last year. It is very much one of the minister's priorities. I can tell you that although these museums are not reflected in this budget, it is coming up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 3 . . .

MR. R. CLARK: No, not quite.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, you haven't answered the question, John.

MR. R. CLARK: I would like to go a little further. How is this going to fit into the MCR program, Mme. Minister?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Are you going to answer that question, John, or would you like me to try?

DR. LUNN: Drumheller has been advised, Mr. Chairman, that the paleontological museum ought first to be addressed through the MCR program.

MR. HYLAND: Maybe you should tell us about MCRs. I don't think everybody knows.

MR. USHER: Mr. Chairman, MCR is the major cultural/recreation facility program. You'll find the funds in the estimates of Recreation and Parks. A

minimum of 25% of the funds through that program are to be spent on cultural facilities. That includes such things as museums. If a community sees the building of a museum as a priority, they can utilize their funds under the MCR program to build that museum, and those funds will be matched by the province.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, can I just . . .

MR. VICE-CHAIRMAN: Just a moment. Is this a supplementary?

MR. R. CLARK: Very much so. To the minister or whoever the minister wants to answer the question. So all of a sudden there is no additional funding for these museums that we've been talking about in Drumheller and some other places. Mme. Minister, what we're now talking about, if I understand from what we've been told here this evening, is that we should be looking at regional museums, and that Carbon, if I might use that as an example, might be expected to put 25% of its MCR money into Drumheller to help Drumheller get a regional museum.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: It could.

MR. R. CLARK: It could, but I suggest you go down and talk to the good folks in Carbon about that. I want to be very sure that I'm clear what we're talking about here. One, there is no additional money in this budget for this program. Is that right?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Not necessarily, no. No, there is not.

MR. R. CLARK: Two, any regional museums that have been rather committed to date, that money is to come out of the MCR program, which is in what -- its third year?

MR. KAASA: Yes.

MR. USHER: No, it's more than that. It's about the fifth.

MR. R. CLARK: How many more years do we have left, then?

MR. USHER: It's a 10-year program.

MR. R. CLARK: Okay, so we have about five years left. But is any additional money going to be made available for this program, because if we're now talking about regional museums getting funds out of a program that initially I don't think was outlined that way. That wasn't my interpretation of it in the Assembly anyway. So I'd like a bit of clarification.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, museums and archives are now going through an overall study, and we will be presenting a proposal on museums <sup>and archives</sup> to cabinet.

MR. R. CLARK: Can I just follow along? I take it from that, Mme. Minister, that funding-wise, capital-wise, that will be in addition to the MCR money.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes.

MR. R. CLARK: Will any commitments made to date regarding regional museums, like the Drumheller one, come out of additional money, not money people have been looking at for other recreational or cultural facilities in those areas, not on a regional basis?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware that an actual commitment has been made. All I can say is that certain areas have made representation to us to give them funding for museums. We have taken this into consideration in our overall plan for regional museums.

MR. R. CLARK: Could I just ask one last question on this matter, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister aware of any commitments that have been made to any communities in Alberta for regional museums?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, I'm not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Reid.

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, I don't know where to put it in here. It's on the subject of the Coal Branch. When the Coal Branch closed in the mid-1950s, there was word of trying to preserve the history and some of the buildings on the Coal Branch as a record of the coal industry. I think the hon. Leader of the Opposition may remember that one. It was a quasi-commitment that it would not all be destroyed. We've since seen many of those towns flattened and converted back to grass. About six years ago, some of us did approach -- and I forget what branch of government it was then; it certainly wasn't Culture -- and we again got the verbal impression that something would be done to have something on the Coal Branch area so that people going into that area would be able to see, photographically or on plaster casts and relief maps, what the Coal Branch was like when 20,000 people were living down there.

I'm just wondering where that is going to go in this program, or if it is going to go. There is nobody living there in order for it to be on their capital grant program. This is going to have to be completely provincially funded.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes, that comes under historical sites.

