

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA**

Title: **Tuesday, July 3, 1979 2:30 p.m.**

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

**PRAYERS**

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **PRESENTING REPORTS BY  
STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES**

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Private Bills Committee, I hereby report that with respect to Bill Pr. 3, The Edmonton Convention Centre Authority Act, which was under consideration by the committee, the committee recommends to this Assembly that the Bill be proceeded with, with amendments.

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document entitled Alberta Social Services and Community Health: Its Programs and Their Development. Copies will be distributed to all members.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file with the Assembly the annual report for the year 1978 of the Alberta Environmental Research Trust.

DR. HORNER: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to file with the Legislature the annual report of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I would like to file two reports done for the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. The first is entitled Energy and Chemicals From Wood; the second, Prospects for Solar and Wind Energy Utilization in Alberta.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file with the Legislature responses to questions 104 and 105 on the Order Paper, relating to ACCESS.

head: **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Department of Agriculture**

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great pleasure today to announce an increase in program assistance to agricultural societies and fairs in the province of Alberta. The new program represents a commitment by the government of Alberta of up to \$40 million. This increased support will broaden and standardize our existing program and further promote this government's involvement in agricultural societies.

Fairs sponsored by agricultural societies fall into one of four categories: class A, B, C, and D fairs. Special one-time grants for approved capital construction for all class A agricultural fairs will be based on \$100 per

capita for the first 50,000 people, plus \$5 per capita to a maximum of 500,000 people. This will be supplemented by provisions for loans guaranteed by the province of up to 50 per cent of the cost of approved construction projects. All other agricultural fairs will be eligible for the \$75,000 one-time grant.

The annual operating grants to class A fairs will be increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000, and for class B fairs the maximum annual operating grants are being increased from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

Agricultural societies that provide racing facilities will benefit from the pari-mutuel tax rebate of 25 per cent, which is administered by the Solicitor General. This rebate will be used for debt retirement.

Mr. Speaker, there are presently 217 agricultural societies in Alberta. These societies promote agriculture, horticulture, and homemaking, and improve the quality of life in the communities of this province. In addition to promoting agricultural events, these societies are becoming more involved in developing multi-purpose buildings for community use. Mr. Speaker, the funds made available through this new program will contribute significantly to continued successful operation of major agricultural societies, class A fairs throughout Alberta, and their varied activities.

MR. SPEAKER: I omitted to recognize the hon. Member for Drayton Valley for Introduction of Special Guests. Would the House agree to revert?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce to you, and through you to the Assembly, Lyne Menard and Lucie Belisle from Quebec. They, along with 186 students from Quebec, are scattered all over Alberta on a student exchange. On July 12 they will return to Quebec, taking their Alberta partners home with them for two weeks.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

**Senior Citizens' Programs**

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of Housing and Public Works. It flows from the ministerial announcement last week with regard to the Alberta pioneers' repair program. Having regard to the fact that the program is five years in duration, is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly the anticipated cost of the grants?

MR. CHAMBERS: The estimated take-up would of course be significantly higher than — I believe on the original senior citizen home improvement program about 35,000 to 36,000 people have applied or will have applied. We estimate that the take-up on the new pioneer program will probably be about 55,000. I don't have the actual number with me. But bearing in mind the \$2,000 grant as a maximum and the range between \$1,000 and \$2,000, one could arrive at a ready estimate of the total.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. It relates to that part of the ministerial announcement where the minister indicated that pioneers 65 years or over would be able to benefit from the program. Are families with one member 65 years of age or over eligible for the program? Or in fact is it a matter of both members having to be 65 years of age or over?

MR. CHAMBERS: One member, Mr. Speaker.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the minister. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly what effect this program will have on projected needs for self-contained and senior citizen lodge accommodations?

MR. CHAMBERS: Not definitively, Mr. Speaker, although I think it would be fair to assume that the program should enable more senior citizens to repair their own homes and therefore stay in them longer than would otherwise be the case.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. In the development of the program, were arrangements worked out with the Department of Social Services and Community Health for a home care, housekeeping, maintenance program to enable those 55,000 individuals, those who need it, to stay in their homes?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, the pioneers' repair program, as a follow-up, if you like, to the senior citizen home improvement program, didn't deal with that particular aspect.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly the effect this program will have on the needs for auxiliary or nursing home facilities?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I think there would be some benefit, although not so great when you take into account the level of nursing and medical services required in those two kinds of institutions. It would have a larger effect, I would think, on the senior citizen lodges and self-contained units.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Has the government taken into consideration the possibility of the \$2,000 improvement on senior citizens' homes being exempt from local tax assessments?

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, no.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, is the government prepared to consider that as a possible adjunct to the program so in fact senior citizens wouldn't find their assessments going up? Admittedly this would only apply to those whose houses are above a certain level.

MR. MOORE: Mr. Speaker, there are many ways repairs to residences can be effected without the assessment in fact increasing. One would have to scrutinize very carefully the extensive assessment manual used by assessors, in determining whether a particular project

to improve a residence would be subject to assessment and taxation. Bear in mind as well that the general procedures are for assessments to be carried out once every eight years in most communities.

Generally minor improvements to a house, if they aren't in the order of additions, would not likely be picked up on a tax roll. Things like improvements to existing water and sewer facilities or a roof wouldn't likely incur additional taxation.

In addition I should say that through the Alberta property tax reduction program many senior citizens have been provided with extensive benefits with respect to their property tax that assist them as well with respect to any increases that might occur.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. Why was no assessment done of the implications of the Alberta pioneers' repair program on the home care program, and extensions of the home care program so that a total package could have been presented to the pioneers of the province?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, there has been considerable co-operation between the Department of Social Services and Community Health and the Department of Housing and Public Works, particularly in the area of senior citizens. The hon. member may recall that the co-ordinated home care program is to assist those senior citizens requiring home nursing or rehabilitation therapy such as occupational, physio, speech, or respiratory therapy.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Is the minister in a position to indicate the anticipated additional cost of an adequate home care program to enable the 55,000 people who would benefit from what I consider to be an excellent program to benefit from home care and to be able to have their housekeeping services provided through health units, home care, or — I think the minister mentioned last week — PSS programs? What kind of total budget are we looking at?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, I can't pick the dollar figure at the moment. I do recall the percentage growth figures in our budget. The PSS budget growth was about 19 per cent. Part of that is due to the homemaker service and Meals on Wheels, those kinds of services for senior citizens. In addition the health unit budget growth throughout the province generally ranges in the neighborhood of 24 to 38 per cent. That is almost entirely due to expansion of the home care program for senior citizens.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Was a specific report done by the department with regard to the anticipated funds needed by health units and other providers of a home care program so that the benefits of the Alberta pioneers' repair program could be felt by individuals, enabling them to stay in their own homes? Was a report done for the department in co-operation with the health units, the people who provide the home care programs, so that we can have a price tag — I think a very legitimate price tag — as to what an adequate, well-financed and well-run home care program would cost?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, the question ranges in a number of areas from the pioneers' home program to health units to our department. I will take that question as notice so I can determine and provide an explicit answer to the question.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary by the hon. leader, followed by a supplementary by the hon. Member for Calgary Forest Lawn, and then a final one by the hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Was the advice of the health units, providing the home care program in many areas, sought out as to what additional amounts of money would be needed to implement the Alberta pioneers' repair program?

Could I also ask the minister if an individual under 65 whose husband or wife passes away would also be able to get the benefits of this program?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, again I'll take that as notice and check to determine that I have the exact and explicit answer to the hon. member's question. Generally speaking it does cover a wide range, yet some very specific points will have to be checked. I know that considerable consultation has taken place and is now taking place with health units across the province on the development of the home care program.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, my question has been dealt with. Thank you.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health for clarification. In examining the home care programs could the hon. minister advise whether apart from a government-run and government-funded home help program some liaison and government-funded home help program some liaison has been developed with community helping agencies to provide the home help program that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is alluding to, rather than having it paid totally by government funding?

MR. BOGLE: Generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is yes. That's being done primarily through the preventive social services program, which of course is a cost-shared program with the municipalities. In some cases the contracted group within the municipality is a volunteer agency providing those services. In addition to the many hours provided by volunteers, ancillary support services are provided.

#### **Business Program — U of C**

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the second question to the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. It deals with the question of a faculty of management studies in Alberta. Has the minister received any representation from the Calgary Chamber of Commerce on its offer to make some funds available so that an MBA program could be greatly expanded and a building to house a faculty of business at the University of Calgary could move ahead?

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I haven't yet received any direct representation, although I have read that

representation of that nature is about to be made to me and to the department.

#### **Hazardous Wastes — Proposed Plant**

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Environment. It deals with the proposed disposal plant for hazardous chemicals in the Fort Saskatchewan area. Is the minister now in a position to indicate if he has reconsidered his decision not to have public hearings in that area on the proposed plant?

MR. COOKSON: I didn't make that decision, Mr. Speaker.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, is the minister in a position to indicate specifically from which areas the hazardous chemicals will be coming to this proposed plant?

MR. COOKSON: I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker, whether the Member for Clover Bar is referring to areas or particular waste products.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, the areas throughout the western provinces — from which provinces or neighboring states, if any, the chemicals would be coming.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, that really hasn't been established yet.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, from the minister's discussions several weeks ago with other members from other provinces, can the minister indicate what volume of wastes are expected to come to this proposed plant? Is it a large amount, or is it going to be fairly small? Is the minister in a position to indicate this?

MR. COOKSON: Not really, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could say to the Member for Clover Bar that, because of the tremendous growth of this province, likely 50 per cent of the wastes that require proper disposal would originate in Alberta.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, another supplementary question. Can the minister indicate what consultations have taken place with the industries in the Fort Saskatchewan area and in central Alberta as to picking sites for this proposed plant?

MR. COOKSON: The normal procedure, Mr. Speaker, is that when an environmental impact assessment is made, that sort of dialogue proceeds.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my last supplementary question. Can the minister indicate what discussions or consultations have taken place with Disaster Services in conjunction with industries in case an unhappy event should happen to take place — that there were a spill?

MR. COOKSON: I think, Mr. Speaker, that question would be rather hypothetical.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister in a position today to outline to the Assembly what time frame the government is examining with respect to the type of public input, whether there will be hearings or whether the government will just accept the proponent's

proposal to hold public meetings by the company in question?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, there's no time frame in terms of a decision.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may put just one additional supplementary question to the Minister of Environment and ask whether the minister or officials of the Department of Environment have had any discussions on this matter with the Environment Council of Alberta.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, if a request is made to the Environment Council of Alberta for hearings — if that's what the member is referring to — the normal procedure is through my office.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Will the minister assure the House that one of the options the government is now considering for public input would be formally convened hearings by the Environment Council of Alberta?

MR. COOKSON: I assume again, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview is referring to a potential site which could be anywhere. Therefore I would say his question is rather hypothetical.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the supplementary question to the minister is whether or not the government is entertaining hearings as an option at this stage.

MR. COOKSON: It's pretty difficult, Mr. Speaker, to indicate an option if one isn't sure whether or not the event is to take place.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Environment. What discussions have been held between the proponent of the plant and the department with respect to this project, in view of the fact that some work on land assembly has already begun?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, again I can't comment on the stage of land assembly. But normally speaking, before an environmental impact assessment is made one has to have a location, whether it's hypothetical or in fact.

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be the last supplementary on this topic.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, could the minister advise the Assembly whether it is correct that the company is now virtually in the process of completing its environmental impact assessment?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, we have environmental impact assessments going on at all times in different parts of the province. If he would like, I could take that as notice and advise him.

#### Rural Gas Lines

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question, if I may, to the hon. Minister of Utilities and Telephones. It's to follow up questions put on May 31

with respect to the replacement of almost 5,000 miles of defective pipe installed by Alberta gas co-ops.

Has the government given any consideration to increasing the share the province will assume of the cost of reinstalling this pipe from 90 per cent to 100 per cent, in view of the department's role in getting the pipe in the first place and the ERCB's role in approving it?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, on the initial part of the question, the comment that 5,000 miles of 3306 pipe require replacement, we are not absolutely certain that this is the number of miles. The department's estimates are that it may be in the area of 2,500 to 3,000 miles.

In response to the direct question whether the support by the government would be increased from 90 per cent: not at this stage.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Has the government given any consideration to extending the 90 per cent to those co-ops which obtain the highest quality of pipe available, so that we don't have to go through this process four or five years down the road? Or is the 90 per cent based on the lowest bid?

MR. SHABEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the policy of the government at the moment is and will remain that the support will be based on the lowest tender of acceptable materials.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister in a position to explain to the House the reasons for the government's policy being based on the lowest tender, in view of the concern expressed by many of the co-ops that having had to go through this process they don't wish to go through it again, and that the very highest quality of pipe should be installed when we're talking about 2,500, 3,000, or 5,000 miles as some co-ops have estimated?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of companies both producing the resin and manufacturing the pipe. In the competitive process of receiving tenders, the co-ops invite tenders on the material, and the materials meet a certain standard. We have instituted a program of inspection, both in the plant and to assist the co-ops, as those materials arrive at their yards, to assure that there's a high quality. It would be difficult for the government to go to a process where other than the lowest tender of an acceptable product was accepted.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Will the government be demanding higher standards than current CSA approval, in view of the fact that the faulty resin in fact had CSA approval?

MR. SHABEN: As I mentioned in response to the earlier question, Mr. Speaker, we have instituted a program of closely monitoring the quality of pipe available and being tendered. The question of whether higher standards will be set: those questions are always under review within the department, and there are a number of areas where we can assure and assist the co-ops in assuring top-quality products.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the government prepared to review its policy of 90 per cent, or on the other hand its policy of CSA standards, in view of the fact that we had the installation of many miles of faulty pipeline?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member's question, with its representation, is a repetition rolled into one of two previous questions, both of which have already been answered.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that the material was faulty, can the minister indicate if there have been any discussions between the government and the manufacturer or manufacturers of the pipe to see if there can be a recovery?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the question of the pipe referred to by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview is under litigation, it's difficult to carry on the kind of discussion suggested by the hon. Member for Clover Bar.

MR. LYSONS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a supplementary question of the minister. Is Alberta following the same procedure in rural gas pipeline specifications as other western provinces?

MR. SPEAKER: Possibly the hon. member could do his research by some other means.

#### Power Grid Proposal

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Speaker, my question also is for the Minister of Utilities and Telephones. It stems from some of the answers he recently gave in the House concerning the western electric grid. Is the minister prepared to indicate what progress we're having in determining Alberta's position?

MR. SHABEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I've had questions, I believe, from the hon. Member for Camrose as well as the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway on the question of Alberta's participation in a western electric grid. I responded at that time that the western premiers had indicated their willingness to examine the implications to their respective provinces of joining such a grid. It would be difficult for me to advise the House how soon that study might be completed, but it is well under way.

MR. PLANCHE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does part of that study the minister is doing include reviewing present electrical rates of the four utilities in the province?

MR. SHABEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, of necessity. We must examine the rates of the major power suppliers in the province — Calgary Power, Alberta Power, Edmonton Power, and Medicine Hat power — in addition to those municipalities that buy at their gate and distribute their own power. That examination is part of our study to determine whether a western grid is desirable and how best to proceed in the matter.

MR. PLANCHE: Another supplementary, if I may, Mr. Speaker. Is it the minister's intention to encourage a

standard or postage-stamp rate for electric power for all consumers in Alberta?

MR. NOTLEY: A great idea for the north.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. I think it would be premature for me to offer an answer, since the study at the moment is to determine costs and pricing. In that regard, we hope to obtain from the municipally owned utilities a good understanding of the factors that go into determining costs. Once we have that information, we can better make a decision on the advisability of an interconnected western electric grid.

MR. PLANCHE: One final question, if I may, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can indicate whether his intention is to have the benefits from the natural gas price protection plan continue to accrue to the customers of the Edmonton electric power system.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know, the estimates for the Department of Utilities and Telephones, which were approved about a week ago, include a provision for price support to Edmonton Power in the generation of electric power. It would be impossible and is not customary in the House to make any comments on matters related to future fiscal years.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary question to the minister. Can the minister indicate when the study on having a uniform price across the province for power will be available?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, if I understood the question — is there a study specifically on the matter of uniform prices? Not specifically. As I responded to the question by the hon. Member for Calgary Glenmore, in examining costs and prices this matter is part of our determination of whether a western electric grid is advisable for the citizens of Alberta.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister advising the Assembly that any move on a postage-stamp rate, as suggested by the hon. Member for Calgary Glenmore, would have to be connected or directly dependent on a western power grid? Or in fact will it be considered separately on its own merits?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I said it was entirely connected to the determination of whether the province would enter into a western grid. I simply said the study that is under way would be looking at power costs and rates.

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be the final supplementary on this topic.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, could the minister outline a little more definitively for the Assembly the timetable the government has for reviewing the question posed by the hon. Member for Calgary Glenmore with respect to a consistent rate structure throughout the province?

MR. SHABEN: I can advise the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to move as quickly as possible in

completing the examination of the questions raised with respect to whether the province enters into a western electric grid, and of course that includes questions of power costs.

#### Home Care Program

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health. It relates to the matter of home care, quite apart from the pioneer home repair program and the supplementary questions of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. The question deals specifically with statements by the minister in the House last Thursday, when he indicated the government is committed to the approach of helping senior citizens stay in their own homes.

Can it be taken from that statement in the House that the government is committed to an expansion of the home care program into the areas of home help, once the existing home care program is satisfactorily in place?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, as I've previously indicated in the Assembly, we are currently involved in a very major expansion of home care that's injecting many, many dollars into local boards of health and health units across the province to allow them to expand the current program, which of course is based on a medical entry point to home care. The hon. member asks at what point we might look at a further expansion. I can't give a definite date when that might be examined, other than to say that I've asked for an ongoing review through my chief deputy minister so that I can report on the success we're having with our current program to my cabinet and caucus colleagues. We'll certainly be looking at the home care needs of senior citizens on an ongoing basis.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: A supplementary question. With respect, my question wasn't at what time a review might be conducted, but whether at this point in time there was a commitment on the part of the government to expand into the areas of home help, once the existing home care program is satisfactorily in place.

