

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Tuesday, April 28, 1981 2:30 p.m.**

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

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Bill 36**The Provincial Court Judges Act**

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to introduce Bill No. 36, The Provincial Court Judges Act.

At the present time The Provincial Court Act of 1978 has in it certain provisions that relate to provincial court judges. The effect of this Act is really to incorporate all matters dealt with there into a separate piece of legislation. I don't think I'll be seen in any way to be commenting upon it in an argumentative way, but one of the principles is the importance that remains in underlining the independence of the judiciary. That is one of the points raised by the Provincial Judges' Association, the result of which is the bringing forward of this particular legislation.

The matters it deals with, in a very general and summary way, are the qualifications a person must have in order to be appointed to the Provincial Court, the areas of jurisdiction, oaths of office, any requirements upon what you might call the terms of holding office on the part of a judge relative to retirement, remuneration, pensions, and other matters, and of course the make-up and the important role of the Judicial Council.

[Leave granted; Bill 36 read a first time]

Bill 35**The Alberta Research Council Act**

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill No. 35, The Alberta Research Council Act. The purpose of this Bill is to reflect the changes resulting from the adoption of the Alberta Research Council's long-range plan and other relevant modifications to the role and purpose of the council.

[Leave granted; Bill 35 read a first time]

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 35 be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders.

[Motion carried]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. BORSTAD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to file with the Legislature Library two reports recently completed for the Northern Alberta Development Council. The first one is Training Programs Available to Native People in

Northern Alberta. The second is the economic growth study for the lower Peace sub-region.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. OMAN: Mr. Speaker, with your kind permission, it's my privilege today to introduce to you and to this House the finest group of people who have visited this House this year from my constituency. In fact they're the only group to have visited from my constituency this year. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, a fine group of seniors from the Confederation Park senior citizens' centre is visiting us today, some 40 or 44 strong, with their group leader Mrs. Helen MacKenzie, Mr. Brad Bradford, who I believe is their president, and bus driver Bill MacDonald. I would like them to stand, please, and receive the traditional welcome of the House.

MR. APPLEBY: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Member for Edmonton Kingsway, who sits on my right here in the Legislature, I would like to introduce a group of 23 grade 6 students from Westglen school in the city of Edmonton. Their teacher Mrs. Pylyphuk is with them. I would like them to stand and be recognized by the Assembly.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

Lethbridge Northern Irrigation Agreement

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question today to the Minister of Environment is with regard to the government's performance in its negotiations with the Pie-gans in southern Alberta. At the present time some 800 farmers need assurance of water for 100,000 acres. As well there's a concern with regard to an access agreement between the Pie-gans and the government that expires this Thursday. Has the minister reached an agreement? If an agreement hasn't been reached, when will it be reached?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, some time ago the chief of the Piegan reserve and I drafted a joint agreement which was subsequently presented to the band council for ratification. There was some difficulty in the wording of the document, and at the present time we're attempting to sort this difference out. Once that's completed, I hope we will be able to finalize the agreement.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the minister. I think it's very important at this time for the minister to be as definite as possible. Can the minister assure this Legislature and the farmers of the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District that water will be available in mid-May, so they can initiate watering of row and other crops on their lands?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, I have no control over old mother nature, and that may have an impact on whether or not water will be available. I don't foresee, though, that in terms of our negotiations with the Pie-gans there will be any difficulty insofar as water supply during the interim period while we're attempting to resolve some of the differences in the wording of the document.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Could the minister indicate whether the differences are just wording, as he mentioned, certain principles, or the

amount of compensation? Is the compensation to the Piegan reserve still being considered in the amount of \$3 million to \$4 million?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, in the interests of resolving our differences, at this time I wouldn't want to air publicly the shades of difference we're presently attempting to resolve. As you know, the original memorandum of agreement with the chief lapsed some six months or so ago. So if there were any differences insofar as dollar values, it would be primarily to deal with inflation. Since we've had general discussions about the future drafting of a resolution, there are some shades of difference in the total document, which we're attempting to resolve.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Could the minister indicate whether, as a minister responsible for the negotiations, he is directly involved in finalizing this agreement at this time, or is it being worked on by a deputy minister or other officials? And when is the next meeting with the chief to be held, hopefully to sign the formal agreement?