DR. REID: Mme. Minister, via the Chair, is there anything that you know of going on about that while there is still somebody alive who can tell us about it and we can go chase them for photographs?

DR. LUNN: We wish there were something, Mr. Chairman. The historic sites service's first job is to identify the things in the province that are the most significant. This job has been going on for several years with very few staff. We're well onto that program and are well aware of the importance of Coal Branch. We want to preserve some of the key buildings and some of the key coal communities, like Nordegg. It's a very expensive proposition, more expensive than we have so far faced in Alberta.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shirley Cripps.

MRS. CRIPPS: My question is back to the MCR program. There really isn't enough money in the culture part of that program to actually build museums.

So I would just recommend we try to get more funds for that. That MCR won't begin to build museums.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I'm glad you're aware of that fact.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mickey Clark.

MR. L. CLARK: I just want to say that there has never been a firm<sup>written</sup> commitment to build a museum in Drumheller, but it has been suggested that if one should be built, Drumheller valley would have a very high priority, due to its coal mining industry and the Dinosaur Valley itself. I just wanted to add that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Vote 3.3., \$478,900. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 3.4, Financial Assistance for Heritage Preservation, \$3,164,717.

Fred Bradley.

MR. BRADLEY: Mme. Minister, as you're probably well aware, I have quite an interest in this whole area, and I'm pleased to see there has been a substantial increase in 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6. I am particularly concerned that in the operation of the Historic Sites Board we can certainly declare either buildings or areas as registered provincial historic sites. I'd like to see us move a little bit further and purchase some of these sites for preservation, stabilization, and perhaps development. Can the minister comment on what progress is being made toward that goal?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes, I certainly can. The cabinet has asked our department to look into the feasibility of compensation for historical sites and buildings, and I think that will facilitate some of the need we have.

MR. BRADLEY: Can you see more funds in the future -- I guess some funds, because we haven't done that to date. Also, I would like to say I am pleased to see the increase there, but I think it could probably be 200 or 300 per cent more to meet the need. As Milt Pahl was saying, we have a very early history in this province, 75 or 100 years. With the rapid development we see across the province, a number of these historic resources are being impaired or removed.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm very glad to see my colleagues are inclined to think this way, and I agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 3.

MR. MAGEE: Mr. Chairman, if I might ask one more question. Some of these historic sites are located in the centre of towns, cities, or whatever, often in the way of traffic arteries and things of this nature. What are the plans for movement of these two areas where they would be in a proper setting, rather than located in the midst of high-rises or whatever, where they probably wouldn't be appreciated to the same degree.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Well, you have a good point there. One of the sad things, of course, is that if you ever move an historic building or one that has been so declared and put it somewhere else, it doesn't have the same history as when it was located where it is. I'm sorry to say that is what we've had to do in numerous cases, like our Fort Edmonton. It is a problem, but this is the way our life seems to be going. It's very sad.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Reid.

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, somewhat along the same line, I'm a little concerned that out of a provincial budget of some \$5 billion, it would appear that all we're prepared to spend on preserving our history is about \$7.1 million. Apropos of the remarks about moving historic buildings, the Romans have been dodging the Coliseum for some 2,000 years and haven't had to move it. (laughter)

No, but I'm trying to make a point. Do we necessarily have to lay out our cities on the box basis and put the throughway through the most convenient place if it means knocking down something that, 300 years from now, will be the only record of the fact we were here? This building may sometime be the route for a freeway. Do we move it? Or do we move the freeway? I'd just like to express the concern.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Good point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 3.4. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if this is the place to raise it, but I'd like to explore the area of the Alberta Hotel. Is this the most likely <sup>place</sup> to do that?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes.