MR. BOGLE: Under the specific program, Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. There is no commitment beyond the current program in place. On the other hand, it should not go by the hon. member without recognizing that we do have a homemakers' and a home help program operated through the preventive social services program. Of course, that supplements the home care program operated by our health units.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: A supplementary. Could the minister advise the House whether any specific cost/benefit analysis has been conducted into the possible savings that may accrue from permitting seniors to remain in their own homes, rather than being forced to move into institutions as a result of being unable to perform these household chores?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, the very reason our current home care program is in operation and expanding throughout this province is to help senior citizens either with medical needs that can be assisted by a nurse or the kinds of things where rehabilitation is required,

where we would use the skills of an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech therapist, or that kind of service. So the answer most definitely is yes.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. As I understand it, the minister stated that a cost/benefit analysis has been conducted. Did that cost/benefit analysis indicate that there are savings as a result of senior citizens being allowed to remain in their own homes rather than going into institutions?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, substantial monetary and social considerations were given prior to this government's entering the co-ordinated home care program a couple of years ago. I didn't want to mislead the member to think that a study has been done or is being done at the moment. No, the study was done before the province entered its current co-ordinated home care program.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. While I recognize the difficulties of providing a precise time frame, could the minister advise the Assembly approximately when we might anticipate that the existing home care program will be satisfactorily in place? Are we looking at six months or six years — just some ballpark estimate.

DR. BUCK: The next election.

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the hon. Member for Calgary Forest Lawn will keep us ever mindful of the need. Very seriously, it's a matter which is being examined at the present time. At the moment our concern is that we ensure that the program we now have in place and expanding throughout the province is operating smoothly so all regions of the province are adequately covered. Once that is in place, we'll certainly be examining what kind of assessment should be made as to whether or not there should be an expansion of the program, should it be through the health units, should it be through a PSS approach, or just how we handle it.

DR. BUCK: You haven't done that? Where've you been, Bogle?

MR. D. ANDERSON: A supplementary question to the hon. minister. Further to the questions from the hon. Member for Calgary Forest Lawn, could the minister indicate if the volunteer organizations involved in areas related to home care have been contacted with respect to the program and, if so, if any future expansion will take those organizations into account?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, the involvement of various volunteer organizations has primarily been through the preventive social services homemakers' and home help programs, not directly through the co-ordinated home care program, which has been left to the co-ordination of the health units in consultation with hospitals and other local municipal authorities.

MR. D. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, just for clarification. Then have organizations such as Meals on Wheels been in contact with the home care program, and is there a plan somehow to unite the kinds of

services provided and deal with future possibilities in that way?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, that's part of the ongoing review as to whether the current program, which is handled through PSS, should in fact continue in that vein or whether at some future point it should be merged with the current home care program. That's the kind of thing we'll have to assess carefully and make some deliberations on in the near future.

#### Oil Development

MR. PAHL: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Is it or has it ever been the policy of the Alberta government to delay or further discourage more oil sands or heavy oil development?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is an unequivocal no. This government has always been ready and willing to discuss terms and conditions with anyone who wanted to propose development of the oil sands. Since the Syncrude project, only two developments of heavy oil or oil sands have been proposed, the Esso Resources proposal and the Alsands proposal. As I mentioned in the House on a previous occasion, we have been carrying on discussions on the terms and conditions of the development with the people making those proposals, and I expect those discussions will continue.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Alsands proposal application was only filed before the Energy Resources Conservation Board last December. Those hearings are now going on and, for such a massive project, it's being dealt with very rapidly.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect that the hon. member has been hearing stories I have been hearing about Alberta delaying development of the sands. I believe the source at least of some of those stories was the former federal administration and industry spokesmen. I simply want to remind Members of the Legislative Assembly that neither the industry nor other governments are above doing a bit of public negotiating, and that ought to be kept in mind when they're hearing those comments.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply point out that in the hope of earlier developing a portion of the oil sands, this government has provided funds of up to about \$150 million that are already committed through the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority, in the hope that in the immediate future there will be development of technology that will make production from those sands economical.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in just a sentence, we have always been ready and anxious to discuss their proposal with anyone proposing development in the oil sands. If anyone is suggesting that we should do more than we've already done, I think the hon. Premier put it well in the House recently: the suggestions that we should do more, the initiative for doing something additional to what has been done by this government, ought to come from those areas in Canada which are looking to the Alberta oil sands as a secure source of supply.

MR. KNAAK: A supplementary to the minister, Mr. Speaker. At the Tokyo conference the Prime Minister made certain commitments with respect to limiting Canada's imports and controlling expansion of de-

mand. Has the federal government been in touch with the minister and, if so, does the federal commitment indicate an accelerated development of the Alberta tar sands and heavy oil developments?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is that I have not yet had any discussions with anyone from the federal government regarding the statements reported to have been made by the Prime Minister at the Tokyo meeting, although I would anticipate — and earlier in the House I indicated that to be the case — meetings later this year with the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in connection with a number of energy matters. I think the items discussed at the recent Tokyo conference would be among those we would discuss.

MR. MUSGREAVE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to either the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources or the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. From your answers to the questions, can we then assume that any accusation of a delay over questions of royalty or taxes is not a delay on our part and that we're willing to negotiate and meet with the federal people?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member seems to be gilding the lily somewhat.

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, we continually hear reports that there is delay and frustration between the two governments. What I want to know is: are negotiations on that very important matter going on at this time?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I've not been involved in discussions with anyone from the federal government regarding the taxation regime for the Cold Lake or Alsands projects. But I understand that discussions have been going on, particularly with the spokesmen for those two projects and the federal government. Of course, as I indicated earlier, I would anticipate the taxation regime, the royalty proposals, to be subjects of discussion at future meetings.

#### Speech Therapy

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Speaker, my question to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care relates to the speech therapy program provided at the Glenrose Hospital to students from the Edmonton education system. A short time ago there appeared to be some dialogue that this service would be discontinued.

I wonder if the hon. minister could advise what progress has been made in resolving the matter of the discontinuation of that program — whether it will be continued or what alternative vehicle is being put in place to continue to provide the program of speech therapy for children.

MR. RUSSELL: I'm pleased to advise hon. members that arrangements have been made for the program to be carried on by the Glenrose Hospital to the end of the current fiscal year, at which time it will be transferred to the department of my colleague the Minister of Social Services and Community Health.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might take this opportunity to respond to some questions asked of me by the Leader of the Opposition on Friday last.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

#### **Energy Company Operations**

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition asked whether there had been any increase in profits by the Willowglen Company, of which Alberta Energy Company is a shareholder. He also asked why Willowglen was not included in the consolidated statement of earnings in the 1978 annual report of the Alberta Energy Company. I indicated that I would take those questions under consideration and respond later in the House as to whether I thought they were appropriate.

I've done that, Mr. Speaker, and have reached the conclusion that it would not be sound practice for me to answer questions which really deal with the management of the Alberta Energy Company as opposed to the government's policy toward it.

DR. BUCK: If it was good you would have told us, Merv.

MR. LEITCH: I would think, Mr. Speaker, that all hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly would quickly agree with that being a sound practice. These questions are really the kind that one would normally . . .

MR. R. CLARK: Embarrass the government.

MR. LEITCH: . . . get by asking company officials for that information at an annual shareholders' meeting when the annual report is reviewed.

Mr. Speaker, to illustrate, I think even the hon. Leader of the Opposition, who is making all the interjections, would agree that it would be most unreasonable if I were asked why some major company — pick a name; Texaco for example — did or didn't include something in its financial sheet, just because we were a shareholder.

DR. BUCK: Who's looking after the \$75 million?

MR. R. CLARK: What about the \$75 million?

MR. LEITCH: I think, Mr. Speaker, it would be perfectly appropriate if a question were asked as to whether we used our position as shareholder to bring about a certain action of the Alberta Energy Company. If the question were in that form, I'd certainly think it was an appropriate one I would be very delighted to answer. In anticipation that that might be asked, I can tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition that we did not use our position as shareholder to influence the form of the balance sheet of the annual report.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, also for his information, I think he will find that Willowglen is included in the AEC annual report.

MR. SPEAKER: Before concluding the question period, I should say that again we had a rather unusually long series of supplementaries on the first question. But I should explain to the House that that

occurred prior to my having indication from a considerable number of other members that they too wished to ask questions. It's simply a matter of fairness. If there aren't many other questions, there's less reason for limiting supplementaries than if I have an indication that there will be a large number of other questions.

May the hon. Member for Bonnyville revert to introduction of special guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to you, and through you to the hon. members of the Assembly, Mr. Albert Desilets, a long-time resident of the Bonnyville community, and his cousin Mr. Rudolphe Desilets, visiting Alberta from Drummondville, Quebec. They are seated in the members gallery, and I would ask that they stand and receive the normal welcome of the House.

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

##### **head: GOVERNMENT DESIGNATED BUSINESS**

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

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

MR. APPLEBY: Committee of Supply will please come to order.

#### **Department of Housing and Public Works**

Agreed to:

1.01 — Minister's Office	\$119,510
1.02 — Deputy Minister of Public Works	\$125,000
1.03 — Deputy Minister of Housing	\$76,000
1.04 — Administrative Support	\$1,132,000
Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$1,452,510

Total Vote 2 — Operation and Maintenance of Water Lines	\$651,000
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Vote 3 — Planning and Acquisition of Accommodation:

3.1 — Administrative Support	\$1,959,000
3.2 — Provision of General Purpose Space	\$42,485,000
3.3 — Grants in Lieu of Taxes	\$10,000,000

#### **3.4 — Telecommunications**

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman I wonder if the minister would elaborate on 3.4 just a bit, please.

MR. CHAMBERS: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I missed the question. Did the hon. leader want me to elaborate?

MR. R. CLARK: That's right.



MR. CHAMBERS: Okay. Basically there's an inflation factor in there of \$950,000 and \$426,000 for new equipment, which I think are the major components of the increase, the new equipment being primarily switch gear.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister: pardon my ignorance, but would you take just a moment and enlighten me at least on why we have \$13 million for telecommunications in Housing?

MR. CHAMBERS: The actual hardware aspect, if you like, of the RITE and WAT systems comes under the Department of Housing and Public Works, whereas the operational aspects are under Government Services.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister: so basically the RITE and WAT systems are involved in this \$13 million?

MR. CHAMBERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Agreed to:

3.4 — Telecommunications	[ \$13,251,000 ]
Total Vote 3 — Planning and Acquisition of Accommodation	\$67,695,000

Vote 4 — Planning and

Implementation of Construction Projects:

4.1 — Administrative Support	\$6,383,000
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#### 4.2 — Advanced Education and Manpower

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister could give us a little on the advanced education aspect of the program?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, if members would refer to Vote 4 in the elements book, 4.2.1 through 4.2.12 list the institutions involved. They include Southern Alberta Institute of Technology student activity centre — I guess I don't have to read out amounts — Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Alberta Vocational Centres at Grouard, Calgary, Edmonton, and Lac La Biche, Keyano College in Fort McMurray, Alberta Petroleum Industry Training Centre in Edmonton, the regional college at Fairview, Lakeland College at Vermilion, Athabasca University, and the regional college at Olds.

Agreed to:

4.2 — Advanced Education and Manpower	\$33,537,000
4.3 — Agriculture	\$1,012,000
4.4 — Attorney General	\$27,183,000
4.5 — Tourism and Small Business	\$240,000
4.6 — Culture	\$4,889,000
4.7 — Energy and Natural Resources	\$7,865,000
4.8 — Environment	\$6,960,000
4.9 — Executive Council	\$1,773,000
4.10 — Government Services	\$931,000

#### 4.11 — Hospitals and Medical Care

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I'd appreciate it if the minister would spend just a moment to outline to us the rationale for Housing and Public Works, especially the

Public Works portion, not 'being involved as far as hospitals are concerned. I ask the question because it seems to me that Housing and Public Works can give some possible benefit to the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care.

So my question really is, Mr. Minister: is there an ongoing system of exchange of ideas, and does the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care get advice from the Department of Housing and Public Works on projects which are going ahead? When they get bids on projects, does the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care rely on its own officials, are they sent to officials of the minister's department, or is there consultation? I raise the question because it seems to me, with all the problems we've heard for the last four or five years as far as costs are concerned — whether the costs are legitimate or otherwise — that the minister's people should be in a pretty good place to give some judgment. It's likely far better that we use the people under Vote 4.11 in this department, than build up a group over in the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care, supposedly in the same capacity as people in Housing and Public Works.

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, the fact is that Hospitals and Public Works do have their own construction groups and do all their own construction in-house, if you like. I should correct that. Obviously they use consultants, the same as Public Works, but they have their entire facility for looking after construction of hospitals without Public Works.

However, as far as consultation, I'd be surprised if various members of Public Works, and Hospitals and Medical Care didn't confer from time to time.

Agreed to:

4.11 — Hospitals and Medical Care	
4.12 — Labour	\$1,150,000
4.13 — Recreation and Parks	\$6,328,000
4.14 — Social Services and Community Health	\$16,731,000
4.15 — Solicitor General	\$9,512,000
4.16 — Transportation	\$3,058,000
4.17 — Education	\$750,000
4.18 — Housing and Public Works — Multiple Use Facilities	[ \$62,393,000 ]
4.19 — Multi-Departmental Services	\$1,000,000
Total Vote 4 — Planning and Implementation of Construction Projects	\$191,695,000

Vote 5 — Policy Development and Financial Assistance for Housing:

5.1 — Policy and Program Development	\$1,405,000
5.2 — Housing Assistance	\$1,578,000

#### 5.3 — Financial Assistance for Housing

MR. L. CLARK: I'd just like to ask the minister: we have Housing Assistance and then Financial Assistance for Housing, and one is up 171 per cent. I wonder if he could explain that?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, the increase under 5.3 essentially reflects an additional \$20.5 million in grants for financial assistance to housing. This includes \$17 million for implementation of the pioneer repair program and to conclude the senior citizens'

home improvement program over the next four years, and \$3.2 million for implementation of the community services program and to continue funding the neighborhood improvement program.

Agreed to:

5.3 — Financial Assistance for Housing	\$32,500,000
Total Vote 5 — Policy Development and Financial Assistance for Housing	\$35,483,000
6.1 — Support Services	\$8,278,000
6.2 — Staff Housing	\$3,152,000
6.3 — Subsidized Housing for Low Income Albertans	\$45,695,000
6.4 — Land Assembly and Development	\$5,378,000
Total Vote 6 — Alberta Housing Corporation: Housing for Albertans	\$34,266,000
7.1 — Support Services	\$3,840,000
7.2 — Mortgage Lending	\$66,545,000
Total Vote 7 — Alberta Home Mortgage Corporation: Mortgage Assistance	\$5,840,000

Department Total \$337,082,510

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, just briefly, I would like to thank the members for the excellent contributions made last Friday and again today, and to assure members who participated in the discussions and debates that we listen carefully. I know a lot of good advice was received, and we will certainly take that into account.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the votes be reported.

[Motion carried]

#### **Department of Recreation and Parks**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. minister any opening remarks?

MR. TRYNCHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I covered my department pretty well in my budget speech, but I would like to mention a few things before we proceed. Firstly, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say how pleased I am with the department staff in co-operating with me as a new minister and with all the new members here and the old ones who have worked with me so we can co-ordinate and bring out the kind of programs we need.

Just touching lightly on our MCR program. It's in effect for 10 years. We're at four-year mark now. We've had 681 applications so far, for \$63,600,000. I might mention, Mr. Chairman, that at the start of that program in 1975, it took approximately 20 weeks to complete an application. We've now reduced that to six weeks, and I'm working on trying to improve that even further. I hope to work with all members and my department to see if we can improve that, because one of the many concerns especially throughout rural Alberta and in the cities is that we take a little too long processing our applications.

Of course, the fault doesn't lie just in one place. Sometimes the information is not there, and they have to send back the forms. We're going to try to streamline that, so we don't have to keep sending back and forth for these answers. Hopefully that will provide us

with a speed-up in application approval and therefore get the projects under way.

I mentioned in my remarks before: \$150,000 to St. Albert for the Summer Games in August this year, with a legacy of \$50,000, and \$150,000 to Grande Prairie for the Winter Games in February.

I think all members should be aware of — and I hope they will use — our new printout sheets, which will be supplied to members on a monthly basis. You will not be receiving any more letters that grants are being approved, as you have in the past. I think this a little more efficient. If any members don't understand it, please contact my office. I have a master sheet of every constituency in the province, which will be updated every month. Hopefully that will give members a chance to respond to their constituents, whether on MCR grants or project co-operation or assistance programs.

Mr. Chairman, one thing bothers me somewhat. I really don't know how to put this, but in recreation it should be my duty to try to encourage Albertans on the whole to burn up energy. The other day we had a question to the Premier that we should be conserving energy. Well, my duty is try to promote programs that will use up the energies of Albertans. I read some of the information I have on hand, that 50 per cent of Canadians are overweight and only 2 per cent of Canadians actively participate in physical exercise once a week. Some of us should probably take heed of some of these things and get involved in recreation programs: promote them for yourselves, for your neighbors, and for your communities.

Mr. Chairman, briefly, in Parks we have a capital budget that goes to \$6 million. I have a breakdown per constituency, and I would be glad to answer any questions on that.

When we speak of parks we should bear in mind a new program, recreation areas, that I hope to initiate some time later. When you look at the number of visitors to the province — last year we had 4 million visitors. Of that, one-quarter, or 1 million visitors, were campers. It tells us very, very strongly that there is a need for more recreation campsite areas.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, my department is a people service department. I want to work with each member here and to provide the people of Alberta the best possible programs we can. With that, I would now like to take questions on my estimates.

Thank you.

Agreed to:

1.0.1 — Minister's Office	\$139,480
1.0.2 — Deputy Minister's Office	\$110,420
1.0.3 — Administrative Support	\$143,945
1.0.4 — Financial Administration	\$445,437
1.0.5 — Personnel Services	\$190,030
1.0.6 — Research and Systems	\$412,925
1.0.7 — Public Communications	\$276,736
1.0.8 — Legal Services	\$52,435
1.0.9 — Special Projects	\$65,695
1.0.10 — Library Services	\$49,500
Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$1,886,603

Vote 2 — Recreation Development:

2.1 — Program Support	\$424,109
2.2 — Financial Assistance	\$29,710,877

## 23 — Recreation Planning

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, I think it's too easy for the new minister to come scot-free without any questions. I would like to have the minister give us a little bit of an outline with respect to recreation planning and some of the new programs he has in mind, just how he's progressing. I hope he treads very carefully in some of the new ventures he's proposing. In any event, I would like to have a little bit of a report on that item.

MR. TRYNCHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure I'm prepared to answer today on what plans we have in recreation development and the programs we hope to initiate. We're looking at a number of ways of improving what we have and trying to implement something better. I don't know if I want to change too much of what we have in place now, except trying to improve what we have. I notice that we fund 100 and some recreation associations throughout the province. I have some concerns there, because I think some of the associations we could be funding are not really recreational. I have to look at that during the summer months and try to put together a package that would bring the kinds of things we want to do for Albertans in a better form.