MR. COOKSON: Chief Nelson Small Legs and I are primarily working across the table from each other. We met for five hours yesterday. I met personally with the total band council. Insofar as finalization, I hope it will be in the very near future. It's important that the Piegans themselves be involved in this, but one has to remember that we also have to get concurrence with the federal government on whatever we come up with. After all, they administer the legislation under which the native Canadians operate.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the hon. minister. My question relates to the fact that if we have to involve the federal government, that looks like a three- or four-month delay. That would be my criticism for them today. But has the minister considered an interim agreement so that those some 800 farmers will have assurance that the water will be there? Has the minister considered going the route of an interim agreement rather than waiting for this formalized agreement, which sounds like it may take up to two or three months?

MR. COOKSON: In the original agreement that Nelson Small Legs and I drafted and which was subsequently approved by the band council, there was a provision which took the access into consideration. I guess one of the more important concerns is to be able to get access to the weir and flume at the required time. That's the portion that's terminating, following an earlier interim agreement.

At the present time the water is flowing. We don't perceive any problem insofar as the management of the works. In fact that issue wasn't even raised in our discussions yesterday, because I'm certain the Piegans themselves considered it extremely important that they work positively with the province on a final draft agreement. So it was never considered by either party as a matter of threat or concern in any way whatsoever. I'm sure our native Canadians would be prepared to allow access at any time until the agreement is finalized.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. In light of the fact that the water was unavailable two years ago, could the minister take on the responsibility of assuring himself and farmers that the

attitude of the responsible people on the Piegan reserve is that the agreement will be negotiated, but during the time of negotiation access to the dam, as well as access of water to the irrigation district, will not be terminated?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, the question is really hypothetical. As I've said, I don't visualize that as any great problem. One has to remember that we have access anyway insofar as air transportation in, which we've used in the past. I don't recognize it as a problem. It's a hypothetical question. If something should occur, we'll have to deal with it.

Government Advertising

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my second question is to the Minister of Government Services. It arises from a statement by the Premier of British Columbia indicating that the province of Alberta was going to start an advertising campaign, as well as contribute to an advertising campaign in the provinces of Ontario and New Brunswick, with regard to promoting the position of this government on constitutional patriation, as was indicated by the eight-province agreement on April 16. Could the minister indicate what funds are being expended or have been made available for expenditure on these advertisements, and what is the advertising plan?

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might take that question as notice and advise him at a later date.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Is the minister supplying funds through his department or not? This is a major item of expenditure. If the minister doesn't know that, what's he doing? Is he or is he not?

MR. McCRAE: Well, is he or is he not, Mr. Speaker. There were several questions in the first speech or whatever by the hon. member. Because of what I took to be several questions, I wanted to take it under advisement. But to respond to the general question, yes, there was a commitment to participate with the other provinces in a statement as to the constitutional agreement by the eight premiers several days ago.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Will the money for this advertising campaign come from the minister's budget? If not, possibly the minister could advise this Assembly where the money for that advertising program will come from.

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, I would advise the member that the money will come from public funds. Details as to the specific budget appropriation will be given to him at a later date.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Does he know whether the funds are coming from his budget or not, and has the program been initiated? The minister has not said that they come from his budget.

MR. McCRAE: Well, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is very excited. We've said the funds for the advertising program will come from taxpayer dollars, and yes, the moneys will be funnelled through the Public Affairs Bureau, which is a segment of the Department of Government Services. I

don't know whether he expects me to have a specific budgetary appropriation number in mind. If he does, I'm sorry, I don't.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister. Has he determined what amount of money will be expended? We've established in principle that the money will come from his budget, and that's a good answer. At this point in time has the minister determined the amount of funds and, secondly, what type of distribution of the advertisement will be made?

MR. McCRAE: In response to the first question, Mr. Speaker, the answer is no, I do not know the specific dollar amount involved. In answer to the second question, I cannot at this point give him details as to how the advertising will be distributed. But I'm sure that if he will just be patient for a day or two or whatever time it takes, we can give him the answers.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister with regard to the principle of advertising. Could the minister indicate — and this is government accountability for public funds — when advertising is undertaken by the minister's department, through the Public Affairs Bureau, whether that advertising is done to advertise the programs of the government or to advertise programs of this Legislature?