MR. R. CLARK: I understand that city council agreed Monday to expropriate the Alberta Hotel. In light of this, has the minister had any discussions with Edmonton city council as to its plans for the hotel? I really ask the question in light of comments made by the former minister on February 2, 1979, when Mr. Schmid said, it's recommended that the hotel be a provincial historic site; this gives the building the greatest protection possible. Why wasn't it so designated?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Because, Mr. Chairman, I think at the time, the city had plans to expropriate the hotel and possibly make that into a city museum or archives. *At this date we still cannot declare it an historic building.*

*There is nothing to say that*

MR. R. CLARK: Just following that along, Mr. Chairman. Then is it fair for me to conclude from the remarks, Mme. Minister, that Alberta Culture and the city of Edmonton are really moving hand in hand on the question of the Alberta Hotel?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I see John's nodding his head, but I would say, no. It is not that they are not conversing with us and we are not conversing with them at this point. They have taken a stand, and I have not had a meeting with the

mayor or city council to determine what they are doing with the hotel at this stage. Our last conversation was prior to expropriating the building.

MR. R. CLARK: Was the department aware city council was going to take this action, or was it taken by city council totally on its own, without any consultation with department people?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: John, would you like to speak?

DR. LUNN: Yes, sir, we were aware. The minister is quite right. They haven't spoken of it recently. Nevertheless, our interests have been identical, that is, for the preservation of that building.

MR. R. CLARK: And from the standpoint of preservation, you feel the effort being made by city council is very much in keeping with what the former minister had said was the correct route to go?

DR. LUNN: We haven't been told the basis on which they've expropriated, but it looks as though there's the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 3.5, Historic Sites Preservation, \$735,646. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 3.6, Historical Resource Facilities, \$2,722,687. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Total amount to be voted, \$7,933,889. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 4 . . .

MR. VICE-CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 4, International Assistance. No subprogram breakdown. Amount to be voted, \$4,374,587. Agreed?  
Milt Pahl.

MR. PAHL: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Does this program have a double whammy, inasmuch as most of these are matched funds from volunteer organizations in the province?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes it is, Milt.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Eric Musgreave. Alan Hyland following.

MR. MUSGREAVE: I have a question that really doesn't relate to this vote, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to get it in before you wrap up the department. So you are forewarned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good.

MR. MUSGREAVE: I could ask it now, if you want, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you please, and we'll clear that off.

MR. MUSGREAVE: There was a report out the other day that the National Arts Centre in Ottawa is running a deficit of about \$10 million, and the performing arts centre is not being supported. I just wondered, have you in your department any concern about the performing arts facilities in our province and the emphasis that's being generated for one in Calgary. Are we looking at the same kind of problems that that centre is facing with the kind of money and fantastic support they have?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: John or Walter, would you like to speak on that?

MR. KAASA: Yes, there is a concern with performing arts centres all over the world running deficits. We know that even Covent Garden in London, England, that is packed to the rafters every night cannot possibly maintain a balanced budget as far as facilities and maintenance of facilities are concerned. It is a concern all across the world. It is a concern now in Canada.

MR. MUSGREAVE: So, Mr. Chairman, I would imagine, Mme. Minister, that future budgets will have to reflect this kind of problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alan Hyland.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. This \$4 million-plus is just Alberta's share? It is not the total paid on the international assistance.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Oh, no. This is just Alberta.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bob Clark.

MR. R. CLARK: This might not be the right place. I was wondering what is the status of the lottery operations? Is this the lottery minister, or is the hon. Mr. Schmid the lottery minister? Is the expectation that it will stay that way? I just want to find out where the lottery sits.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: At the moment Mr. Schmid is speaking to lotteries. Lotteries are under the department of Culture. Until the transaction with the change in government in Ottawa, et cetera, he is continuing until they have their next meeting and get everything tidied up. Then there'll be a change.

MR. R. CLARK: So it will come over to this department?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes.

MR. R. CLARK: I'd like to follow along, Mr. Chairman, and say that my understanding is that the Alberta Art Foundation and the Historical Resources Foundation each received over \$300,000 in Western Lottery funding.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Yes.