As a matter of fact, within the next month or two my department will meet with me to take a look at the whole development of my department, both in recreation and parks, and see if we can co-ordinate the two of them and dovetail the programs we have so they better serve each individual throughout the province. But, to the Member for Edmonton Norwood, I don't have a definite program. If she has some suggestions we can improve on, I would certainly be willing to listen.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make some representations. I know that when the hon. minister was first appointed to the portfolio, he very encouragingly embarked on some forecasting of the direction he would like to move insofar as considering providing parks in a great number of the smaller cities, towns, and villages, which may be commendable. But I wonder if the hon. minister can indicate whether he has come to the conclusion of providing for greater utilization of the provincial parks we now have in place. If the weather permits, each weekend people from the major centres very quickly fill to capacity many of the accessible parks. I wonder if the hon. minister has made some examination of making a greater area available for utilizing the existing parks so they could accommodate a greater number of people, not only day visitors but overnight visitors either camping or tenting.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could raise a question on similar lines to the minister, and he can respond when he responds to the Member for Edmonton Norwood. We have a situation in southern Alberta — as matter of fact in the Little Bow constituency — that concerns the Keho Lake campground. The county of Lethbridge has to raise funds to provide for the traffic that goes to Keho Lake campground, and most of the people are from Calgary or urban centres. I think this puts a hardship on the county of Lethbridge. I seem to recall that we changed some legislation a while ago to provide for the minister's depart-

ment to fund municipalities providing this service. I'd like to ask the minister if there's any provision in this year's budget to help counties such as the county of Lethbridge to provide the type of facility they have at Keho Lake in the Little Bow constituency?

MR. TRYNCHY: In reply to the question from the Member for Edmonton Norwood, Mr. Chairman, I'm well aware of the point she makes on recreation areas. I talked about that the first week I was in office, and I will continue with that. As a matter of fact, there has been some misrepresentation or misunderstanding of the classification of parks and of my proposal. The classification of parks has nothing to do with the type of program I want to initiate. All it did was change the existing provincial parks into five categories. The program I'd like to initiate is recreation areas, not provincial parks, and I will work closely with municipalities, town councils, and local groups to provide funds to put these in place. I would work with them in that they would operate these recreation areas, funded by us.

The Member for Lethbridge West raises a point I'm well aware of. To be able to move in that direction, we have to change legislation. With the amendment of my legislation in the fall session, I hope we would be able to provide funding and direction to the municipality. We still want the municipality to operate these parks or recreation areas. I don't like to call them parks, because that's not what they're going to be; they'll be recreation areas, funded through my department.

I feel that some counties, not just Lethbridge but throughout the province, are experiencing a problem in that they raise the funds and the tourists use them. Of course they say, why should we raise local funds and have everybody else use them? That's one thing I'm looking at. But if we can put recreation areas in place, I'd certainly like to see that happen. It will go a long way toward easing the Campground Full signs as we drive throughout Alberta. Hopefully, with the support of members of the House, this can become a reality.

Agreed to:

23 — Recreation Planning	\$357,024
2.4 — Recreation Program Development	\$1,836,617
2.5 — Regional Recreation Consultation	\$1,152,709
Total Vote 2 — Recreation Development	\$33,481,336

## Vote 3 — Provincial Parks

MR. PENGELLY: Mr. Chairman, a question to the minister. Has he any plans for changing the Hoopfer property northwest of Red Deer into a provincial park?

MR. TRYNCHY: On one of my first duties in office, Mr. Chairman, a day or two after I was appointed, I drove to Red Deer because I was asked to visit that area with the MLA for the constituency. We toured the whole Hoopfer property, and it's quite impressive. As members are aware — if they're not, they should be — the property was bought by the provincial government for the use of the city of Red Deer in the future. I would not want to commit a provincial park in that area, because my understanding is that we bought the land for Red Deer; they have an option to pick it up. I'm willing to meet with Red Deer. As a matter of fact, I intend to meet with all other cities in Alberta to see if

we can arrange some type of program to institute urban parks in the future. Of course Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and so on, are all in that category. I'd like to talk to them first and see what their plans are before I commit myself to a provincial park anyplace.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Recreation and Parks. What are the plans for recreation areas in the Kootenay Plains area of west central Alberta?

MR. TRYNCHY: That gives me some difficulty, Mr. Chairman, because the land in the Kootenay Plains is under the jurisdiction of the Associate Minister responsible for Public Lands and Wildlife. We have had some preliminary discussions, and I know three or four sites are now under the jurisdiction of Forestry. I don't have a definite plan in regard to what we can or can't do in the Kootenay Plains, but I'm willing to listen to the hon. Member for Rocky Mountain House and any other members who have proposals we might put together to serve the people of that area and, of course, the touring public on the David Thompson Highway.

Agreed to:

Vote 3 — Provincial Parks:

3.1 — Program Support	\$1,989,844
3.2 — Operations and Maintenance	\$13,766,308
3.3 — Public Education and Interpretation	\$483,006

#### 3.4 — Parks Planning and Design

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise a question to the hon. minister with respect to the provincial parks and the national parks at Banff and Jasper. I know a lot of representations have been made, because a lot of citizens are involved in the two parks systems. Although it may not directly involve the minister as far as roadways are concerned, with respect to the facilities or services provided in the park area, I wonder if the hon. minister has had any discussions with his federal counterpart with respect to a greater degree of co-operation or assignment to the provincial government of some of the area with respect to the two towns?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, no, I've had no discussion with my federal counterpart. As you're well aware, Jasper and Banff parks are within the national system and are under federal jurisdiction. My department has no authority in that regard, but certainly I'd be willing to discuss matters of interest to both of us. I'm not sure who is the minister of parks for the federal government or whether it's a lady or a man. But in any case, I would be willing to sit down and discuss matters of the federal parks that might be of benefit to all Albertans.

I want to point out that I would like to see under my portfolio a park such as Kananaskis, and possibly other parks throughout the province, that might be as good as or better than Jasper or Banff. Then they would have to come to discuss with us how we're doing these things, and we would not have to go to them.

MRS. CHICHAK: Right, Mr. Chairman. I think the hon. minister has opened a remark I was hoping I

would hear from him: developing Kananaskis and any other parks to bring them up to a level where they would have a greater impact on tourist attraction, particularly along the Eastern Slopes. Maybe have some greater designation of park development and involvement, but keep in mind that any development in this area should enable citizens of all means to enjoy them, so that these parks, or the facility that may be developed for park visitation and recreation, do not become the price tag for the elite but are available to citizens of all income levels.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have that question from the hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood, because I too feel it's very essential that the parks we provide in the province do not become out of reach for the ordinary person.

I mentioned in my speech some 10 days ago that Kananaskis is just that kind of park, where ordinary persons can go and enjoy themselves. I want to point out again that we have made a concentrated effort to provide services for the handicapped at the Evans-Thomas junction. We'll have trail facilities where you can use a wheel chair, get right up against a lake and fish from a well-stocked lake. You'll have paved trails throughout the woods where you might use a wheel chair, and facilities such as alpine villages specially designed for the handicapped.

I think it's very important that as we look at parks throughout the province, whether in Kananaskis or Lethbridge or Grande Prairie, we do this kind of programming so that everybody — not just the affluent but the not so affluent — can enjoy the facilities we provide.

MR. MACK: Mr. Chairman, does the minister have any plans for developing in the foreseeable future a rest site, let's say between Red Deer and Calgary, such as we have between Edmonton and Red Deer? Anytime we go by these areas they're very, very heavily utilized. I took time one day to stop there myself, and it has a fair bit of the history of Alberta. It's really well used, but above all it provides a service which I believe is extremely important and necessary: a safe place for traffic to go off the main highway and have some opportunity of stretching, running around for the family, wash-room facilities, and so on.

Secondly, particularly between here and Banff, we have lost what we have known for a number of years: the little roadside overnight parking areas or little parks we could pull into and utilize. With the changing of the highway, we have lost those little sites. I'm wondering if there are any plans either to replace them with larger roadside rest [areas] or perhaps the smaller parks we knew at one time?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, I should probably inform members that the rest stops along the highway are of course a jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation. I, too, once stopped at that one between here and Calgary to find out what was there. I found it was a really attractive place with a lot of visitors. The comments in the book there show me there is a need for these facilities.

Of course, this is subject to debate, but I would like to see all highway campsites fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Recreation and Parks. We also have Forestry campsites. We have three different de-

partments running campsites: Forestry, Transportation, and my department. It might be better if there were some way to co-ordinate all three. I intend to raise some discussions with my colleagues in Transportation and Forestry to see if we can work out something that might benefit us. I would hate to see all these campsites — be they along the highway or Forestry — put into one basket and not be able to do the job we should. I think there's room for all three. But whether they should be run separately or jointly is something we should look at. Certainly my amendment to the Parks Act this fall, if passed, would go a long way toward my department's being able to fund a number of these rest sites. As I say, we could also get involved in discussion with the other ministers in regard to highway and Forestry campsites.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister one or two short questions. First of all, I'd like to compliment the government on the move to turn approximately 300 acres in the Fort Saskatchewan area — locally we call it jail property — over to the town of Fort Saskatchewan for an area that can be used for recreational purposes.

I'd like to know if the minister can indicate what negotiations, if any, have been going on with the minister's department and the town of Fort Saskatchewan, and possibly the county, as to what can be developed in that 300-acre plot. As the minister is well aware, the original representation came to the cabinet tour approximately six years ago, and no action whatsoever was taken by the government. It was brought up again at the last cabinet tour, some action taken, and that property now will be in the hands of the town of Fort Saskatchewan.

Can the minister indicate if any plans are being made in conjunction with the minister's department to make that a multipurpose recreational area or possibly a provincial park? I'd just like to know the status of that, Mr. Minister.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, some three or four weeks ago I did meet with the Fort Saskatchewan representation in regard to that exact property. I suggested to the people of Fort Saskatchewan that they might get together themselves and develop some type of program that might be beneficial to the people of Fort Saskatchewan, the tourists, and all Albertans, and come back to me. Up to now they haven't returned for discussion with me, but I'm looking forward to meeting them, I think pretty shortly. I was hoping they would put a plan together and suggest to me and to whatever department, minister, or what have you, who might be involved. We would sit down, go over it, and see if we could come up with something beneficial. My opening remarks with them were to try to arrange it amongst themselves. I understand they have a downtown area where the golf course now is, and they were talking of turning that over to the town and working some type of exchange. I left it with them, and I'm hoping they'll get back to us pretty quickly.

DR. BUCK: Can the minister indicate which levels of government are involved? Or is just the golf club involved? Some of the representations made to me have been ongoing, as I say, for six years, Mr. Chairman. Is the county involved also, or is it just a private club or

the town and a private club? What levels of government are involved?

MR. TRYNCHY: The people who came to see me were a recreation group. I asked them to go back and discuss it with the county, the town, and the recreation people themselves. So there would be three levels involved in Fort Saskatchewan. At this end, the Minister of Housing and Public Works, which of course owns the land, and I, met with them. In the exchange of the land, that's the message we gave them. Surely they should be meeting with the town council, the county — because it's in the county as of now; it's not annexed to the town. I'm sure that's what they're doing. And they haven't been back, because they have quite a bit of work to do before they can come to us with some type of proposal. So those are the levels in the town of Fort Saskatchewan, and here it was with me and the Minister of Housing and Public Works.

DR. BUCK: A supplementary question to the minister. Can the minister indicate if the department has given any consideration to making that land, because it's greenbelt, or anything along the river in the restricted development area into a provincial park?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned just a few minutes ago, I will be looking for urban parks in all centres throughout the province, such as Fort Saskatchewan and the rest of the cities and larger centres. I don't have a timetable for that, but I would hope the proposal they put forward to me will give me some guidance on which way we should go. I hope they would say, okay, let's make this an urban park, a regional park, or a provincial park. We have to start somewhere, and up to now I don't have that direction from them. So I'm waiting for them. I guess it's their move.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman: can the minister indicate if he has in his possession the plans, et cetera, that were given to the cabinet approximately six years ago, when the cabinet was going to respond to the request by the town of Fort Saskatchewan, specifically the golf and curling club, on the utilization of this land? Can the minister indicate if that information is in his or the government's hands?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, I don't have that information. All I have is the sketch they brought with them in regard to where the land is. I can find out if the rest of that data is with the government and get it together. But they didn't bring it to me. If we have it, I'm sure they'd have a copy. They didn't mention it, so I'm not sure.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, possibly the hon. minister can check with the Deputy Premier, because the Deputy Premier was the chairman of the cabinet committee at that time.

A further supplementary: can the minister indicate if the title for the property of the Department of Housing and Public Works, the so-called jail property, has been turned over to the town of Fort Saskatchewan?

MR. TRYNCHY: I can't, Mr. Chairman. That's with the Minister of Housing and Public Works. I can't tell you that.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, in light of the fact that this could be pursued as a provincial park, can the minister indicate if that title has been delivered and, if not, when it will be delivered? I don't need that information for the estimates, but if he could make it available it would be appreciated.

MR. TRYNCHY: I'll get that information for the hon. member.

MR. MAGEE: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I'd like to explore just a little further the minister's interpretation of urban parks in the province. It seems to me we've spent a great deal of money for provincial parks in certain areas of this province. We'll suggest Kananaskis Country, which is somewhat adjacent to a metropolitan centre, and the Willmore Wilderness Park on the road toward Jasper. A great number of people in this province aren't close to a provincial park that is funded by the province, established by the province, operated by the province, and so on. It seems to me the hon. minister is suggesting that urban communities have to make application for provincial parks and work on a grant structure whereby considerable contributions would be made by these municipalities to establish said parks. I would suggest that some \$2,085,000 for parks planning and design does not leave much room for the planning of additional provincial parks in this province. I'm asking the minister what his plans are for increasing this for the coming year as far as planning and design are concerned.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, I guess all members are aware that when you talk about budget you meet before the priorities committee, and of course you do your best to get your allotment up as far as you can. But I'd like to point out to the hon. member that we have some 55 provincial parks. It's true that not everyone is adjacent to a provincial park, but as a matter of fact we do have parks close to Red Deer. Whether we make the property that we were talking about into a provincial park is, of course, something we'd have to discuss with the town of Red Deer and the county. I understand that land is still in the county. The government bought it for the town. So before we make a move and say, this is what we're going to do, I would certainly like to have some serious discussion with the parties involved.

But I do hope that as we move along we can make some headway into urban parks adjacent to or within some of the larger centres. I hope that is something I'll be looking at in the next few months. Whether it takes longer than that, I'm not sure. But of course budgetary restrictions will also put restrictions on how far we can develop, and how quickly. My intentions are to move as quickly as I can with some proposals for more parks throughout the province of Alberta.

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I might be permitted a question to the minister. I wonder if the minister and the department have reviewed the development of ecological reserves in the province, and whether they intend to take any action on that.

MR. TRYNCHY: A good question, Mr. Chairman. I am looking at legislation in regard to these reserves. Hopefully, by the fall session I might have something in place that will allow my department to move in that

direction. At present I cannot give the member a definite answer, because it's something I have just touched on. With the session over and some summer months ahead of me, I hope I might be able to visit some of these reserves and see if we can change some of the legislation to possibly provide the kinds of things the hon. member and I are thinking about.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the hon. minister. If the minister covered this, I apologize. I had to be out for a second. Can the minister indicate what plans there are for further development of parks in the Cold Lake area, and an extension of the park already planned? I do apologize, but can the minister very briefly indicate if that was discussed?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Bonnyville and I will be touring that area on July 18. We have some \$200,000 in the budget for park improvement in the Cold Lake area. I will be making a full-day tour of what we have there now on the plans we should initiate, and will also look at some other sites. So I can't give you a definite commitment as to what we're going to do, but I know we're going to move in that direction. As I mentioned, \$200,000 is available in this year's budget, and I want to see what we have.

So far, I've toured 15 of the 55 parks. I intend to visit them all so I can have first-hand information and knowledge of what's there. It's pretty hard to get it sitting in my office, so that's what I intend to do. As far as any further commitment, I can't give it at this time.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, just one short question to the minister on that matter, if information is available. Is that \$200,000 just for the acquisition of land, or is it to go ahead with projects in the Cold Lake area?

MR. TRYNCHY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In Cold Lake the work scheduled is a boat launch and access road, a park ranger residence, and planning studies.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, no provisions are made in the \$200,000 for additional facilities that have already been started. Is that what the minister is saying?

MR. TRYNCHY: I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, the member can appreciate that when I was appointed to this department the budget was set, and there wasn't any room for change. I don't think I would anticipate any changes in any regard until I've seen what was there. That's why I intend to visit the area. If the \$200,000 isn't going to do what we should be doing, then I'll have to make that a higher priority next year.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I'm not hassling the minister. He doesn't have to be defensive. I'm just asking him what he's going to do with the \$200,000. I think that's a responsible and reasonable question to the minister. He doesn't have to be defensive. Is the \$200,000 just for land acquisition, or can the minister read?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, for the third time, the \$200,000 — I've just announced it twice — is for a boat launch and access road, a park ranger residence, and planning studies in the Cold Lake park.

Agreed to:  
 3.4 — Parks Planning and Design \$2,085,492  
 Total Vote 3 — Provincial Parks \$18,324,650

Department Total \$53,692,589

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, I move the vote be reported.

[Motion carried]

### Treasury

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

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, it's difficult to anticipate what questions members might wish to ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very well. Does anybody have any general comments?

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, in what I would consider a very astute way to start off the estimates, perhaps in general comments I might just ask the minister in which of the votes we find the officials of the department who give the government advice and actually do the work on investments as far as the Heritage Savings Trust Fund is concerned. Is that under Vote 4?

Agreed to:  
 1.0.1 — Provincial Treasurer's Office \$97,810  
 1.0.2 — Deputy Provincial Treasurer's Office \$375,400  
 1.0.3 — Legal Services \$142,800  
 1.0.4 — Administrative Support \$761,100  
 Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services \$1,377,110

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that we only had one hour at this time, I think I should move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, if I might — I'm sure this won't upset the Provincial Treasurer — from our point of view, we only have a very brief question on Vote 4. If the house leader wants to finish the vote, I'd be quite agreeable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I might suggest we also have all the supplementary estimates for the special warrants to be approved, and we only have two minutes left now. So I accept the motion of the hon. Government House Leader.

MR. CRAWFORD: I missed what Mr. Chairman just said.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, we don't have any serious questions on the Treasury estimates. We'd be quite agreeable to unanimous consent to finish these estimates, that will take just a few minutes. It's Vote 4.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate the proposal of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, but we do have resolu-

tions which cover each of these votes, which have to be individually voted upon or agreed upon by the House.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, maybe with unanimous consent we could briefly extend the one hour, which I believe is over one minute from now, impinge a few minutes on the next period to finish Treasury, and then rise.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, but we're also in a procedural difficulty here. We can't extend our time in committee. We can do it through the House, but not through committee.