MR. McCRAE: Well, Mr. Speaker, let me try to regurgitate that one so I can give him a reasonable answer. The question is: are we advertising the programs of the government or the programs of this Legislature? The programs of this government come to the Legislature, if there is time or if we have an opportunity, through the regular budgetary estimate approval program. But in this particular case the whole energy/constitution thing has been handled in a somewhat different fashion and arrangement because of the exigencies and demands of the situation, because it is something that is with us right now, and because it has to be done. So if he's asked me, has it been programmed, or is it in the estimates in a specific amount, we have a general fund there that handles things that come up suddenly that one doesn't anticipate. The moneys are approved in the natural course of events.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the member for clarification. The hon. minister has indicated that the moneys would be expended on advertising that represents commitments of, or programs passed by, this Legislature and advertises those kinds of programs. Could the minister confirm that again?

MR. McCRAE: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I missed that. I wonder if the hon. gentleman would repeat the question?

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. Could the hon. minister confirm that moneys expended for advertising through the Public Affairs Bureau are expended on advertising programs passed by this Legislature?

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, the budget of the Public Affairs Bureau is approved yearly by the Legislature. When we come in and do estimates, we don't review in front of the Legislature and have a detailed program of anticipated advertising expenditures on constitutional matters, energy matters, or any other program. If the

hon. member wishes to ask a question as to plans for advertising in the coming year, to the extent that we have the information available, surely we would answer that during the estimates review. But in the final analysis, yes, the moneys are approved by this Legislature. There's a general sum of money that is no doubt available to catch items such as this. If there isn't, then a special warrant would need to be approved.

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be the final supplementary on this question, apart from the one by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview?

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. minister. There's a very important principle here, and I believe it will take more than one supplementary. The principle is that moneys have been expended on a government program that has not been passed by this Legislature, a program that is not representative of this Legislature. I'm trying to determine . . .

To the minister: could the minister clarify the policy used in using public funds, advertising funds, whether it is used to advertise programs that are passed by this Legislature — I'm not talking about the money for advertising; I'm talking about where it is expended. Is the money expended on programs passed by this Legislature and not on programs that are representative of government or the Conservative Party specifically? That's my question.

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, that's a very argumentative statement, and I don't accept it. If we could hark back some months to when we put together a constitutional brochure and an energy brochure, if the hon. member is suggesting that those are not advertising areas reflective of legislative or government policy, I say it's sheer nonsense. We responded to the wishes of the people of this province. I'd like him to take it out there and do some sort of poll on it, which I recently did. If anything, the urging of the voters is that we should do more advertising.

In response to the specific, as I understand it there was an agreement among the eight premiers that each would participate in an advertising campaign, be it somewhat limited, to put forward the agreement of the eight premiers on the constitutional matter. Surely that is in the interests of this Legislature and the people of Alberta, but perhaps not in the interests of the several members of the opposition. It does reflect the position of this government, and in my view is a legitimate expenditure.

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order to do with parliamentary practice. I don't think it's parliamentary practice for a government minister to have to account for each program, program by program, and ask for legislative authorization for that. The legislative authorization comes in the form of legislation which enables those programs, or the funding for those programs, to take place. The legislation setting up the hon. minister's department has already been passed. Secondly, the budget appropriation is before the House.

Mr. Speaker, my point is that questions along this line are out of order, in that there is no constitutional requirement for programs to be individually authorized by this House.

MR. SPEAKER: With regard to the point of order, it's true that some of the questions have sought detail which ordinarily would be sought through a question on notice

on the Order Paper. But as hon. members know, there are occasions when hon. ministers, probably through very acute perception of what questions are going to come up, have a remarkable amount of detail at their fingertips to give during the question period. So there is a limit to which the Chair should go in intervening in a question of that kind, because I never know whether or not the minister happens to have the detail. But I would think it has now become abundantly clear that the minister does not have the detail here in regard to these questions, and that any further detail should be sought either in the discussion of the minister's estimates or on the Order Paper, but not in the question period.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to put a supplementary question to the hon. minister, if I may, not about the detail but about the principle of the agreement among the eight dissenting premiers to undertake this advertising campaign. My question is: with respect to the expenditures, specifically in the two provinces of Ontario and New Brunswick which are not part of the eight, what is the position of the government of Alberta and the other provinces on the financing of the campaign in those two provinces? Will it be borne exclusively by Alberta or on a pro rata basis with the other seven provinces? What's the position on that?