MR. R. CLARK: And each of these bodies had a surplus, I guess in '76 or '77, of about \$250,000 in the case of the art foundation and about \$150,000 for the

historical resources. In those two years, I understand those two bodies each spent less than \$100,000. It could well be that those were in the initial years of operation. Do you see this kind of thing moving up? And also, is it the position of the department or the government that we will continue to have a portion of the Western Lottery funding go to these two organizations?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Clark, until 1982 the funding is being dealt with that way from the lotteries. Various groups can apply to these foundations also for funding.

MR. R. CLARK: And what kind of groups, Mr. Chairman?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Do you have that? It's right in there, some of the areas that are funded through these grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good. Amount to be voted, \$4,374,587. Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, we'll go back to the front. Department total is \$25,790,95. Milt Pahl.

MR. PAHL: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. I think it might be appropriate here to note that cultural development, which might be fairly called people programs, is in the area of \$12 million, and Historical Resources Development, programs or cultural resources, is roughly \$8 million. Would it be possible to get some comment from the resource people here, Mme. Minister, about the thought that, in view of the fact that our people, although it's not arguable they're our most important resource, ~~they~~ would appear to be more lasting in a cultural sense than the historical resources that Dr. Reid, Mr. Bradley, and I expressed a concern for.

Could a case be made for a maintenance level on the cultural development, while we take the steps to preserve those historical resources that we in fact only get one chance to save? Am I making sense?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: You certainly are. I think we are basically a very young province. Our historical preservation is still very young. It's growing, and I hope you will see an increase in this area in our overall budgeting in future years. But as I say, we are rather young in this field right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clark.

MR. R. CLARK: Just so that, at some time in the future -- I wouldn't want to be accused of putting words in the minister's mouth, Mr. Chairman. Would it be fair for me to conclude from our discussion this evening that the priorities for this year would be regional museums -- some sort of move in that area -- some additional funding for libraries, a thrust in the area of censorship . . . (laughter)

MRS. LeMESSURIER: You are putting words in my mouth, <sup>e</sup> I didn't say that.

MR. R. CLARK: Thrust was my word. But some action as far as censorship is concerned and some reaction to that Jamison select committee.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I think there has to be a change in the format of the censorship of films.

MR. R. CLARK: Some action in the area that my colleague to my left mentioned -- he may not really be to my left (laughter) -- as far as historical resources are concerned, and fifth, the area of regional libraries. Is that a fair assessment, Mr. Chairman, of the areas the minister is giving her priority to this year?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: May I just say one thing. You said museums, film censorship, historical preservation, and libraries. What was the other one?

MR. R. CLARK: Regional libraries, censorship, museums, historical resources. Two things in libraries, one was regional libraries, the other was simply more money for local libraries so we're not fourth from the bottom.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: That is an area I'd like to see, but all of us can sit in this room and realize that the dollar bill can only go in X number of directions. You have hit on some of my basic concerns. They are very close to me.

MR. R. CLARK: And we have over \$8 million in this year's budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your thrusting. (laughter)  
Bill Mack.

MR. MACK: Mr. Chairman and Mme. Minister, I probably missed your comments with regard to the select committee on censorship. Is that committee going to report, has it reported, is it functional, or is it an inactive committee?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: It was a committee that has reported in the past. There has been a recommendation to our department that we change the actual rating of films. I will be coming to social planning with a proposal. From there, we'll just have to see. But there is a proposal afoot to change the rating of films.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. MACK: Just a moment, Mr. Chairman and Mme. Minister. Is that committee active?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, no. This took place before.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We should have a motion that these estimates be sent to Committee of Supply.

MR. PENGELLY: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we ask the minister for her closing remarks? Do you have any?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: No, I don't have anything. I can only say I'm very glad that people did ask questions. I only hope they got the answers they hoped to get. I know some didn't. But there are concerns, as we all know, and we'll work toward it next year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.*