MR. CRAWFORD: That's not a bad observation, Mr. Chairman. On that basis, I'm going to stick with my earlier motion.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to be constrained to be so agreeable this evening.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. APPLEBY: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration the following resolutions and reports as follows:

Resolved that for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980, amounts not exceeding the following be granted to Her Majesty for the Department of Housing and Public Works: \$1,452,510 for departmental support services, \$651,000 for operation and maintenance of water lines, \$67,695,000 for planning and acquisition of accommodation, \$191,695,000 for planning and implementation of construction projects, \$35,483,000 for policy development and financial assistance for housing, \$34,266,000 for housing for Albertans, \$5,840,000 for mortgage assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

### head: MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

202. Moved by Mr Stewart

Be it resolved that the government of Alberta give consideration to setting up a program to develop and improve grazing on Crown lands that have been lost to brush and tree growth.

The prime objective of this program would be to stimulate livestock production on land that otherwise would lie dormant. Much of this newly productive land would be in existing grazing associations, and should be directed towards new members, preferably beginning farmers.

[Adjourned debate May 31: Mr. Bradley]

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for Wainwright for introducing this motion and other members who have participated in this debate and contributed greatly to the discussion on it, including the members for Bonnyville, Bow Valley, Cypress, Drayton Valley, and Athabasca. This indicates the wide range of interest shown throughout the province in this timely motion by the hon. Member for Wainwright. If the motion is passed and developed, it will have significant impact on increasing the amount of land available throughout the province for grazing.

I should just like to review briefly some of the problems of encroachment and the problems our ranchers have with it. It imposes a financial burden on leaseholders of Crown lands in the foothills. I'd like to discuss this particularly from the viewpoint of southwestern Alberta. In the last 25 years, aspen, poplar, and willow encroachment in the Porcupine Hills has resulted in approximately 75 per cent of the total land area being taken out of production each year. This has resulted in a decreased amount of land available for grazing and has had significant impact on the operations of ranchers in the area and throughout the province.

Firstly, the decreased productivity resulting from the encroachment of these species has increased the cost per head of cattle. Secondly, the tax assessment on leased land does not reflect the decrease in productivity. And thirdly, a very important impact with regards to the watershed: evapotranspiration results in a higher loss of water to the atmosphere. In the long term, this means a decreased flow of water from the watershed. So the encroachment of these species decreases the flow of water in the watershed in the longer term, and that's a very important long-term consideration.

Another problem of encroachment is that it takes place in a patchwork pattern, resulting in a grazing resource much more difficult to use. For example, the brush and trees break up the field and cause a problem with getting cattle evenly distributed for the good use of all the grass available.

I'd just like to turn briefly to the recommendations of the Environment Council of Alberta on forestry operations in the forested areas, page 145, and read Recommendation No. 84, which touches on the problem of encroachment:

84. The Alberta Forest Service should continue to evaluate grazing leases with regard to the possible removal (burning or chemical) of the encroaching forest cover on grazing areas. Where it would be safe to do so and would improve the grazing, without being in conflict with other resource users, partial tree and shrub removal should increase the carrying capacity of the lease.

This recommendation again suggests the timeliness of the introduction of this motion by the hon. Member for Wainwright.

It also raises the question of how the encroached areas should be removed. It suggests burning or herbicide. I would like to suggest one other manner in which the brush could perhaps be removed. I hope my remarks won't start up a range war, but are considered as food for thought as to one other approach which may be taken with regard to the reduction of encroachment of brush.

This has to do with allowing sheep to graze with cattle. That's why I mentioned the possibility of a range war.

I would like to quote from a brief by some sheepmen in the Pincher Creek area, with regard to a pilot project which has been taking place over the last few years on the A-7 Ranch:

The Pincher Creek sheepmen were prompted by lack of pasture five years ago to arrange an Experimental Grazing Project with Mr. John Cross on the A-7 Ranch. This project has been monitored by the Energy and Natural Resources, Grazing Branch.

The project provided summer grazing for sheep and at the same time helped to control the encroachment of brush and weeds on range lands in the area.

This project has been very successful in the control of brush and weeds and has shown the compatibility of grazing sheep and cattle together.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to encourage this sort of approach, where cattlemen and sheepmen agree. An excellent half-hour film has been prepared on this experimental project by Alberta Agriculture. It is interesting to note that John Cross, who is well known in the cattle community of Alberta, has termed the project very successful and very useful to him in reducing willow and aspen cover on his range.

I'd now like to turn to another problem with the encroachment of brush and willow on the Eastern Slopes and another area of concern in the southwestern Alberta foothills and forested area. In southern Alberta along the Eastern Slopes, our users also face another pressure on Crown lands which have traditionally been used for grazing; that is, increased recreational pressure. The Eastern Slopes policy has zoned large tracts of land as recreational, particularly in the Castle and Livingstone areas. To date, traditional grazers have been assured that they will not be removed from their areas until alternatives have been found. The approach suggested by this motion — a decrease in encroachment and improvement in other Crown lands — may ultimately provide alternatives and assure ranchers in my constituency continued grazing on Crown lands in the foothills and forested areas in southern Alberta. I applaud the motion from that viewpoint.

With regard to the general question of improving grazing in the province, one must also keep in mind the grazing reserve program under the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, which should be applauded. Specifically on the motion, I should like to recommend that the policy, if developed and pursued, should apply to all Crown lands. I appreciate the emphasis of the motion toward benefiting beginning farmers. I think that is the proper direction in which we should be going today. Also, I should like to recall for the members the remarks of the hon. Member for Wainwright on the increased cost of land. They are well taken, particularly with regard to return versus the increased cost of land.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for Wainwright for bringing forward this motion. It's very timely, and I would urge all hon. members to support it.

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the discussion in regard to the resolution before you on two basic premises: first of all, as it pertains to agricul-



ture in general; and secondly, as it pertains to this province, indeed this country, and the livestock industry.

The time has long passed for people involved in the livestock industry to depend on wild pasture for the maintenance of their herds. Nor has the time been long passed where one adds another quarter section to one's holding because one wishes to run an extra five head. We in this province have been rather spoiled, I suppose, when it comes to looking at land we use for grazing and the availability of Crown land in the past to those who lived close enough to avail themselves of its use and over the years added to their holdings by lease as they've increased the numbers of their herds.

The time has come when this has to cease. It has ceased in two ways: first of all, the availability of land for lease; and secondly, the knowledge gained by those in the industry who have recognized that if one has to have carrying capacity, it has to be done on improved land. So if an individual has a mix of deeded and Crown holdings, the chances are that any improvements made will be made on the deeded property. Hence the Crown land will eventually keep losing its carrying capacity until it is still held by lease but perhaps has only about 50 per cent of its effectiveness.

We've been under the assumption in this province that when one quarter is finished, there is another there. Sixty-two per cent of the land within the province of Alberta is Crown. That 62 per cent is of course a very large portion compared to 28 per cent of deeded land, if you were to stack one block against the other. Unfortunately, geographic locations and the total of that 62 per cent are not available to any industry, indeed not to the livestock industry itself.

In recognition of the resolution before us, we are talking not only of the use of Crown land ahead, but indeed the loss of Crown land that has been in use in the past. Carrying capacity dictates its use, its value, both to the Crown and indeed to the occupant. So it's timely that we challenge carrying capacities — not only on our own deeded land, but on Crown holdings — firstly, because input costs are high and certainly dictate the end use in the way either the rancher or farmer handles the property within his or her control. Carrying capacities have been depleted over the years by everything from weeds to influx of foxtails, buckbrush, willows, and poplar. Indeed carrying capacities have lost to poor drainage.

The question arises, who has the responsibility for upgrading a Crown lease? I suppose one may be the owner of a deeded parcel, but the paper states you have the right to use that parcel or piece of land as long as you wish or retain ownership. At the expiry of that time, you should turn it over to the next individual involved in agriculture in at least as good shape as when you accepted it. Knowing people in agriculture, it should be in much better shape than when you accepted it. If that is the basic premise, then indeed we have a responsibility to the Crown holdings we're making use of at the present time.

The last four or five years in the livestock industry did not lend themselves to upgrading your own deeded land. Indeed Crown property would have been the last place for expenditure. But with a change in the livestock industry, both financial and in the area, of importance as it is recognized in North America, we in this province find ourselves producing over 40 per cent of the beef in Canada, with an unlimited potential. If

we are to accept any growth, or indeed to stay at an even pace, there has to be a built-in inherent growth even to maintain an ongoing 40 per cent for Canada. If the challenge is provided us to increase that basic holding, to increase that percentage, that challenge will come to Albertans for two basic reasons. We're perhaps one of the few provinces, if not the only province, that could accept that challenge with the availability of alternate sources of grazing. Secondly, we are perhaps in the best position to provide the knowledge of breeding stock that has gone with 40 per cent of total production.

So the demand on the agricultural industry and the livestock business in this province not only depends on those involved, but there is an obligation — a much larger and overriding obligation — to us as a province. What happens if public funds are placed in Crown-owned property? [It is] a subsidy, I suppose, if you look at the end result. The lessee may gain through increased carrying capacity, but he will also pay in dollars and cents for that increased carrying capacity, a fee-for-service base. We as Crown owner have the capital investment in a worthless parcel or a parcel that's productive. The benefits really accrue to all of us, because indeed we all have an interest in Crown land, even though we may not be the prime users.

Mr. Speaker, I personally could think of no better way to invest in this province than investing, first, in property which we own; secondly, in an industry of which we should be very proud, which has a capability of being a prime industry in North America; and, thirdly, in the agricultural field: an opportunity to build, enhance, provide that assurance that we can grow if necessary — and it will be necessary. It depends on the rate and degree of growth.

Someone has stated that if Crown land and deeded land are upgraded and carrying capacities change, there will be a mass influx of people into the livestock business. The providing of good carrying capacities is one thing; an increase of numbers and a flooding of the market is another. They're both systems of control. A bush quarter will remain a bush quarter. Ten years from now, all that will happen is that some of it will get scrubbier, and most of it will get thicker. The value to you and me as part owners of that piece of property: it's a devalued portion of our heritage. If we upgrade that quarter and it provides increased income first of all to an individual who is part of that industry, and because of improvement has that flexibility to change from grazing to another factor in agriculture, then I think we've not only enhanced our opportunity but indeed increased our financial holding in the total portion of Crown.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment all members who have spoken to the resolution and the member who presented it. I would like to support it on behalf of the agricultural community in this province, because I think it gives us the financial flexibility to grow, the flexibility to build the livestock industry and, if we wish to change direction, the springboard to go in another direction of agriculture. On behalf of the agricultural industry in this province, I would like to go on record as supporting the resolution, as it would affect those of us in agriculture and indeed all Albertans.

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. Member for Wainwright conclude the debate?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank the other members who have spoken on this motion. I think the wide range they represent indicates the interest that agriculture has in Crown land in Alberta.

Grazing leases do not hold a high profile in our society. They go on a more or less unassuming course. Agriculture as a whole is our oldest industry, and possibly we take some things for granted.

In addressing this motion, I want to recognize for urban members the multi-use concept of Crown land, and touch for a moment on this aspect of range improvement. With the high percentage of Crown land in this province compared to that privately owned, we have to recognize that we hold a heritage of opportunity for people of all walks of life to make use of it in some way. We have to recognize that our wildlife is synonymous with agriculture and will in some great degree also benefit from any improvement we put into our Crown land. In large part our wildlife are grazers, much as our cattle. If we improve the grazing conditions for our cattle, at the same time we create a better environment for wildlife. This lends itself to improving our whole land-use concept in any area we choose to upgrade.

There's no real way to upgrade our leased land at the present time. The leaseholders have no program to facilitate the improvement of the leases to the magnitude we are addressing. I hope this program will go on to become a reality, because we all recognize that the problem we are addressing is brush control, which is going on year by year in an increasing fashion. Instead of holding our own, we are actually losing ground every year it's left in its present state.

We have all addressed ourselves at one time or another to bringing new industries into this province. I think this is an opportunity to address an industry we have that can be broadly expanded, not only in upgrading the present leases but recognizing that throughout the province much of the land not used at the present time has the potential for grazing, if it's brought into production. I think this program will be ongoing and will never ultimately finish.

We've talked of an industry such as coal, the development of which has been brought on in an orderly fashion, as markets are ready. I think we have to look at our Crown land in much the same manner. It's a program that will be developed as need arises. For that reason we should recognize it as a long-term, eventual goal we can work at as climatic conditions and markets demand. We're very fortunate to have an industry that has at this point in time a great opportunity for advancing and increasing its capacity. We have all the potential ingredients to expand this industry.

I won't belabor the point, because many people have brought up many side issues relative to this motion. I appreciated them all. I am pleased that they were all favorable, and hope the members will see fit to approve this motion, because I think we all recognize it's a step of progress.

With those words, Mr. Speaker, I will leave the debate.

[Motion carried]

210. Moved by Mr. Cook

Be it resolved that the Solicitor General consider the introduction of legislation to enable the granting of licences for the sale and consumption of liquor, beer, and wine at sporting events unconditional upon the sale of food.

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, Resolution 210 would permit the sale of alcoholic beverages at sports stadiums in the province of Alberta. To give you a bit of background, Mr. Speaker, and for hon. members, the ALCB presently is not allowed to license the sale and consumption of alcohol at sporting events. Clearly, a policy change will have to come about, and this Legislature is responsible for making that kind of change.

I've taken the most liberal or extreme position, if you like, in phrasing this resolution to give members the opportunity to discuss the whole range of the topic with some degree of latitude. Several factors are involved. I wouldn't necessarily suggest we permit the sale of mixed drinks at sporting events, but I've included that for members who would like to address that point.

I think the question before the House involves two basic points: is it beneficial at all to permit the sale of alcoholic beverages at sporting events and, if we do wish to permit the sale and consumption of alcohol, we have to look at some of the conditions we would want to apply. Would we like to have this provision for certain professional sports events, and also amateur sports? Are there certain classes of sporting events? For example, would we provide this kind of licence only for professional football or hockey games, or rodeo events, which are of more interest to the rural communities of the province? Those are some of the questions we will have to look at.

I briefly mentioned restricting the kinds of beverages available. Would you as members of the Assembly consider the sale only of beer and wine, the full range, or some combination of those three? There is some concern that beer, if that is the beverage sold, should perhaps not be allowed to be consumed in the stands. The concern there relates to people running up and down the steps of different stadiums and disrupting the events of the day — much like the hon. Member for Clover Bar.

If I could just speak in support of the resolution. Strong social evidence suggests that fans who go to these events drink in large amounts. In fact, I understand from speaking to some people in Calgary that they have to get tractor trailer units to haul away beer and whiskey bottles by the case. In effect, we would be legitimizing an already quite current activity.

There is some evidence in other jurisdictions to suggest that by permitting the sale of beer only, preferably in plastic or styrofoam cups so that the bottles are not there and don't serve as projectiles, in fact there is a great deal more crowd control available to the police, for two reasons. One, there is some control over the licensing and sale of alcohol and, if the situation gets out of hand, there is some onus on the management of a stadium to make sure they provide adequate security and, if they do not, to pull the licence for future events. Second, there is a large degree of peer pressure. Today, if you attend an Edmonton Eskimos or, I presume for those members

from Calgary, a Calgary Stampeders game — probably one from Calgary would want to drink anyway, especially when the Edmonton Eskimos tangle with the Stampeders; I would think them rather depressed and in need of some solace.

Seriously, Mr. Speaker, I think it's true in both Edmonton and Calgary that given an opportunity to take a mickey of rum to keep you warm on a very cold wintry day in November, it might be possible to try to direct the guzzling tendencies of Alberta citizens towards something in control. Perhaps we can handle a glass of beer a little better than a mickey of whiskey. I think there would be more incentive for someone to have one glass of beer rather than try to consume a whole bottle of whiskey, because of the Check Stop concerns they might have as they leave the stadium.

In short, I guess I'm suggesting that if this resolution were to be passed in some amended form to take into account some questions I raised earlier, we might find that while actual consumption might increase a little, rather than having a few people drink to excess a larger number of people would consume a very small amount. There would be social or peer pressure on people not to consume to excess, because the standards, if you like, of the people would be simply to have a friendly glass of beer much as some of the television commercials suggest.

I'd like to conclude my remarks this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, by suggesting that this is a trial balloon, if you like. Hopefully over the summer months and in the fall we will have a chance to go back to our districts and find what kind of public reaction there might be for this kind of resolution, and then come back in the fall and deal with it more fully. Bearing in mind those questions I raised a little earlier, this resolution should be a means to that end. I've purposely taken the most extreme position to give you the greatest degree of latitude to consider this point. I'm looking forward to an interesting debate. Hopefully this fall we can conclude with some sort of plan, if it's acceptable to the Assembly, to bring forth the necessary legislation.

Thank you.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some comments relative to the resolution introduced by the Member for Edmonton Glengarry. I'm trying to seek out why he would want to see a change in legislation, other than the somewhat less than capacity audiences now enjoyed at sporting facilities in the capital city. I wouldn't think that would be his motivation. But in some arguments I hear from him, I have some difficulty as to why the change.

Is he saying that the 41 million gallons consumed last year in Alberta was not enough? Is he asking us if the 21 gallons per drinker in the province last year was not enough? Is he saying that revenue of \$140 million to the province of Alberta from consumption is not enough and we should increase it? With hospital admissions running at 30 to 40 per cent because of alcoholism, is he saying that he wants that increased? Is his concern a result of the motion by the Member for Wainwright about the way our grazing lands are going and perhaps we should be clearing them and growing more barley? Is it because last year in Alberta, according to the report tabled by the Solicitor General, there were only 1,570 imprisonments in this province because of impaired driving and refusing to take the breathalyzer? Is it too low? Is that why? Is it

because there were I don't know how many tens of thousands of infractions under The Liquor Control Act that resulted in 2,065 imprisonments. Is that not high enough? Is that why?

Mr. Speaker, I keep searching for the reasons the hon. member would put this on the Order Paper, other than as a trial balloon to spark controversy amongst Albertans who perhaps don't consume enough now, although it's the highest in the country. I start searching for reasons the hon. member would want this debated. I happen to feel that anybody who goes to a professional sport — certainly football — should have the freedom to watch that sport without the building standards branch having to put another 200 washrooms in for the second half, for the weak bladders.

I'm no Bill Yurko, Mr. Speaker, but I happen to believe that at this point in time in Alberta we have sufficient opportunities for people who want to consume. I quote the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry: requiring semitrailers to haul away the bottles. Is that motivation, if it's accurate, sufficient grounds to change the laws? Are we to assume for one minute that if we do away with mickeys in vest pockets by introducing legislation to enable beer to be drunk, we are going to lower the consumption or help the hauling industry?