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take that as notice and give the complete answer on another occasion.

But I would like to say that I'm very disappointed with the members of the opposition who appear not to support the position of the eight provinces, the eight... [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. In fairness to the hon. minister, I must acknowledge that we have had some irregular debate, for which there is very obviously a vehicle available, namely by means of a notice on motion. However, perhaps we could go to the next question.

Constitution — Supreme Court Reference

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the question to the Attorney General. The question deals with Alberta's participation in the presentation being made to the Supreme Court of Canada on the constitutional reference. My initial question is: what is the extent of Alberta's involvement, and what form would it take in the arguments being put before the Supreme Court of Canada?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court case about which the hon. member asks is probably one of the most complex that's ever been presented to a court in Canada, in that three provincial courts of appeal made determinations of the same or similar constitutional reference questions. In each of the three courts of appeal, six provinces were involved. The provincial courts of appeal made different decisions in each case, some judges going one way and some the other. From the beginning it was clear to everyone that the Supreme Court of Canada would have to deal with the matter. The Quebec decision came down very recently. It was made the subject of appeals by both sides, because the federal government was not pleased with the answer to the first question, and of course the provinces were deemed to have lost the second question on a four to one margin.

The province of Alberta was represented in Manitoba

and in Newfoundland by legal counsel from the Department of the Attorney General, and in Quebec by a legal counsel retained in the city of Montreal. All of those being the facts, the presentation to the Supreme Court of Canada, where I believe the province of Ontario has now joined the province of New Brunswick, makes it about as complicated as can be. The province's representations are being made by members of the Attorney General's Department.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Attorney General. Will the Attorney General himself be taking part in the presentation on behalf of the province of Alberta? If not, in light of the importance of the case, could the Attorney General indicate the honorable gentlemen from the minister's department? Will it be the same gentlemen — the deputy attorney general and Mr. Henkel, I believe — who made the presentation on behalf of Alberta in the Ontario case? Will those be the individuals taking the major responsibility for Alberta's involvement?

MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I might note that I have followed, and it is my intention to follow, the tradition that attorneys general no longer appear in person in the courts. There was a time when they did. I realize there is another tradition followed, perhaps in one province, where occasionally they do, but I follow the tradition on the other side. Mr. Paisley, the Deputy Attorney General, and Mr. Henkel, the Assistant Deputy Attorney General responsible for constitutional matters, are handling Alberta's case in Ottawa.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary question to the Attorney General. What outside legal advice has the province of Alberta engaged in preparation for this particular case? Having regard for the fact that the presentations have now started, I ask the Attorney General if he would be in a position to indicate the names of the principal advisors the province has outside the Attorney General's Department.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would want to consider the answer to that, because part of the involvement of other counsel is on the basis of providing legal opinions rather than appearing as counsel, and developing background material and arguments. There are many facets to this. This is a constitutional case of significant proportions, but we have other constitutional cases going on at the same time. In effect the decision in the gas export tax case is in fact a constitutional case, because of course it was decided with reference to the Canadian constitution. It is not the patriation case, but it is another constitutional case. Over the years, speaking even very recently over the past two or three years, those have been numerous.

We have sought numerous opinions from various law firms in the country on differing points, and sometimes would seek two or three opinions on the same point from different areas. Therefore I have no objection to filing some form of document which shows legal firms that have been involved in one way or another. For the purposes of the question, I would just like to consider which ones are involved in the area the hon. member is asking about.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, one additional question. Perhaps I might just make this comment, that I'm refer-

ring to the patriation case.

The last supplementary question would be this. In addition to the Attorney General, has a cabinet committee been set up with which the gentlemen from the Attorney General's Department and outside legal counsel have been consulting, in preparation for their involvement in the patriation case before the Supreme Court? I want to ascertain: is there a cabinet committee, or has the responsibility been left solely on the Attorney General's shoulders. From a political point of view, where in fact have the various people in the Attorney General's Department and outside counsel been getting their advice?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, pretty well all the liaison with legal counsel, whether in the department or out of it, that has taken place has been through me. The cabinet as a whole has several times considered the issues involved, as has the caucus, obviously. But apart from the responsibilities that are obviously those of the Premier and the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, I can't point to a specific committee of cabinet that was formally struck for the purpose of having the carriage of the patriation case.