No, Mr. Speaker. When I look at the facts in Alberta today — when we see, for example, that we have almost 200 of what are sometimes referred to as the Premier's drugstores, plus two mail order houses where one can obtain alcoholic beverages; when we look at the number of licensed outlets, which now total 3,300 in the province, an increase of about 350 in the past year, I might add; when we see the annual report of the Liquor Control Board, where we now have 1,063 brands to drink, do we need another one in our football stadiums?

Mr. Speaker, I'm not convinced there is any way we could introduce or liberalize drinking at sporting events in Alberta. Unless we made it an omnibus Bill and made them wear seat belts in the stadium, we wouldn't do anything except increase the carnage on the streets and highways of Alberta. Surely all members are aware of the number of people involved in not only traffic accidents but traffic fatalities — I think the figure is six out of 10 — where imbibing alcohol has been involved. Surely, unless we are prepared to say that everybody who attends a sporting event at a major facility would have to take a bus or a public transit vehicle, nobody in their right mind would want to see the increase in consumption of alcoholic beverages. I have great difficulty when the sponsor of the Bill mentions peer pressure keeping people in line. That's what we have now.

MR. STROMBERG: Point of order. Could I ask the hon. member a question . . .

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I would gladly entertain a question if and when I'm allowed to finish my remarks, if that's all right with the Member for Camrose. Now that he's effectively disrupted my thoughts [laughter] which undoubtedly was the motivation behind the hon. member's remarks, I'm almost tempted to take the question.

Seriously, Mr. Speaker, it makes me as a member of the government wonder when on the one hand my colleague the Minister of Recreation and Parks talks

about the fact that over half the people seen by doctors in Canada today are there as a result of dangerous personal habits, be it overeating, overdrinking, over this, or over that, that we would in any way want to give the blessing of this government to liberalizing laws, rules, and regulations that would encourage more consumption of alcoholic beverages by Albertans.

However, I would like to give the hon. member credit and points for introducing a trial balloon, as he called it. I should suggest and remind the member that balloons sometimes blow up.

MR. COOK: From hot air.

MR. GOGO: The hon. member is quite right — sometimes from hot air. In these dying days of the spring sitting, I want to commend him for his inventiveness in bringing in a topic that probably is close to many of the avid golfers in this House. They'll be looking forward, if not to sipping and imbibing at professional football sports in the city of Edmonton, maybe to doing it at their local golf course.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to be noted as against the resolution. Thanks very much.

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could address my question to the Member for Lethbridge West now. Has the hon. member brought representation to the Alberta Liquor Control Board to allow drinking privileges at the Lethbridge race meet? [laughter]

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, one of the functions of a successful MLA in Alberta is the ability . . .

DR. BUCK: To be a Conservative.

MR. GOGO: . . . to respond in a positive way to the wishes of his constituents . . .

DR. BUCK: Way to go, Gordon.

MR. GOGO: . . . or those who in no small way represent the majority of his constituents. When asked if I would intercede on what certainly was a very poor decision by the Alberta Liquor Control Board — and I suggest it was just a mix-up in memoranda — I overlooked my personal views and felt that justice should prevail and, as a result, that problem was resolved.

DR. BUCK: How to weasel out of it, John.

MR. D. ANDERSON: In speaking on this particular motion, Mr. Speaker, I would first like to come to the defence, to an extent, of my colleague the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry. In all fairness to that member, I don't believe his recommendation here today is that we increase consumption, carnage on the roads, the number of people in Alberta hospitals or, indeed, that we as legislators should move to cause more problems in the family because of alcohol, or anything of that nature. I believe — and perhaps either of the hon. members can correct me on that assumption — that the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry introduced this motion in order to see whether it's time for us to change one of the rules and regulations that has

been traditional in this community.

I have to look at both sides of this particular issue. First, on the support side, I believe we should take a number of points into consideration when debating this topic. Some years ago I lived in Spain for about six months and travelled through other parts of Europe. I recall quite clearly that in Spain not only was alcohol consumed and sold at sporting events — the bullfight being one — and in theatres of any sort, but indeed there were pubs in every apartment building and on most streets in Spain. Rather than be a boisterous kind of thing, I used to enjoy going down and taking a drink with a few people in the apartment building I lived in. Their sons and daughters were around and, in that particular kind of setting, drinking wasn't considered a way of doing away with one's inhibitions or intoxicating oneself, but rather as having a refreshment and being involved in a congenial kind of atmosphere. That pretty well prevailed at the sporting kind of events that took place in that particular country.

Secondly, on the positive side of this resolution, at this time I think there's no doubt by any of us who have attended sporting events in stadiums in the last while that liquor is now consumed to a great extent. I recall the last game I was at in the city of Calgary — a football game in the stadium — and underneath my seat was a half bottle of a wine called Red Devil . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame.

MR. D. ANDERSON: . . . and some lady's undergarments, which I don't think were removed to deal with the broader situation raised by the hon. Member for Lethbridge West.

There is no doubt about the consumption there. I guess we always have to ask ourselves: should we in fact have a law which we obviously are not keeping and which we are not going to strengthen in the immediate future?

The third point for this particular resolution is that the mores and traditions of our society are obviously changing and moving toward a more liberal attitude to most things. Is it now time that we as legislators decided that adults should be able to make for themselves the decision where and when they should drink?

Mr. Speaker, those are the positive points for the resolution. If I indeed were to stop here, members may get the impression that I am for this motion. I notice the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry shakes his head and hopes I'll end at this point, but in fact I do have some points of concern.

In answering the questions I've already raised, this is not Europe. We have a society and community that is not oriented to drinking as part of its social life style. In fact for the youth in our society who become of age, to consume alcohol becomes a proof of adulthood, something to do with freedom, showing their newfound ability to move into society themselves. Since there is indeed a great number of young people at sporting events, the great concern is: will that expand? Can we in fact ensure there will not be a great deal of turmoil if it's easily provided, if we don't require that it's almost a hidden sort of thing but an accepted position?

The second point is, will we increase use in general? The hon. Member for Lethbridge West has already outlined in some detail the consumption levels of Al-

bertans and the problems caused because of alcohol. I'm suggesting that at this time I've seen no proof that we will cut back on the amount of hard liquor brought to sporting events in Thermos bottles, and so on, if we sell beer in styrofoam cups. That is indeed a great concern to me. I would not want this Legislature or any other body in this province to move toward encouraging consumption. Before I voted for this particular resolution, I'd have to be convinced we were not doing that.

The third point with respect to traditions and mores is, should they be changing? Should we become more flexible and more liberal with respect to our feelings regarding consumption? I think we have to seriously ask ourselves that question in light of the facts raised by the hon. Member for Lethbridge West. It may be time for us to allow adults to make up their own minds. But if it is, don't we have a corresponding responsibility to ensure they know how to use that properly, and that through the younger years we've dealt with whatever problems our society is facing that encourage people to consume alcohol in an irresponsible manner, as a number are obviously doing in this and other provinces in the country?

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons I would suggest we think at least twice, maybe three times, before we vote on this particular resolution, and that as legislators we have to be very much conscious of the problems associated with liberalizing directions. I'm not opposed. I feel that if we as a society can be seen to be more responsibly moving towards moderate use of alcohol and we can be sure the rules and regulations attached to freeing this kind of thing for our stadiums are there, it's perhaps something we should look at. But surely not until those things are done, surely not until we've made some progress in the area of dealing with alcohol problems.

With those comments, Mr. Speaker, I end my remarks today.

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm one of those who is going to commence by saying: I really hadn't intended to get into the debate, nevertheless ...

I hadn't expected that the debate on this motion would reach this point this afternoon. Nevertheless, inasmuch as I do want to make some remarks, and although I'm not going to be able to complete them this afternoon because most of my material and research that pertains to this motion is in my office upstairs, I will commence with some remarks this afternoon and will adjourn so that I have another opportunity.

Suffice it to say that no doubt it probably took a fair degree of courage — at least I would hope it took some courage — on the part of the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry to put the motion on the Order Paper so it might be debated, and the points of view put across, both the pro and the con. Perhaps I shouldn't indicate at this moment whether my position is pro or otherwise. But if we examine what the motion proposes, the ability the motion would provide for down-the-road action and the results of that action is something that can reach far beyond what may have been realized at the time of the introduction of the motion. It's not simply requiring consideration that legislation be brought forward to enable the various municipalities or sporting organizations involved with the management of sporting facilities, and so on,

to provide to their patrons a social enjoyment, a spirit of enjoyment. It goes far beyond that. Truly, in the basic sense, that is perhaps a vehicle or mechanism that will set a certain action or standard of society that will enable a good many patrons to enjoy.

But, as the hon. Member for Lethbridge West remarked, whether we want absolutely every possibility or feasibility of having the enjoyment of a social spirit involved wherever we are is something we must ask ourselves and our consciences. We have to look at the results in our studies and annual reports of the Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission, at the problems being faced with our young people who are not of adult age and who have access, by legal means or otherwise, to the use of alcohol and then the damage it does with respect to long-term health effects.

We look at the sporting events we all attend and enjoy, the emotional fevers that rise from time to time from the activity we are there to witness and the excitement that's created, the exuberance with which fans display their support for one team or another or for the sport that may be taking place. Now we add on to that, bring to a higher boiling point, or lower the boiling point, if we might call it that, of individual emotions. Those emotional degrees precipitated by what we might call spiritual assistance can certainly bring totally different results that can affect not only the individual who is enjoying the sport, but the way their conduct then affects those around them.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to get into some statistics. But as I don't have them with me, I would like to take this opportunity to adjourn debate. I know the hon. Member for Clover Bar would be very happy to end this afternoon on this note. I adjourn debate, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that we do now adjourn until 8 o'clock this evening, and that we resume in Committee of Supply for further consideration of the estimates of Treasury.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Assembly agree with the motion by the hon. Deputy Government House Leader?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Do hon. members agree that when they reconvene at 8 o'clock this evening, they will be in Committee of Supply?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[The House recessed at 5:25 p.m. and the Committee of Supply met at 8 p.m.]

head: **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**

head: **(Committee of Supply)**

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

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

**Treasury**  
(continued)

Agreed to:

Total Vote 2 — Statistical Services \$1,377,900

Total Vote 3 — Revenue Collection  
and Rebates \$35,678,900

**Vote 4 — Financial Management, Planning and Central Services**

MR. R. CLARK: According to the discussion we had this afternoon, this is where we'd find the personnel responsible for giving the government investment advice, especially in areas related to the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. Mr. Treasurer, could you outline to us on this occasion the procedures followed in that particular area, also some general idea of the background the individuals have? Then I'd like to know if any outside consulting groups are used.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, first, the area involves all investment decisions and operations of government, not just the heritage fund, which is one aspect of the investment of all government moneys. All money is put to work. If it is not going to be used, even on that particular day, it is invested.

The people involved in the financial management area are under Mr. McPherson, the assistant deputy Provincial Treasurer. They number about six, with the support staff approximately the same. They have a background in the investment area. As I recall, details of the then investment group were made available last fall in the Heritage Savings Trust Fund committee, and I'd be happy to provide those details again at that time. They make the day to day decisions on short- and long-term investments.

The question of outside advice is posed by the hon. leader. We do not have on a general or steady retainer, on the basis of constantly receiving daily input from one, two, three, or any particular private firms. From time to time, when there is a major investment decision to be made, we will consult an investment dealer or some company knowledgeable in the area with a national reputation as to the advisability of that particular commercial arrangement, but we do not have anyone who advises us day to day.

We seek advice with respect to the investments of the heritage fund, of course, within the legislative parameters and the three parts of it. We seek advice from all quarters, and welcome advice from the private sector and from this committee as well. Indeed we get much advice on how the heritage fund should be invested. So if members or the hon. leader have advice at this time, we would be prepared to consider it.

MR. R. CLARK: I really wasn't casting myself in the role of giving advice in that area this evening, Mr.

Minister, but more to take some time to appreciate the procedure used in the department when a change in investment policy is first of all suggested, then how it's analysed — the procedure, the involvement of the minister. Could I get some kind of run-down: when an idea comes to the department, where does it go then? How often is the minister involved? Frankly, I would be very interested in the minister's involvement in this management year because, projected to the end of this year, we're talking of something in excess of \$2 billion in the surplus fund of the province, plus the heritage fund.

MR. HYNDMAN: The minister would certainly be involved in any modification or change in policy. When a suggested change is put forward that is worthy of examination, I would probably have it reviewed by the officials of the department, to get their expertise. If it then appeared to be an area worthy of being put forward to the investment committee of the heritage fund, that would be done. As an investment committee they would receive suggestions for investment or, in this case, policy modification or policy change. But a policy matter would involve the minister and probably the investment committee as well.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. In your capacity as minister, are you involved in discussions with regard to the ongoing investment practices of the heritage money and the surplus money once a week or more frequently? Is it when a good suggestion comes up through the department and finally reaches the minister's desk, or when a suggestion is made to the government and is then referred to the department? I'm trying to get some sort of feel for the frequency of the minister's involvement in what is now, I guess, the largest investment pool in Canada, and some would say North America.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, to date I only have a few months' experience to draw upon. But there's no fixed pattern or time for consideration of suggestions for investment. Sometimes three or four in a day could come from all sorts of sources. Sometimes a few days would go by before there is any new suggestion. But when they come forward, if they are of reasonable validity they would be reviewed, and I would suggest they be examined. Therefore they may or may not be recommended by me as minister to the investment committee.

So it's an ongoing thing which can occur on the basis of five or six things happening even on one given day. But sometimes a few days or a week or so could pass without any activity, in which event the existing policies for the heritage fund, which of course have their background in legislation, would be followed in the absence of any stated change.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Mr. Minister, from time to time I'm sure suggestions emanate from the 12 financial management people. I suppose a very crude example would be the decision as to whether the government would invest as heavily as it has in the past in government of Canada bonds. I would assume the decision to invest in government of Canada bonds is made by the investment committee. If a time comes when the financial management people

feel a better return can be gained in other places, where does that decision come?

MR. HYNDMAN: I would think, Mr. Chairman, if the people working daily on the money management area and the people they work with can see from the transactions involved and from the research being done, for example, in the whole area of the Canadian economy over the last year — those working on and trying to predict such things as the eight occasions on which the Bank of Canada raised the interest rate — if those kinds of things can be predicted to a degree and seen as trends coming from within the department by the expertise of those there, then they may well come forward with a recommendation, perhaps, as to a slight shift or modification in the investment portfolio.

There was of course a need to keep a degree of liquidity in the various investments over the past year or year and a half, because interest rates have been pretty hard to predict. The investments have been of a relatively short-term nature. But recommendations could certainly come from the people in the investment area, on whose expertise I would rely, as to a possible modification or change because of what they see coming down the road — say a firming up of interest rates or a long-term rise or fall — which could affect the extent to which and what bonds are purchased, for example.

MR. PAHL: Mr. Chairman, I had a question with respect to Vote 2. Will we have an opportunity to go back to that matter, or could I ask it now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may go back to it now.

#### **Vote 2 — Statistical Services**

MR. PAHL: Thank you. A question to the minister. I note that there is a budget for co-ordinating land-related information systems in the province. Could the minister tell the committee what sort of priority this will have in this budget as opposed to other years? I understand this has been suggested. In view of the fact that metrication is in process, would this be an appropriate time to put some emphasis on this? What is the emphasis this year as opposed to past and ensuing years with respect to land-related information systems?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't have the detailed answer to the very appropriate question posed. I will get the information with respect to the three-pronged question.

Agreed to:

Total Vote 4 — Financial Management,	
Planning and Central Services	\$16,650,390
Total Vote 5 — Public Debt Service	\$21,046,000

#### **Vote 6 — Public Service Pension Administration**

MR. PAHL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question to the minister. I note that the payment of pensions has increased 21.5 per cent over the previous year. Is that a trend? In effect, what is the trend on budget payments?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, it depends on which pension plan you happen to be looking at. The public service pension plan and the public service management pension plan are the two largest. It's difficult to establish a trend, because it's very difficult to predict how many employees will resign in any given year. I think four or five years' figures are required, or maybe even more, before one can try to predict a trend.

The pension fund is of course the pensions of those under the six pension plans, which are not funded in the legal sense of other pension plans but come from the General Revenue Fund. It's impossible at the moment to predict whether that is a long-term up or down trend. But pursuant to the advice of the Provincial Auditor, which appeared in the '77-78 Public Accounts, we have a study going on now on the whole government pension plan situation. We will await the recommendations with interest.

MR. PAHL: A supplementary, Mr. Chairman. If the trend were of the magnitude suggested here, does that suggest there would be a different way of funding pensions in the future; in other words, make them a self-generating investment rather than general revenue? Is that the direction?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I guess one could place a number of optional interpretations on those statistics. That might be one of them.

MR. MACK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. How soon can we expect to have some report on the study? Are all six plans being studied at the same time, or are you taking them separately and determining the minuses and pluses of a particular plan with regard to the experience within the plan?

MR. HYNDMAN: A good question, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure whether they are all being studied with equal depth. For example, the special forces pension plan just came into effect a matter of months ago, so it could well be excluded. But the two largest, The Public Service Pension Act and The Public Service Management Pension Act, would be under review. Hopefully by the end of this year I anticipate some initial information would be available to enable us to decide on what policy issues are involved and whether any new directions should be taken within six or eight months after that.

MR. COOK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister could indicate what general counselling services he would provide? Secondly, what employee input would there be into the management of employee pension plans? Is there any consultation with employee organizations — for example, AUPE — on the investment of such funds? I'm sorry, I just realized that you invest these in the General Revenue Fund. Is there any management consultation with AUPE on the organization of these funds, though, or any mechanism for consultation?

MR. HYNDMAN: On the second question, Mr. Chairman, I think those involved generally agree that the investment expertise which is brought to bear in investing the moneys, in this case in the General Revenue Fund, is of a high calibre and that therefore the returns to the fund are of a good quality.

On the first question, general counselling is available and is provided to people who are entering one or other of the government pension plans and are alternately looking to be recipients of one of them, perhaps in a year or two. The counselling is available to provide them with a flashlight around the labyrinths of pension law, which I'm finding is very complex, and to give them some indication of their available options, because sometimes the dates on which those various options are exercised can be very crucial. So that's the purpose of the general counselling, of which I am one of the recipients over the last few weeks.

MR. LITTLE: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. I have some concern about this funding you speak of, Mr. Minister. Some of the funds taken over, such as the special services, were vested or funded; that is, securities supported them. Now that no longer takes place. I'm very supportive of the government plans. From personal experience I can tell you they've been very, very generous. But what guarantees are there that this type of funding will continue indefinitely, as opposed to being backed up by securities?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I suppose "indefinitely" is a long time and not heard too often in elected legislatures. But it's under constant review, and I suppose the security at the moment is very good in the sense that the whole province of Alberta and its assets back the existing pension fund.

The hon. member is right, though, in the sense that the pension plans are not funded at the moment and that it's important to keep the trends under careful and close review and to watch the results of the examination we're now carrying forward to see whether any policy modifications are necessary. So we want to be constantly alert.

MR. LITTLE: A supplementary. As I say, I'm very, very happy with the way the government has handled them. But when I use the expression "for an indefinite period", I have another government in mind. Is there any method of guaranteeing that these types of payments will continue?

MR. HYNDMAN: Well, I didn't have another government in mind, Mr. Chairman. [laughter]

I suppose the hon. member is thinking of a modification to pension law in the Legislature, with some new form of full or partial funding. As alluded to indirectly by the Auditor General, and properly so, that is one of the options we'd be looking at, depending on what the study brings up.

MR. LITTLE: A final supplementary to the minister. Were the securities liquidated that were taken over from the plans taken over by the province?

MR. HYNDMAN: No, Mr. Chairman. Some were, but if they're considered by those working in the investment field to be good securities and good assets and likely to increase, a number of them are being retained. On the other hand, if they have reached a stage where, in the view of those applying investment minds, they could properly be liquidated, that has been done. But there are still a good number of them, and they're unique in the sense that the government does not have

any other kinds of some of those securities held. They are and will be retained as long as they're good investments having a good yield.

Agreed to:

Total Vote 6 — Public Service Pension  
Administration

\$79,860,984

MR. CHAIRMAN: We also have for consideration the salary contingency vote on page 415.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, just before we get to that vote, I'd like to ask the minister if he would explain to the committee the present status of reviewing corporate income tax in the province. The minister will recall that about '74 Mr. Miniely unveiled several approaches the government was looking at concerning corporate income tax. That interest rather sat for a period of time. Then the announcement of income tax in this budget, and several times both the Premier and the Provincial Treasurer have talked about some initiatives as far as the corporate-tax structure is concerned. The most recent reference was last Friday, I believe, or one day last week, when the Premier spoke of the decision of the Bank of Montreal to move to Calgary and alluded to the fact that the government was now looking at this whole area. I'd be very interested in knowing at what stage consideration is at this time.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, as mentioned a few months ago, the target is to have the Alberta business incentive and corporate tax plan in effect for the 1981 calendar year, which would mean that we would be aiming for legislation to be presented to the Assembly early next year. Work is proceeding on the Act and on the plan. It will be fairly complex in some ways. But one of the goals will be to try to keep it as simple as possible in terms of its application and benefits to the business community. But work is ongoing.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. What kind of public discussion will be facilitated? I recall the last time major changes were made to income tax in Canada, there was a great period of public discussion. An initial report came out, there was public discussion, then the government came along at a later date and concluded its considerations in the form of legislation. Is that the approach that will be considered by the government? If that's the case, might we be looking at something this fall session, when the government would be in a position to outline its plans in that area, and then a period of a few months until the legislation would come in next spring session?

MR. HYNDMAN: That's certainly a possibility, Mr. Chairman. The basic parameters of the plan, of course, were first introduced by the Premier, I believe, to the Assembly in a ministerial statement of about April 1974, followed about a year later by a more detailed document filed by the then Provincial Treasurer, Mr. Miniely. Those would be the initial base documents. We would perhaps look this fall to providing some greater information to the public as to the basic elements of the plan. I've indicated we would like to hear from the chambers of commerce as to the basic elements set forth in the plan put forward in 1974-75. We'll certainly look forward to public input and suggestions for modifications and improvement over



the course of the winter if a statement is made in the Assembly this fall.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. When the basic elements, to use the minister's term, were initially outlined, I think it would be fair to say that at least some people in the chambers of commerce were less than wildly enthusiastic. My question to the minister would be this: in preparing themselves for the discussion this fall, should members of the Assembly consider the basic elements as outlined in 74-75 initially by the Premier, then the more detailed statement by Mr. Miniely, as an indication of the government's present thinking for corporate income tax revisions?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, certainly the remarks by the Premier in his ministerial statement of 1974 which set forth the goals of such a corporate tax plan and outlined the reasons such a plan was desirable for Alberta would still stand totally, if not 98 per cent. The document filed by Mr. Miniely in 1975 contains, if memory serves me as to its basic elements, the kind of tax incentives we would be looking at. Modifications could well be proposed and decided on in the course of caucus discussion over the next three or four months. But the basic elements, bringing the corporate tax from being tied to the federal plan to having an Alberta plan we can work with, as Ontario and Quebec have, still remain as basic fundamentals.

Agreed to:	
Salary Contingency	\$77,000,000
Department Total	\$155,991,284

MR. HYNDMAN: I move the vote be reported.

[Motion carried]

#### Department of the Solicitor General

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

MR. HARLE: Not at this time, Mr. Chairman. I'd prefer to wait and see what the comments and questions of members might be.

Agreed to:	
Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	
1.01 — Minister's Office	\$137,504
1.02 — Deputy Minister's Office	\$103,976
1.03 — Finance and Administration	\$770,197
1.04 — Personnel	\$626,447

#### 1.05 — Staff Training

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. I would like to ask one or two questions. Number one, how are the Remand Centre and the people who will be staffing it progressing? In the information I have received, the people presently being trained at Fort Saskatchewan will be going to the Remand Centre, and that will leave a shortage of staff at the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution. The two questions to the minister are: when will the Remand Centre be ready? What does the staff situation for the Remand

Centre look like, and what will that do to the Fort Saskatchewan institution as far as shortage of staff?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, the Remand Centre should be open this fall, hopefully September or October. People who are training to take over the Remand Centre are presently on staff. Transfers from the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution to the Remand Centre will occur gradually. There will probably be a need for additional hirings for the Edmonton Remand Centre, but it will not leave the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution short.

DR. BUCK: To the minister, Mr. Chairman, while I'm on the question of the Remand Centre. Can the minister indicate how many people on remand have now been transferred from the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution to the maximum Edmonton Institution?

MR. HARLE: It's probably in the neighborhood of five or six.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. The impression the minister left with the people in the community of Fort Saskatchewan was that we were going to have a rather large movement of people on remand to the Edmonton Institution. I am certainly amazed and, quite frankly, disappointed that all we've really had is a change of five or six people. I find this inconsistent with what we felt was going to be a movement of people on remand in Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution to the Edmonton Institution.

MR. HARLE: First of all, Mr. Chairman, we were dealing only with those in maximum security, and only with those who were likely to continue to cause a problem for the correctional officers in the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution. In the past there have not been such transfers and, as a result of the escape of the five maximum security inmates, steps were taken to move those considered most dangerous to the Edmonton Institution, which is a maximum security federal institution.

Agreed to:	
1.05 — Staff Training	\$359,904

MR. R. CLARK: While we're on staff training, Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could make this comment some place else, but I'll make it here. Mr. Minister, on several occasions I have had expressed to me — by people in the general operations area of the department, people in the various institutions, and people involved with the various law enforcement programs in the province — that there is a certain amount of concern over what appears to be the practice of reaching outside the province and outside the ranks of this department to bring in senior management people. I understand that advertising is going on right now even in the area of licensing supervisors, and that that kind of thing is being done outside the province.

Mr. Minister, I don't aim these remarks at the present deputy minister or Mr. King from the department. I'd simply say that I detect a very genuine feeling that people in that department who are career civil servants, who I think have given pretty generously of their abilities, for one reason or another have developed the

attitude that when it comes to filling senior positions in the department, by one means or another the decision will be made to hire outside the province.

I raise the matter on this occasion, Mr. Minister, because I think it's important to get, I would hope, some sort of decisive statement from you that that clearly is not the priority of the department, and that you as minister would be prepared to do everything possible to hire within the province of Alberta, and certainly within the department. My vibes, if I might use that term, from employees of your department are that if people could see their own superiors moving up to senior positions within the department, as opposed to bringing people from outside the province, central Canada, and the maritimes, that would do a great deal for morale in the department.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I think the whole area of hiring and staffing has to come about through the competitive system. There are certain classifications where we simply can't find the numbers. Correctional staff happens to be that type of situation where we simply can't find the numbers we need. We do seek people from outside Alberta. Naturally I suppose in terms of preference we'd like to see Albertans. But it's not always the case that we can find enough qualified people. I think it's best that we move with the competitive system and open it up for competition from other places in Canada.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Mr. Minister, I used to hear the very same arguments from the department when I was a cabinet minister, that there are no qualified people in Alberta and you have to bring them in from elsewhere. On the rarest of occasions that may be so. But very often, Mr. Minister, what happens is that the buddy system develops. Some deputy minister or someone comes in from outside the province, then it isn't very long until you get people coming in who went to the same university or worked at the same provincial government department that person did in some other province.

Mr. Minister, if you do a little checking around, that has happened in the department you're minister of now. I don't think it's good for morale within the department. I don't think it's always right, either, that we can't possibly find these people in Alberta and have to bring them in from some place else. Sometimes it's two years before they find out where Fort Saskatchewan is. I think to promote our own people has some real merit.

A specific case, Mr. Minister, which I'm advised is going on right now in the department, is that they're looking for northern and southern directors of licensing issuing. My information is that we're advertising outside the province. Now, Mr. Minister, can you tell me just one reason why we wouldn't have people in Alberta who could fill the capacity of a northern and southern director of licensing, registration, and so on? I also understand we're hiring seven or eight people to be under those people and that we're looking outside the province. With the greatest of respect, to be looking outside the province at that level is — I was going to say idiotic, but I'll say very unwise.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I could take the representations of the member and try to get a more adequate response before we end the debate on these estimates.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. If I could offer any advice to the minister on the situation as I see it in Fort Saskatchewan, it would be that, as the Leader of the Opposition said, not only is there the possibility of the buddy system setting in at the upper echelon, the buddy system is there, Mr. Minister. The people who have spoken to me are long-time career civil servants in this province working in corrections. They feel quite a bit of leapfrogging has been going on. If your buddy feels you're going to get an advance, you get an advance. So the trained people who have worked for many years in our correctional institutions feel that they are being overlooked, that they are not getting the advances they are entitled to because of this same buddy system.

Also, Mr. Minister, if I can offer one other word of advice. When we place a man in charge of an institution like Fort Saskatchewan, surely that man who is the director of that institution should not have to wait until his public relations officer or director says, yes you can answer a telephone if a news reporter, M.L.A., or anyone phones; surely you don't have to have permission to make a comment. I find it almost unbelievable that that's the way it operates. But that's the way it operates.

So my advice to the minister is: if you have confidence in the man at the head of your institution, for goodness' sakes let him run the institution without having him phone Edmonton to find out what he's going to do next. We've had so many problems out there because we don't seem to place sufficient confidence in the man we've put in the top position. I think he has the capability to do the job, but let's let him do it.

The last word I would like to say to the minister is that I think we have overloaded the people in the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution responsible for training Remand Centre staff. We are working these people too hard, expecting too much of them. In many cases one person is asked to train 10 other people. It's on-the-job training, not a matter of sitting around and going through books. I think you're demanding too much of the people on staff there now, who are expected to train the new correctional officers for the Remand Centre. If we're demanding that much of them, maybe these are the people we should be moving up.

Mr. Chairman, I try to be as constructive as I can. I wish the minister well, but I would like to say to him that I think it's time he got hold of that department to find out what's happening with some of the upper echelon immediately below the minister. I think that may make his four-year stay that much more pleasant.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I've always appreciated the comments from the Member for Clover Bar, because the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution is in his constituency. Certainly the comments he makes are generally within the knowledge of the community he represents. I can only say I appreciated his representations.

Agreed to:

1.06 — Research, Planning and Evaluation	\$234,272
Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support	
Services	\$2,232,300

**Vote 2 — Correctional Services**

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Is this where we find the probation service?

MR. HARLE: Yes.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Minister, just following the line we've already been discussing, during the last two and a half years there has been a very major roll-over in personnel in the probation service. I'd like to ask the minister: one, if the departmental people and the minister have done any assessment as to the reason for that and, two, if the minister can give us any indication of the turnover rate at this time.

MR. HARLE: I think it's fair to say that a lot of work has been put into the probation area. However, a split is going to occur whereby some of the probation people will be shifted over to Social Services and Community Health, because they're more involved with the family court work than corrections *per se*. There is a fair amount of professional interest in those involved in probation work. I had the opportunity to meet with the president of the association of probation workers. Trying to serve the various masters I suppose probation officers work with — that is, the court system, the correctional system, and the federal parole system, depending on the type of services they render to their clients — is a pretty tough area.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, the question was with regard to the rate of turnover in probation branch personnel.

MR. HARLE: I haven't any specific information on that.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, so the committee can move along, would it be agreeable to review the rate of turnover in the last two years? Could the minister make available to my office that information as far as the probation branch is concerned?

MR. HARLE: By all means, Mr. Chairman. I could take that as a question and respond later in memo form.

Agreed to:

Vote 2 — Correctional Services:

2.1 — Program Support	\$1,037,104
2.2 — Institutional Services	\$30,385,268

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Can the minister give the committee an indication of the cost per day of keeping a person in our correctional institutions now?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I have some figures on that, but it'll take a moment to look them up. Perhaps we could move on, and I'll try to locate them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry have a question?

MR. COOK: It's with regard to 2.4, Mr. Chairman. Could I do it now?

I wonder if the minister could comment on the

number of native people in provincial jails. I was speaking to a professor of law at the University of Alberta, and I understand there is an abnormally large number of people who basically commit minor property offences or are up for alcohol-related charges. Would the native courtworkers program be involved in trying to help native people get out of the correctional system, or in preventive programs on reserves?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Perhaps we could complete the vote on 2.3, Community Corrections.

Agreed to:

2.3 — Community Corrections	\$7,704,105
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MR. COOK: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury is that anxious to get out of the committee that he wouldn't want to go through this estimate in some detail — is the member simply anxious to get out into the summer fun and sun?

DR. BUCK: If you have something more to say, let us know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Perhaps we could go on with the votes, Mr. Minister, and you could give that information later. Or have you got it now?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, on the cost per inmate-day, the figures for '77-78 are \$31 or \$11,247 per year.

MR. R. CLARK: Eleven thousand . . .

MR. HARLE: For Fort Saskatchewan, \$11,247 or \$31 per day per inmate.

MR. COOK: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could restate my question: as a percentage of the whole, how many native people are now in provincial correctional institutions — just a ballpark estimate? Secondly, are there any plans to try to beef up the native courtworkers program to further assist native people involved in the legal system? Finally, is it also true that most of the charges native people are up on are related to crimes of property or alcohol?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I couldn't answer all of those questions without some fair degree of search of statistical material. Suffice it to say that there has been a decrease in the number of natives in correctional institutions, primarily as a result of fine option programs and work with native people in making sure they do not end up in the correctional institution system. It's perhaps not working as much as we would like. But if they do end up in the correctional institution, certainly every effort is made to try to get them on a fine option program wherever possible. A fair amount of work is being done on the reserves in the area of fine option. A lot of time is spent with native courtworkers and the native courtworker system to advise native people prior to getting into court and following sentence.

So a lot more could be done, but I think generally the figures show that the percentage of native people in the correctional system is decreasing.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. With regard to the fine option program, the minister will

recall a program at the University of Calgary funded jointly by the federal government and the province of Alberta. That program had some rather serious problems, one being some legal entanglements in the need for some changes in federal legislation or procedure, it seemed to me. In addition, there was a problem in trying to get the courtworkers, the probation people, and the lawyers together to sign the documents for the fine option.

The concept has a lot to be said for it, Mr. Minister, but if my memory is accurate, last year there were some rather serious problems in implementing what on the surface appeared to be a darned good idea but really hadn't got very much off the ground. Have those problems been alleviated?

MR. HARLE: As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, there are still problems. Certain mechanisms have been worked out in spite of the problems, however, and it's becoming more acceptable to the judges to use those alternatives. It's working reasonably well, but could be improved.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Minister, is there any indication of the number of people who have taken advantage of the fine option? Perhaps not this evening, but could you send over some indication of the use of the program last year as opposed to the previous year, or this year to the previous year.

MR. HARLE: I could do that, Mr. Chairman, and respond by memo.

Agreed to:

2.4 — Native Courtworkers	\$1,005,365
Total Vote 2 — Correctional Services	\$40,131,842

Vote 3 — Law Enforcement:

3.1 — Program Support	\$769,768
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### 32 — Financial Support for Policing

MR. PURDY: Mr. Chairman, just to make a few general comments. I'm not going to be as critical with the minister as I was in 1975, I guess it was, but . . .

MR. R. CLARK: Different minister.

MR. PURDY: Different minister; that's correct.

But I'd like to relate to the minister the force we have west of Edmonton, some of the problems we had in 1973, how they've been rectified since then, and how they've come up on the other side of the scale and things are getting a lot better.

I'm talking about the force the county of Parkland put in place in 1968. It now has 17 members in three different detachments throughout the county of Parkland. The 17 members of the force are of pretty high calibre. They have something like 121 years of service among them, in either the RCMP or city police forces. Any member taken in a training program has been trained through the Edmonton City Police. I think the minister was at the recent graduation class where a couple of the members were at the top of the class.

Last year the force had a pretty enviable record, I think, for some of the things that have happened there.

Even though they don't have the Criminal Code files, they had to answer 250 Criminal Code files which were either turned over to the RCMP or the RCMP asked them to complete the investigation.

The other thing I look at in their statistics is that in 1978 they suspended 80 drivers under the 24-hour impaired suspension in The Highway Traffic Act and the Criminal Code. Anybody who got picked up a second time was then turned over to the RCMP or taken to the Evansburg, Drayton Valley, or Spruce Grove detachments for breathalyzer and charged from there.

We held a meeting with the previous Solicitor General, Mr. Farran, about eight months ago and asked for about 10 different powers under the Criminal Code. I think Mr. Farran was seriously considering granting them. These are driving offences under the Criminal Code, impaired driving, suspended driving. The one they're really looking for is protection of themselves. It seems ludicrous that if they are on duty and get assaulted by an individual, the RCMP has to come in and lay the charge for them. The other charge under the Criminal Code is obstruction of an officer. This doesn't happen very often, but when it does it puts them in a situation of what we call dual policing. You have to have two forces out. Or if the force stops a person for suspended driving or impaired driving, you're tying up two forces for that charge. So I'd ask the minister to reconsider and open the file that was before the previous Solicitor General to see if we can't give that force the related powers under the Criminal Code they've asked for.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I'd also like to ask the minister a question under 3.4, Federal Gun Control. I see we've had an increase of 183 per cent in that vote. My understanding is that gun control is a federal ordinance and should be looked after by the federal government. Why the 183 per cent increase? Are we recovering any of that high increase from the federal government?