MR. SPEAKER: We are running a little short of time, considering the number of members who wish to ask questions. I would therefore ask that we try to curtail the number of supplementaries.

Social Workers — Standards of Conduct

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health. It flows from the Ivany report. Is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly whether the department now has in place objective criteria for the evaluation of its social workers, especially those involved in child welfare?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, the broader question of the most recent Ombudsman's report on child welfare in the province is one we have responded to. I've indicated, and it's further committed to in the Speech from the Throne, that there will be a report to the Legislature during the spring session.

I would draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that last spring, during the sitting of this Legislature, various undertakings were made in terms of standards of conduct for employees within the department, including social workers.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly what progress, if any, has been made on the guidelines for the types of disciplinary action that can be taken against a social worker before any such action is referred to the grievance process? I ask the question because of concern over the question of uniform treatment of the department's employees, regardless of location or supervisor.

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice in the general context. I want to be certain that the information I'm providing to the Assembly is provided in its fullest possible context.

I would state that during the past several years there has been excellent progress between the Alberta Association of Social Workers and the government of Alberta on

enriching the standards, on developing through that professional association a more acceptable level of practices and, of course, we are aiming for legislation for social workers which would give the professional association the same kinds of responsibilities other professional bodies have in terms of disciplinary procedures for their own membership.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly whether any consultation took place between the minister or representatives of the minister's office and the regional manager for Edmonton concerning a meeting between the regional manager and regional administrators on March 13, the day after the Ivany report? I've had representation that administrators were given to understand that social workers whose cases received adverse publicity could in fact be terminated.

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, I'll certainly take that question as advisement. I'm not aware of any such meeting. If memory serves correctly, the Ombudsman's report came down on Thursday, March 13. If a meeting took place the following day between senior officials in the department and other officials, I'll certainly check to determine whether or not that happened and, if so, what kind of discussions took place.

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

MR. NOTLEY: On the question of any disciplinary action relating to case workers, can the minister unequivocally assure the House that only the quality of the work will be the criterion, and in no way, shape, or form, would publicity, either adverse or otherwise, be a factor in determining promotion, transfer, or dismissal?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is certainly leading into an area of considerable interest and that I very much welcome the opportunity to examine very carefully. While I'm reviewing the alleged activities that took place on March 14, I'll certainly be looking for answers to those questions as well.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary to the minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. We're short of time. If there's time, we might come back to this.

Abandoned Rail Line Rights of Way

MR. L. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister of Transportation has to do with the abandoned rail lines in the province. Could the minister inform the Assembly where the province is in negotiations with the railroads and federal government for obtaining the rights of way for these lines?

MR. KROEGER: Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't have any detail on that, since the negotiation is not being handled by my department.

MR. L. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary in regard to a specific rail line. Seeing as quite a large portion of the line between East Coulee and Drumheller, which has really not yet been abandoned, is being buried under the road and construction now taking place, would it be

possible at this time to plan a road farther down the valley on a line that has been abandoned for six or seven years?

MR. KROEGER: Mr. Speaker, we have been interested in that stretch of rail bed. Assuming that we do get control of it somewhere down the road, we will consider doing that.

Senior Citizen Rental Housing

DR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Housing and Public Works. Is it correct that an almost zero vacancy rate in rental accommodation exists in Calgary, and that almost 3,000 senior citizens are supposedly on a waiting list for housing in Calgary?

MR. SPEAKER: I have some doubts about that question in the form it was put. If the minister happens to have that information in his department, perhaps it could be dealt with. It seems to me to be a matter for research rather than for the question period.

DR. CARTER: Well, I'd like to try again on something then, please. It's still to the Minister of Housing and Public Works: is the Alberta Housing Corporation encountering any opposition from community groups in Calgary with respect to the locating of senior citizen projects?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, I guess from time to time the corporation does encounter some difficulty in municipalities in gaining acceptance of the project, although after the project is explained to the people, and they recognize that the impact won't be adverse in terms of density, traffic, and so forth, the construction of senior citizens' residences is welcomed in those communities in almost every case. Of course the vacancy rate situation for rental accommodation, whether for seniors or anybody, is quite tight in Calgary right now.

As to the number of 3,000 that the Member for Calgary Millican suggested, I've heard that number, but I've also heard other lesser numbers. I've asked the Housing Corporation to identify more closely, or do a thorough evaluation, as to what is the true waiting list of senior citizens. I hope to have that information before too long.

Small Contractor Assistance

MR. BORSTAD: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Transportation pertains to his recent announcement of the \$30 million of extra funding for the IDs and MDs to assist the small contractors. Can the minister advise how this will be handled? Will it be on a first-come, first-served basis, or will moneys be allotted to each ID and MD?

MR. KROEGER: Mr. Speaker, we have developed a formula we'll be working to. We'll be assigning funds on the basis of need. The displacement of contractors will be one of the criteria we'll be using. The formula is not quite completed, but it's pretty close, and the members will be advised as soon as we have the finalization.

MR. BORSTAD: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. How does the minister plan to target funds to those areas most affected?

MR. KROEGER: Mr. Speaker, we're using a number of criteria. Certainly the impact of lack of activity in those areas where the energy program has been creating problems for us will be one of the factors. Of course we are also as much interested in providing work for small contractors who have been cut loose. We don't want to see any bankruptcies. So it's a twofold thing: we're looking at salvaging those equipment operators on the one side, also providing roads where they're most needed.

Highway Interchanges — Accidents

MR. MANDEVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the hon. Minister of Transportation. Has the minister received representation from citizens' groups with regard to the number of accidents that have been happening on the diamond interchange in the province?

MR. KROEGER: Not specifically, Mr. Speaker. I would need a little more detail.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister any indication or any statistics that would indicate the number of accidents that have been happening on the diamond interchange in relation to the free-flow interchanges in the province?

MR. KROEGER: Mr. Speaker, I would be certain we do. I will take the question as notice and bring some detail.

Garbage Disposal

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Environment. Has the minister a firm policy on garbage disposal, such as land fill or incinerator burning?

MR. COOKSON: The Member for Highwood asks a question that might require some detail, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could just say that each year the department has funds available for siting sanitary landfills and for capital costs, which will probably arise in discussions in the budget. On the basis of this funding, we attempt to encourage the municipalities to upgrade their landfill facilities.

The question with regard to incineration is something on which we have done some research work, and I'm hoping to do further research in that particular area. Perhaps we could come up with some solution to the problem of burning.

MR. L. CLARK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister inform the Assembly who has the authority of issuing the modified landfill sites?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking a question of law or regulation.

Government Advertising

(continued)

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Government Services. Could the minister confirm that the Public Affairs Bureau from his department placed an ad in *The Calgary Sun* of Wednesday, April 22, entitled "Agreed"?

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might take that as notice and advise the hon. member tomorrow.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a second question to the hon. minister. Could the minister confirm as well that public funds for advertising through the Public Affairs Bureau are only used on programs ratified by this Legislature? I believe the minister said that. I want to clarify it as a question.

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, again on a point of order. There is no need for the Executive Council to come to this Assembly and have each individual program approved for funding if there is legislation that enables the government to proceed.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. A very important principle is involved in the discussion of the point of order. Expenditures of funds ratified by this Legislature go towards projects, programs, and legislation that are ratified by this Legislature. I'm trying to determine if that really is the policy of the Public Affairs Bureau of the Department of Government [Services]. Hopefully it is, because that is the point that I wish to make and confirm.

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, if I might attempt an answer to the question. I think it's a good question to put forward. I won't repeat the remarks I made earlier about being disappointed with the attitude of the members of the opposition about this very critical question and the situation where the eight premiers have gotten together to meet a Canadian need, as I see it.

In any event, to come to the specific question: did the bureau place an advertisement in The Calgary Sun on Wednesday last? I don't know; I don't keep up to date on the day to day business of the bureau. If any problems arise or general direction is needed, they get it from the office of the minister, very much so.

In response to the question: are individual advertisements approved by the Legislature here? I thought I'd answered that very clearly before: we approve a budget for the bureau in estimates review, and the advertising goes to advertise programs and to assist in this and that. We also have a certain amount of funds available, I would think, to meet contingency requirements such as the requirement to advertise the Constitutional Accord of the eight premiers. That is exactly what is being done.