MR. HARLE: I'd first like to thank the member for his representations with regard to policing as far as Parkland is concerned.

On the federal gun control issue, all of that is recovered from the federal government.

Perhaps I could just return for a moment to the fine option. In the annual report for '77-78, a total of 20,600 days of incarceration were saved through the fine option program. For the '78-79 period I believe a comparable figure would be 28,354.

On the question of recruiting, officials advise me that as far as motor vehicle licensing is concerned, there is no competition at the present time. Ed Simpson is the regional director in Calgary and has been there for many, many years and of course is promotion within the system. Bill Hogg occupies the same position in Edmonton. So at the present time I'm not aware, nor are officials, of any other managers in recruitment positions at the moment.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, might I suggest to the minister that he check to see if the motor vehicles people aren't looking for a northern Alberta supervisor and a southern Alberta supervisor, also in the area of audits presently being carried on by the motor vehicles people in the department, taking on people to beef up that whole area of auditing. I'd suggest to the minister that he check that out, because I've had several

people from the department raise the same point with me.

MR. HARLE: Certainly, Mr. Chairman, when we can tie it down. I've eliminated one area I thought the hon. member was referring to, and will certainly check the others and respond to him.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister one or two brief questions. The first is on 3.2, Financial Support for Policing. This is one time when I really feel the appropriation could be raised more than 12.2 per cent. The reason I say that to the minister is that if we're going to be able to walk our streets in the cities of Edmonton or Calgary safely, we're going to have to spend some money. We're going to have to do that regardless of whether it's a city police force, municipal police force, or the RCMP. The only way we can have that kind of protection is to spend the bucks, plain and simple.

I would like to illustrate to the hon. Solicitor General. When we were in Quebec City last fall in some of the downtown tourist areas, I asked the cab driver: how safe is it to walk down the streets at 2 o'clock in the morning? He said, you can walk down these streets any time of night without any fear of being mugged or anything happening to you. I said, how does that work? He said, see that car and that car? They're all policemen. He said, it costs us a lot of money, but we can't afford to have tourists or our citizens mugged in our streets. And that costs money.

So I say to the hon. Solicitor General and to the government that as our population is increasing, our crime rate is increasing, and we have to provide some funding to the police forces of this province; number one, to get people so we can afford to have them back on the beat, so we can have more RCMP in the rural areas and the areas they serve. I would like to know from the minister if he's had any contact with the federal Solicitor General to find out if we're going to have more funding and personnel available from the RCMP and, at the same time, if the minister is consulting with his federal counterpart, if they would look at reopening Penhold. If we have to provide more funds from our budget, so be it. But the people of this province are asking for more policing, and I think we can afford to give it to them.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I think the points made are valid in this sense: in 1975, when position paper 19 was tabled in this Legislature, it was decided that a ratio of one policeman per 800 people was adequate for the province outside Edmonton and Calgary, and that that ratio should be 1:550 for the two large metropolitan areas. We have had some trouble maintaining that ratio in the area of the province policed by the RCMP under provincial contract.

I tabled in this Legislature the letter I sent to the new federal Solicitor General. I'll be trying to arrange a meeting with him sometime over the summer. My letter followed up representations made by my predecessor on the same matter. I think all citizens recognize, as the hon. member pointed out, that the amount of policing we require is really what we pay for. There's a certain amount of truth to that. Listening to the representations, I certainly hope that when I come back next year with my budget, we can see some

support for increased expenditures in police grants which are, incidentally, unconditional grants' to municipalities.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, one point to the minister. What discussions have taken place with the minister or his department and his federal counterpart on the shortage of RCMP in the province?

MR. HARLE: I tried to cover that. I have sent the letter. I'm attempting to make arrangements to see the new federal Solicitor General on the topic. As I'm sure the hon. member is aware, all the western provinces that use the services of the RCMP as a police force have notified the federal government that we wish to renew the contract. I think it runs until 1981, and until then negotiations will be going on, not only between individual provinces and the federal minister but between all of the provinces together and the federal minister, to work out an improved contract.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. It seems that every once in a while we hear rumors that we will be looking at a provincial police force in this province. Can the minister indicate if there have been discussions? Is the government contemplating going that route, or just where does that stand?

MR. HARLE: In the question period just a few days ago, I indicated in an answer to a question on that subject that at the present time at least there is no intention to go with a provincial police force. I suppose that option is always available. However, in view of the amount of training and standards that would be needed, as long as we can get adequate service from the RCMP, it seems to me it would be more useful to continue with the RCMP contract.

Agreed to:

3.2 — Financial Support for Policing

\$45,823,328

### 33 — Highway Motor Patrol

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to express a concern about this to the minister. This year's total budget for highway construction and maintenance is some \$300 million, an increase of about \$65 million over last year. To protect that investment from overloads and other injuries, we are now prepared to expend some \$2.2 million, a minuscule increase of \$118,000. Most of us who drive on the highways of this province know full well the damage that can be done in the springtime by overloads. I wonder whether it would be worth while to increase this particular program. I'm a little concerned about the money we're spending on highways and the small amount we're prepared to spend to protect those highways.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, this is the only part of the system which falls within the area of the Solicitor General, and covers the vehicles and the mobile scales they use. The general scales located on all major highways, of course, fall under the Department of Transportation. So to get the total picture, you'd have to look at both budgets.

DR. REID: A supplementary to the minister. It's exactly the mobile ones I'm concerned about. The oil rigs and heavy lumber trucks tend to function in areas where they are not going past the scales that come under the Minister of Transportation. They are precisely the loads that are breaking up the secondary highway system and some of the numbered highways such as 47 and 40, which carry tremendous numbers of these loads. I seldom see an inspection vehicle around. If you try to report an overload you've seen, it's very difficult to get anything done about it. In view of the investment, it might be worth spending a little more to protect that investment in next year's budget.

Agreed to:

3.3 — Highway Motor Patrol	\$2,239,465
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### 34 — Federal Gun Control

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, a question to the minister. Is there any way we receive money back from the federal government for what would seem like such an idiotic expense of \$700,000? The member who spoke previously suggested that Vote 3.3 needs a little more money. I suggest we could get it out of there, because I think of the things the federal government has done, gun control . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member reads *Hansard*, that question has already been answered this evening.

MR. HYLAND: Sorry. Thank you.

Agreed to:

3.4 — Federal Gun Control	\$793,416
Total Vote 3 — Law Enforcement	\$49,625,977

Vote 4 — Motor Vehicle Registration  
and Driver Licensing

4.1 — Program Support	\$4,373,589
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### 42 — Motor Vehicle and Driver Licensing

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Once again, it's my understanding that the department has caused a number of internal audits in this particular area. In fact some people in the department are doing this right now. Is this an ongoing practice, or is there some reason that people, either on contract or employees of the department, are stopping in and doing this auditing at some motor vehicle operations across the province?

Could I ask at the same time for an accounting from the minister as to how successful the arrangement is with the treasury branches selling licence plates? How satisfactory is that to the motor vehicles people?

MR. HARLE: I take it the hon. member is talking about auditing in a financial sense. I'm sure that would be a continuing matter, because not only the department but the various agencies handle a fair amount of funds. We're obviously continually checking in the area of just plain handling of money.

MR. R. CLARK: There is no special auditing now going on that the minister knows of?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I know of some special audits conducted where certain aberrations seemed to show up, and to explain the results, certain additional checks were made.

MR. R. CLARK: Were the aberrations founded or unfounded?

MR. HARLE: So far, the ones that I know about, unfounded; but obviously they naturally sometimes have to mature.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, then to the minister. The minister knows of no cases where either the opportunity to license is being withdrawn or charges are being laid?

MR. HARLE: No, nothing has been evident so far.

MR. GOGO: Now that we're approaching the 75th anniversary of Alberta and the Solicitor General may be getting around to looking at licence plates for next year, is he considering ordering a special licence plate for Alberta vehicles?

MR. HARLE: Not that I'm aware of.

Agreed to:

4.2 — Motor Vehicle and Driver Licensing	\$11,510,428
4.3 — Information Services	\$1,088,265
Total Vote 4 — Motor Vehicle Registration and Driver Licensing	\$16,972,282

Total Vote 5 — Control and Development of Horse Racing	\$1,863,123
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Department Total	\$110,825,524
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MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the vote be reported.

[Motion carried]

### Department of Energy and Natural Resources

MR. CHAIRMAN: This vote was in committee previously, and we had approved 1.1.1, Minister's Office.

Agreed to:

1.1.2 — Associate Minister's Office	\$121,880
1.1.3 — Deputy Ministers' Offices	\$383,181
1.2.1 — Budget and Accounts	\$1,636,406
1.2.2 — Personnel Services	\$1,339,458
1.2.3 — Drafting Services	\$115,506
1.2.4 — Records Management	\$1,732,120
1.2.5 — Executive Director — Administrative Services	\$57,216
1.3.1 — Legal Services	\$83,810
1.3.2 — Scientific/Engineering Services	\$2,016,120
1.3.3 — Economic/Financial Services	\$711,131
1.3.4 — Information Services	\$671,403

### 1.3.5 — Computer Systems

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. What is the present status as far as natural gas prorationing

possibilities are concerned? Earlier in the session I recall the minister answered a question from a member from one of the Edmonton ridings with regard to prorationing. At that time the minister said it would be some time before he had any information. I ask the question, though, from this standpoint: have any steps been taken as far as computer services, either within the department or the ERCB, to prepare for possible prorationing of natural gas in Alberta?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, some initial reviews and work have been done on the possibility of introducing a system of prorationing. It is still an option open to us, although my view is that for the time being at least we ought not to proceed with any implementation of such a system.

There are a number of fairly strong arguments against it. For example, it would be a massive administrative problem. In addition, it would probably require the installation of significant new facilities — pipelines, processing, and things of that nature — to bring on natural gas not now being marketed. Of course that wouldn't result in the sale of any additional natural gas, so in that sense there's some economic waste involved, if you like. We probably would also have to interfere with existing contracts and alter the purchases under existing contracts.

So there are very major problems with the implementation of natural gas prorationing. As I say, it's not an option that's been ruled out. It's still available to us. But my view at the moment is that we ought to await developments in the natural gas marketing area for some while at least before making a final decision. Of course export applications are now before the Energy Resources Conservation Board and the National Energy Board. Should they be approved, that would have an impact on natural gas marketing.

As I have indicated to the House on other occasions, we are working on a program called incentive natural gas pricing which, if implemented, would lead to increased sales of natural gas in Canada. I think we ought to wait at least until those two possibilities for increased sales are fully explored before we give serious consideration to a natural gas prorationing scheme.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Is the minister in a position to outline in a bit more detail the proposition we're looking at as far as incentive for, I guess, primarily the province of Quebec, central Canada, and somewhat throughout eastern Canada to encourage them through price mechanism to use more Alberta natural gas? At what stage is the government's consideration there, and what kind of time line are we looking at, Mr. Minister?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, the time line is very difficult, because a number of other governments are involved in the discussions. They are discussions, and negotiations are involved as well. It's obviously very difficult to predict when those might conclude. But we are pursuing it as rapidly as it can be pursued. We have proposed a reduction in the sale price of natural gas for new markets.

Mr. Chairman, I'm a little hesitant to go into all of these details because, as I indicated, discussion/negotiation is going on and, as I've raised in the House on a number of other occasions, a negotiating

strategy can't be very successful if you tell the people you're negotiating with what it is.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, then to the minister, without trying to tip the government's hand: is the province looking primarily at the province of Quebec? I'm trying to get at the kinds of markets we're targeting at.

MR. LEITCH: The largest potential new market would of course be Quebec. Part of it could be in the areas now being served by the existing transmission system in the Montreal area. But if the transmission system were carried farther east, it would bring a potential significant market in such areas as Quebec City.

A proposal by Q & M Pipe Lines to carry the transmission system to two of the Atlantic provinces, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, is before the NEB. A competing proposal by TransCanada, which would extend the existing transmission systems into Quebec City but service the Atlantic provinces with propane, is before the NEB.

Agreed to:

1.3.5 — Computer Systems

\$522,977

### 1.3.6 — Energy Resources Research Fund

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, I have a question to the minister. I'm not concerned as much with the 7.3 per cent decrease in the projections for the energy resources research fund, but I am concerned with the comparable '77-78 actual as compared to the '78-79 forecast of a shortfall of approximately \$5.7 million. I would like to know, sir, if the \$5.7 million is going to be picked up this year, is this money going to be attributed to any significant programs? I might add a second part to that: why was the \$5.7 million not used previously?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure I followed the hon. member's mathematics. Perhaps he could lead me through them.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, please note that the comparable '77-78 actual given figure was approximately \$3,693,000, whereas the comparable '78-79 forecast is \$9,333,000, a shortfall of approximately \$5.6 million. Yet the '79-80 estimate comes back to a decrease of \$8,651,000.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, the question was how the shortfall would be picked up. I think the answer to that is that in 1978-79 we expended \$9,333,000. That's what we're forecasting we will spend in 1978-79, so there's no shortfall. The actual expenditure in '77-78 was approximately \$3,700,000. The actual or forecast expenditure in 1978-79 will be approximately \$9.3 million; then we are budgeting \$8.6 million for 1979-80. So there is really no shortfall. We anticipate expending those sums in 1978-79.

Agreed to:

1.3.6 — Energy Resources Research Fund  
Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services

\$8,651,000  
\$18,223,225

2.1 — Program Support	\$242,783
2.2 — Resource Evaluation	\$4,840,348
2.3 — Resource Planning	\$549,141
Total Vote 2 — Resource Evaluation and Planning	\$5,632,272

### Vote 3 — Minerals Management:

#### 3.1 — Mineral Dispositions

MRS. CRIPPS: Under dispositions, could the minister explain Exploration Review, please?

MR. LEITCH: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. Are we on Vote 3? The hon. member must be referring to a heading in the details of expenditure.

MRS. CRIPPS: Page 47.

MR. LEITCH: I've now found that page, Mr. Chairman. Is it Exploration Review the hon. member wishes to know about? I'll have to do some checking on that. Perhaps we could move on, and I'll come back to it later.

MRS. CRIPPS: Also under that, you have Mineral Agreements. As much of Alberta's agricultural areas are underlain with coal seams, is there a possibility of considering development of long-range guidelines for obtaining this coal and reclamation of the land? Is that a policy of your department?

MR. LEITCH: I'm not sure, Mr. Chairman, that this is the answer the hon. member is looking for. We do, of course, have a coal policy that contains the terms and conditions of coal development within the province, and reclamation of the land disturbed by coal mining is part of that policy.

MRS. CRIPPS: I was thinking in terms of the people who own the land, a policy or guidelines for them to use when dealing with energy resource companies.

MR. LEITCH: I assume, Mr. Chairman, that the hon. member is asking about compensation for landowners — that is, the surface rights owner — when their use of the land or their interest in the land is disturbed as a result of mining operations. I believe the policy there would be contained within the legislation applicable to the acquisition of rights of way by the mineral resource owner or lessee, as the case may be, over the surface. That legislation contains the policy as to how compensation is to be determined and how differences of opinion between the surface owner and the person entitled to work and win the resources are to be resolved.

Agreed to:

3.1 — Mineral Dispositions	\$10,857,582
3.2 — Mineral Revenue	\$3,162,174
Total Vote 3 — Minerals Management	\$14,019,756

Vote 4 — Forest Resources Management

4.1 — Program Support	\$16,168,648
4.2 — Forest Land Use	\$2,364,839

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I may be permitted a comment and a question. The recent report of the

Environment Council of Alberta, The Environmental Effects of Forestry Operations, had a recommendation with regard to the oil and gas exploration industry that seismic trails and other exploration activity in the reclamation process be reforested with 500 seedlings per acre. On further investigation, there is a lack of capacity in Alberta for these companies to procure these seedlings. I wonder if the minister might be able to advise me as to whether seedlings are available from the government nursery to oil or gas exploration companies to fulfil requirements under the reclamation Acts.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, some time ago I reviewed with department officials the capacity of the department to provide seedlings for reforestation, but my memory doesn't serve me at the moment as to whether we have the capacity for the specific purpose referred to by the hon. member. I will endeavor to get that information and respond to him as soon as possible.

If I may return, Mr. Chairman, to the question of the hon. Member for Drayton Valley, as to what was included in Exploration Review. It includes the geophysical inspection branch, and the large number in that particular element would be the geophysical incentive program. It also includes personnel involved in the co-ordination of exploration activities in the green area.

DR. REID: On looking at the supplementary information on reforestation and reclamation, 4.32, there's a Quota Reforestation item. I presume this applies to the people who are cutting lumber under a quota rather than a forest management area contract. Do we reclaim that money via dues or anything else from the people who hold the quotas? Those who are running larger areas on the forest management system are responsible for their own reforestation. Is there a balancing credit somewhere in the books against that item?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is quite accurate in saying that under our forestry management agreements there is a provision whereby the person who holds the tract or licence is required to reforest. Provisions are enforced by the department by way of inspections and that nature.

As to the particular item he raises, I'm not sure at the moment whether that deals only with quota operations. We have some funding in the budget for reforestation of areas that were not reforested some time back. There was no reforestation requirement. We do have funds in the budget where we are now doing some of that each year. But as to the specific question of what we do with the quotas to which he refers, I'll have to do some checking.

Agreed to:

4.3 — Reforestation and Reclamation	\$5,431,101
4.4 — Timber Management	\$3,087,720

MR. R. CLARK: To the minister. I recognize that the minister wouldn't have the details for this question at present, but perhaps he could make the information available. Mr. Minister, wiping out for a moment Vote 4.5, Forest Protection, how close are we to a balance between what we're spending in the area of forest resource management, which would be in the vicinity



of some \$37 million, and what kind of money we take in through various fees and licences?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is accurate. I have reviewed that, but I don't recall the actual numbers at the moment. It's information I will get and supply him.

Agreed to:

4.5 — Forest Protection	\$9,847,562
Total Vote 4 — Forest Resources Management	\$36,899,870
5.1 — Program Support	\$2,511,250
5.2 — Land Disposition	\$1,300,390
5.3 — Land Management	\$4,043,585
Total Vote 5 — Public Lands Management	\$7,855,225

MR. R. CLARK: Just before we pass by this vote, to the associate minister. Mr. Minister, I increasingly hear — I guess the most charitable way to put it — rather disparaging comments with regard to foreign land ownership regulations, the question I raised in the House with regard to voting and non-voting shareholders. Mr. Minister, is the government considering any changes in regulations?