MR. R. SPEAKER: [Inaudible] interrupt the minister. My question was very straightforward, no innuendoes. I just wanted to know — and we in the Legislature ratified a budget for the minister. It's his responsibility to expend it. Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to establish the principle of expending those funds, and asking the question — and it requires a yes or no — are the funds that are expended expended on programs ratified by the Legislature; in other words, ratified by this total Legislature? I understand that is a principle and, if the minister spends funds on those kinds of programs, that's all I wish to know, Mr. Speaker.

MR. McCRAE: That's a very clear question, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure the hon. member might want to supplement the answer. The question as to whether or not we advertise only government programs or whatever: we also advertise or communicate government positions on various things. Surely the constitutional and energy situa-

tions are ones which I think demand a government response by way of advertising the government position. So really I suppose it isn't just programs but government attitudes, government positions, on a variety of things. And the constitutional question is one of the most critical that has come up in my experience in this Legislature.

[Two members rose]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Attorney General.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. I rise now with some reluctance, because I'm only going to say something that everyone here knows, and no doubt everyone watching the Assembly this afternoon knows. But because the matter came up by way of a point of order, I would like to address a few words to it.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition, in persisting with his question, which is by itself not objectionable in any way, used the word "ratified" once or twice in regard to approval of programs. To me the meaning of that word is, something that is approved after the event. Or even if it could be used to encompass the meaning of approved under any circumstances, it ignores the way in which anything that is done by a government is at all events approved and has been ever since there's been a parliamentary system. That merely is that in order to do what it is that a minister or, under his authority, a department is to do in the carrying out of public responsibilities, there be the necessary authorization. The necessary authorization is given by legislation, legislation creating a department of government services, agriculture, or anything else, in company with the approval of the Legislative Assembly to the expenditure of appropriate funds.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have said something that the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, that the minister responding to him knows, that the member raising the point of order knows, that I know, and that everybody who is watching us now knows, and only would like to conclude by saying that surely there is nothing very complex about the fact that when the Legislature begins to meet in the spring, an arrangement is made for interim supply ...

MR. NOTLEY: Supplied by a special warrant [inaudible].

MR. CRAWFORD: That's a separate discussion. During that period of time the government operates within the presumed ambit of the estimates, then in due course brings forward the estimates to the Assembly one by one, at which time they have always been approved, if the government is in the position where it has a majority. I don't know what's so complicated about that, Mr. Speaker, and would just say that the persistence on the matter, as if there were some other issue involved, is something that has wasted a good deal of the time of the Assembly this afternoon.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could put a supplementary question to the hon. minister in charge of this program. Bearing in mind what we've just heard from the Government House Leader, is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly whether or not a budget has been drawn up for this advertising program? In view of the minister's obvious policy obligations, has the minister

seen that budget and, if so, is he able to report to the Legislature?

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, we'll be dealing with my estimates either later this week or early next week. [interjections] I'd be more than happy to respond to the questions in detail at that time.

MR. NOTLEY: Have you seen them or not?

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, again on a point of order. The question from the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview is repetitive. That question was answered by the minister. He took it as notice and made a commitment to the Assembly to answer that question later. The question has already been put and is being repeated.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. I'm sure as time goes by we'll continue to learn more about political science . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member on a point of order?

MR. NOTLEY: Yes I am.

My question had nothing to do with the question the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry raised, but in fact related to a perfectly proper question to put to the minister; that is, has a budget been drawn up for this advertising program and, if so, has the minister seen it?

MR. McCRAE: Well, Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member should know, the eight premiers meeting recently . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Have met. Two weeks ago.

MR. McCRAE: . . . agreed to conduct an advertising or communication program across Canada. I believe it was agreed that the province of British Columbia would spearhead that communication program, and a formula would be devised for allocating the expenses to all the supporting provinces, eight in number. I don't see any mystery to it; I don't see anything very complex about it. As the hon. Attorney General suggested, it seems straightforward, and I would think would have the blessing of this House. To expect the premiers to sit down and draft a budget without knowing all the nuances, complications, or advertising situations, I think is pure — I shouldn't say "silly", Mr. Speaker, but I might think that.

MR. NOTLEY: To the hon. minister: we're not asking the eight premiers; we're asking the minister in charge of government advertising . . . [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for the question period expired several minutes ago. Unless the hon. Member for Calgary Currie has a point of order, we'll have to leave the remainder of this perhaps for a future question period.