Secondly, I also hear a number of complaints from people both in the Land Titles Office and in the legal profession attempting to fill out all the applications, forms, and everything that goes with that. Mr. Minister, does the government propose to look at any changes, recognizing what appear to be loopholes that one could drive at least a farm truck through in the regulations that just came in in June? Secondly, what about the actual administration and some of the problems of the Land Titles Office with the administration?

MR. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if we go back to 1977, when we had the temporary regulations in effect, until we approved the permanent regulations in June of this year we found that in regard to rural land — and as the hon. Leader of the Opposition stated, in the share structure — there was a loophole which we now feel we have closed. At that time we considered just voting shares, not total shares. In other words, information came to us that, for example, a foreigner would come in and set up three voting shares. He would have one himself; two would belong to Canadians. The other 97 shares would be preferred shares without voting rights. With the voting shares, two of them held by Canadians and one by a foreigner, for all intents and purposes it was a Canadian company, because we only considered the voting shares.

But in effect, the total shares showed that it was actually owned by a foreign corporation. For this reason, Mr. Chairman, we decided that all shares would be counted when we are determining whether a company is Canadian or foreign.

The problems they've run into at the Land Titles Office have mainly been with respect to the monitoring we are doing of urban properties. We have looked at this, there have been problems, and we are monitoring it at this time. We have discontinued Form 5. We say it's not necessary to fill that out, and we have modified Form 4, so in effect I think we have been able

to accommodate those who were questioning the regulations regarding the monitoring of urban lands.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, one further quick question to the minister. When does he anticipate having available the next report on monitoring of urban lands?

MR. MILLER: It's an ongoing thing, Mr. Chairman. When a concern is expressed to us, we look at it and monitor it, and if we feel it should be adjusted, we do it at that time. As I just mentioned, although we passed these in June, we already have discontinued the use of Form 5, and have modified Form 4.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Minister, the question is: when will the results of the monitoring of this urban land be made public?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it's an ongoing process. We've always monitored it, ever since we had the temporary regulations. There was always the monitoring of urban properties.

MR. R. CLARK: Then once a year the minister will make available to the Assembly, or to anyone who wants the information, the results of this ongoing monitoring the minister talks about.

MR. MILLER: No, I never said that, Mr. Chairman. I said we are collecting this information so that it will be available to see the extent that foreign ownership of urban properties is taking place in Alberta.

MR. R. CLARK: The question is: if you're doing this monitoring, when are you going to make the results public? Is the minister going to make that information available to the Assembly once a year? Surely members of the Assembly and the broader public have a right to know the results of the monitoring of urban land.

MR. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we are carrying that out. We have just never tabulated it as such, but that can be done if the Leader of the Opposition so wishes.

MR. R. CLARK: To the minister then: I so wish. Mr. Minister, can you make that information available to us in the reasonable future?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I'll take that under consideration, and if it can be done without too much problem, certainly I'll make it available.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Chairman, a question to the minister, dealing with the new rules respecting share ownership. Could he advise the House whether there is any protection to ensure that we don't have a situation where effective control is in the hands of foreign persons through voting shares, yet they have non-voting Alberta-owned shares, so they are not classified as foreign-owned and are then able to pay out profits through the use of salaries and effectively have the moneys leave the country through that alternate vehicle, although they've met the voting requirements of the new regulations. Are there any safeguards to ensure that that doesn't take place?

MR. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, 50 per cent of the shares have to be held by Canadians, but two-thirds of the directors have to be Canadian citizens, with the idea that the directors control the company.

Agreed to:

Vote 6 — Fish and Wildlife Conservation:

6.1 — Program Support	\$2,821,918
6.2 — Wildlife Services	\$3,265,825

### 63 — Fisheries Services

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister if he may be able to give us a progress report on the development of the Allison Creek brood stock rearing station, and if he could comment on the other positive developments by the government toward enhancing the quality of fishing experience of Albertans.

MR. MILLER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, quite an extensive upgrading process is going on in the fishing industry in Alberta in respect to fish hatcheries and brood stations which we are developing. In particular I know the Allison Creek brood station is of interest to the Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest. Last year we spent something like \$19,000 on a feasibility study. This year we're going to spend \$200,000 on geotechnical expenses. Next year we plan on the construction of a facility to cost between \$4 million and \$5 million. But it's going to be a facility that we can all be proud of, because we're going to produce 2 million spring rainbow trout eggs; 500,000 cutthroat trout eggs; 300,000 brown trout eggs; 500,000 lake trout eggs; and 500,000 brook trout eggs. So there will be fish down there ... [interjections]

AN HON. MEMBER: I don't know about fish, but we'll sure have a lot of eggs.

MR. MILLER: I might also add, Mr. Chairman, that the Caroline project on the Raven rearing ponds is going to be completed this year. We are doing some work on the Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery in Calgary. We also have a very massive program for the Kananaskis that is going to bring fishing into its own in Alberta.

Agreed to:

6.3 — Fisheries Services	\$2,500,115
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### 64 — Public Services & Enforcement of Resource Regulations

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to ask the minister a brief question to do with enforcement officers. I get told by the true sportsmen that the job the enforcement officers have is practically impossible. There's a chronic shortage of staff. The true sportsmen say they really do need some help. So this is one other pitch, twice in one night, where I'm saying that maybe we should look at increasing the budget — which I guess a *bona fide* opposition member is not supposed to do. But I really feel we need some help in the enforcement area. So my representation to the minister is: I think the fellows who are doing a great job

for us could certainly use a little help as far as manpower goes.

MR. MILLER: Well, I certainly appreciate what the hon. Member for Clover Bar is saying, Mr. Chairman. We are going to try to change our structure somewhat out in the rural areas. We're going to regionalize. The idea is better utilization of our staff, with the idea that we can maybe have some who can transfer back and forth easier than under the present system. I thank the member for his input and suggestions.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Mr. Minister, would you go just a little further and explain this regionalization bit? I've seen several regionalization plans that end up with just moving people from one area to another and putting people farther away from, if you'll pardon the expression, where the action is, as far as fish and wildlife people are concerned. A few years ago, I recall a regionalization plan that took place in forestry, when we took the forest rangers out of forestry. Then last year or the year before, we put not the forest rangers but some new people back in. My question to the minister is: what are we going to do with this regionalization? I want to support strongly the point expressed by my colleague from Clover Bar.

We used to have two fish and wildlife people in my constituency. Last year it was cut to one. It's totally impossible for that fellow; a young man very, very keen on the job — the fellow who was there before left the service simply because he wasn't able to do the amount of work that needed to be done in the area. I know the Olds office isn't the only one.

But we've also had real difficulty in the question of morale of fish and wildlife officers over the past three or four years — perhaps I should say several years, to be fair. Certainly, Mr. Minister, I hope you give some very serious consideration to this area. If in another year we see a sizable personnel increase in this area to get the job done, like my colleague I would certainly support such an endeavor.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his remarks. After so many years of what you might call relatively mild winters, this year we've had a build-up in wildlife population, plus the fact that this year — I would like to make the announcement at this time — they are increasing the duck limit from four to eight, with a possession of 16. [interjections] I appreciate that this is a little off the subject, Mr. Chairman, but I want to assure everybody that there's going to be good hunting this fall.

MR. R. CLARK: Now answer the question.

MR. MILLER: Now to get down to the basics. By regionalization, we feel that we will have closer contact and better morale amongst the staff. If a regional officer is in charge of a certain area, he will be able to pinpoint where extra help is needed at specific times and adjust it accordingly, plus the fact that we do need extra help. I guarantee we'll do what we can.

Agreed to:

6.4 — Public Services and Enforcement of Resource Regulations	\$3,834,800
6.5 — Conservation Education	\$587,500

Total Vote 6 — Fish and Wildlife Conservation	\$13,010,158	Development Total Vote 4 — International Assistance	\$412,300.00 \$600,000.00
Total Vote 7 — Syncrude Equity Management	\$410,653	<b>Education</b>	
Total Vote 8 — Foreign Ownership of Land Administration	\$191,498	Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$356,562.24
Total Vote 9 — Oil Sands Research Fund Management	\$1,133,048	<b>Energy and Natural Resources</b>	
Total Vote 10 — Petroleum Marketing and Market Research	\$1,938,800	Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$9,333,000.00
Department Total	\$99,314,505	Total Vote 3 — Minerals Management	\$11,191,808.00

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Chairman, perhaps at this time I could answer the question asked of me by the hon. Member for Edson. His question was specifically with respect to the reforestation charges for quota holders. The system we have in place is that they have an option: they can do the reforestation themselves or they can call on the department to do it. If the department does it, we have a current charge of \$7 per thousand board feet harvested.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the minister like to move that the vote be reported?

MR. LEITCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the vote be reported.

[Motion carried]

**Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure  
of the Province of Alberta for the  
Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1979**

Agreed to:

**Advanced Education and Manpower**

Total Vote 2 — Assistance to Higher and Further Educational Institutions	\$650,403.00
Total Vote 3 — Manpower Development and Training Assistance	\$4,750,000.00

**Agriculture**

Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$1,390,000.00
Total Vote 2 — Production Assistance	\$800,000.00
Total Vote 4 — Rural Development Assistance	\$100,000.00

**Attorney General**

Total Vote 2 — Court Services	\$128,352.00
Total Vote 5 — Protection and Administration of Property Rights	\$70,000.00

**Business Development and Tourism**

Total Vote 3 — Natural Sciences and Engineering Research	\$49,797.00
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**Culture**

Total Vote 2 — Cultural Development	\$268,500.00
Total Vote 3 — Historical Resources	

**Environment**

Total Vote 2 — Pollution Prevention and Control	\$66,570.00
Total Vote 4 — Water Resources Management	\$2,330,000.00

**Executive Council**

Total Vote 1 — Executive Council Administration	\$337,205.00
Total Vote 7 — Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response	\$3,920,500.00
Total Vote 9 — New Ministers' Offices	\$38,000.00

**Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs**

Total Vote 1 — Intergovernmental Co-ordination and Research	\$376,306.00
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**Hospitals and Medical Care**

Total Vote 3 — Financial Assistance for Active Care	\$23,166,364.00
Total Vote 4 — Financial Assistance for Long-Term Chronic Care	\$2,769,714.00
Total Vote 5 — Financial Assistance for Supervised Personal Care	\$2,267,052.00

**Housing and Public Works**

Total Vote 3 — Planning and Acquisition of Government Accommodation	\$1,433,000.00
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**Labour**

Total Vote 5 — Individual's Rights Protection	\$40,000.00
Total Vote 6 — Workers' Compensation	\$555,000.00

**Legislation**

Total Vote 1 — Support to the Legislative Assembly	\$3,749,388.80
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**Municipal Affairs**

Total Vote 2 — Financial Support for Municipal Programs	\$1,771,280.00
Total Vote 3 — Alberta Property Tax Reduction Plan — Rebates to Individuals	\$4,000,000.00

**Recreation, Parks and Wildlife**

Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$140,000.00
Total Vote 2 — Recreation Development	\$50,000.00
Total Vote 3 — Provincial Parks	\$312,000.00
Total Vote 4 — Fish and Wildlife Conservation	\$611,550.00

**Social Services and Community Health**

Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$197,600.00
Total Vote 7 — General Health Services	\$658,000.00

**Solicitor General**

Total Vote 2 — Correctional Services	\$191,790.00
Total Vote 3 — Law Enforcement	\$225,000.00

**Transportation**

Total Vote 2 — Construction and Improvement of Highway Systems	\$30,000,000.00
Total Vote 3 — Construction and Improvement of Rail Systems	\$200,000.00
Total Vote 4 — Construction and Improvement of Airport Facilities	\$7,240,000.00
Total Vote 6 — Transportation Planning and Services	\$436,000.00
Total Vote 7 — Urban Transportation Assistance	\$12,500,000.00

**Treasury**

Total Vote 5 — Public Debt Service	\$1,450,000.00
Total Vote 7 — Public Service Pension Administration	\$5,985,502.00

**Utilities and Telephones**

Total Vote 2 — Utilities Development	\$2,900,000.00
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MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that the supplementary estimates be reported.

[Motion carried]

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: We don't sit again.

MR. CRAWFORD: I thought it might be useful to have the leave, in case. But if the chairman says it's not necessary, that suits me.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. APPLEBY: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration the following resolutions and reports as follows:

Resolved that for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980, amounts not exceeding the following be granted to Her Majesty for Treasury: \$1,377,110 for departmental support services; \$1,377,900 for statistical services; \$35,678,900 for revenue collection and rebates; \$16,650,390 for financial management, planning and

central services; \$21,046,000 for public debt service; \$79,860,984 for public service pension administration; \$77,000,000 for salary contingency.

Resolved that for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980, amounts not exceeding the following be granted to Her Majesty for the Department of the Solicitor General: \$2,232,300 for departmental support services; \$40,131,842 for correctional services; \$49,625,977 for law enforcement; \$16,972,282 for motor vehicle registration and driver licensing; \$1,863,123 for control and development of horse racing.

Resolved that for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980, amounts not exceeding the following be granted to Her Majesty for the Department of Energy and Natural Resources: \$18,223,225 for departmental support services; \$5,632,272 for resource evaluation and planning; \$14,019,756 for minerals management; \$36,899,870 for forest resources management; \$7,855,225 for public lands management; \$13,010,158 for fish and wildlife conservation; \$410,653 for Syn-crude equity, management; \$191,498 for foreign ownership of land administration; \$1,133,048 for oil sands research fund management; \$1,938,800 for petroleum marketing and market research.

Resolved that for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1979, amounts not exceeding the following be granted to Her Majesty: Advanced Education and Manpower: \$650,403 for assistance to higher and further educational institutions, \$4,750,000 for manpower development and training assistance; Agriculture: \$1,390,000 for departmental support services, \$800,000 for production assistance, \$100,000 for rural development assistance; Attorney General: \$128,352 for court services, \$70,000 for protection and administration of property rights; Business Development and Tourism: \$49,797 for natural sciences and engineering research; Culture: \$268,500 for cultural development, \$412,300 for historical resources development, \$600,000 for international assistance; Education: \$356,562.24 for departmental support services; Energy and Natural Resources: \$9,333,000 for departmental support services, \$11,191,808 for minerals management, \$1,786,815 for forest resources management; Environment: \$66,570 for pollution prevention and control, \$2,330,000 for water resources management; Executive Council: \$337,205 for Executive Council administration, \$3,920,500 for disaster preparedness and emergency response, \$38,000 for new ministers' offices; Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs: \$376,306 for intergovernmental co-ordination and research; Hospitals and Medical Care: \$23,166,364 for financial assistance for active care, \$2,769,714 for financial assistance for long-term chronic care, \$2,267,052 for financial assistance for supervised personal care; Housing and Public Works: \$1,433,000 for planning and acquisition of government accommodation; Labour: \$40,000 for individual's rights protection, \$555,000 for workers' compensation; Legislation: \$3,749,388.80 for support to the Legislative Assembly; Municipal Affairs: \$1,771,280 for financial support for municipal programs, \$4,000,000 for Alberta property tax reduction plan — rebates to individuals; Recreation, Parks and Wildlife: \$140,000 for departmental support services, \$50,000 for recreation development, \$312,000 for provincial parks, \$611,550 for fish and wildlife conservation; Social Services and Community Health: \$197,600 for departmental support services, \$658,000 for general health services; Solicitor General: \$191,790 for correctional services, \$225,000 for

law enforcement; Transportation: \$30,000,000 for construction and improvement of highway systems, \$200,000 for construction and improvement of rail systems, \$7,240,000 for construction and improvement of airport facilities, \$436,000 for transportation planning and services, \$12,500,000 for urban transportation assistance; Treasury: \$1,450,000 for public debt service, \$5,985,502 for public service pension administration; Utilities and Telephones: \$2,900,000 for utilities development.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the unanimous consent of hon. members to revert to Introduction of Bills.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

#### head: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### Bill 2

##### The Appropriation Act, 1979

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill No. 2, The Appropriation Act, 1979. 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 the Assembly.

The Bill's contents are self-evident, Mr. Speaker, and reflect the work of the Assembly in Committee of Supply over past weeks.

[Leave granted; Bill 2 read a first time]

#### head: PRIVATE BILLS (Second Reading)

##### Bill Pr. 3

##### The Edmonton Convention Centre Authority Act

MRS. CHICHAK: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill Pr. 3, The Edmonton Convention Centre Authority Act.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few remarks on the principle of the Bill and to reflect on some of the concerns the Private Bills Committee members have expressed and wish me to deal with at this point in the debate. As sponsor of the Bill on behalf of the city of Edmonton, I wish to make a few clarifications and indicate the principle of the Bill.

I indicated on introduction of the Bill that the purpose is to enable the city of Edmonton to establish an authority to develop, maintain, manage, and operate a trade and convention centre. The passage of this

Act by this Legislature places no expression of support or otherwise on the city of Edmonton's establishing of such a centre. I make this comment because some members of the Private Bills Committee were concerned that the public not misread the intention of the passage of this legislation. By the passage of Bill Pr. 3, Edmonton city council will be permitted to set in place an authority through which it feels the development, maintenance, and management of Edmonton convention centre could most effectively and efficiently be operated.

Members of the Private Bills Committee were concerned that the Bill in its present form contains within it some powers which perhaps were greater than those granted to a municipal governing body, and have therefore recommended that some amendments be proposed. It is therefore my intention to propose amendments to sections 3, 4(g), 4(k), and 5(c) during committee study of the Bill, such amendments being in accordance with the recommendations of the Private Bills Committee.

As sponsor of the Bill on behalf of the Edmonton city council, I have communicated to the mayor the wishes of the committee and wish to report at this time that the amendments appear to be acceptable to the council.

[Motion carried; Bill Pr. 3 read a second time]

##### Bill Pr. 4

##### The Stockgrowers' Insurance Company of Canada Ltd. Act

MR. D. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of Bill Pr. 4, The Stockgrowers' Insurance Company of Canada Ltd. Act.

As I indicated on first reading, the Bill incorporates a company that would specialize in livestock and public liability insurance. Specifically, the company intends to deal with exotic breeds of livestock and other livestock groups in the province of Alberta. The situation at the current time is apparently that only one other company deals extensively in that area, a company from outside Canada, Lloyd's of London. This would provide both competition and an Alberta-based company to deal with this specific area of responsibility. The Private Bills Committee has looked at it and recommended its approval.

[Motion carried; Bill Pr. 4 read a second time]

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, in regard to tomorrow's business, not wishing to make any assumptions it might still be worth forecasting that we would hope to do third readings, and mention to hon. members that also on the Order Paper would be Government Motion No. 14, committee study and third reading of the two Bills that have just been given second reading, as well as The Appropriation Act, 1979.

[At 10:19 p.m., on motion, the House adjourned to Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.]