MR. R. CLARK: The minister can do his homework in the meantime.

MR. SPEAKER: If the Assembly agrees, the hon. Minister responsible for Native Affairs would like to deal further with a point previously raised in the question period. Otherwise we'll have to wait for . . . [interjection]

Is the hon. Leader of the Opposition objecting to the hon. minister reverting . . .

MR. R. CLARK: No, he would have said no if he was.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. I couldn't hear what he was saying.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to apologize for interfering with your decision-making process, but I just felt a period of disgust with this government and had to . . . [interjections] It seemed that there were some appropriate statements that had to be made.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has once more got carried away in some of the things he said. I always think of him with that in mind: him being carried away one way or another. [interjections]

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. This government is so carried away that they really don't understand their responsibility. I know the next election will take care of that. They'll carry them back home. There's that old song, carry me back to good old . . . somewhere. [interjections]

DR. McCRIMMON: Mr. Speaker, in my address last Thursday evening, there was a sentence in *Hansard*: "Over the next two months, we hope to have a financial commitment of \$69 million." That should be \$6 million to \$9 million, not \$69 million.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. Member for Calgary North Hill revert to Introduction of Special Guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. OMAN: Mr. Speaker, I believe the guests have had to leave at this point.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that Question 111 and motions for returns 113, 116, 117, and 118 stand on the Order Paper.

[Motion carried]

head: MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

204. Moved by Mr. Borstad:

Be it resolved that the Assembly urge the government to develop a province-wide land protection and water-management program to control soil erosion, including the planning and design of secondary, tertiary, and resource road rights of way to control water run-off and avoid erosion.

MR. BORSTAD: Mr. Speaker, in speaking to Motion 204, it might be noted that on March 22, 1977, the Hon. Larry Shaben, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake, had a motion before the Legislature:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly . . . urge the government to implement the recommendations contained in the Environment Conservation Authority report on erosion . . . in northwestern Alberta.

My motion today is an extension of the motion presented at that time, although my remarks will be mostly on erosion. Erosion and drainage go hand in hand, which boils down to proper water management.

Although the ECA report refers to northwestern Alberta, erosion control, as related to the movement of water, can be a problem anywhere within the province. Erosion effects are compounded whenever man disturbs the soils or modifies watercourses, as occurs in road building or farming practices. Unless the problem is attacked with a co-ordinated effort, future generations will be faced with insurmountable problems.

I wish to speak on the much broader subject of erosion and drainage, and make some recommendations. Progress on erosion control has occurred since the passage of the motion in 1977, and a number of accomplishments have been made. The provincial/municipal funding formula for erosion control projects has changed to 75:25 from 50:50. Action plans have been drawn up by the provincial departments involved and some new programs have been introduced, yet erosion still occurs at an alarming rate. The solution is a well-planned erosion prevention program, of which this motion will form part, rather than a band-aid treatment.

I'm pleased to see extra funds in the budget this year, which I believe will greatly assist the problem. The inter-departmental action plan produced by representatives of Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources, Environment, Municipal Affairs, and Transportation refers to this problem of drainage and erosion associated with roads as follows:

Energy and Natural Resources recognizes that resource roads can cause siltation and erosion on localized areas. The forest service has undertaken a program of remedial action on a priority basis.

Municipal Affairs, through IDs in Alberta, works with Transportation in dealing with drainage and erosion. Through their road referral program for primary roads, Transportation recognizes the need for design and construction of roads to facilitate drainage and erosion control. They also propose three programs for the future: first, an engineering assistance program to local departments. Engineering assistance and advice will be extended to road authorities of municipal governments on new construction and on erosion problems which currently exist on municipal and local road systems. Road ditches should be used as drainage ditches in selected areas, while adequate engineering and structural work will permit functional and safe use of that roadway. Secondly, financial assistance: financial responsibility will be assumed by the control and abatement of erosion associated with secondary roads as they are constructed within municipalities. Thirdly, erosion control work: extend the use of provincial grants allocated annually to municipalities to include erosion corrective work on existing local roads.

All departments agree that long-term planning and implementation should be done through interdepartmental committees of Environment. These committees should address three problems: settlement areas which will take into consideration such matters as agricultural development, transportation and servicing requirements, land surface drainage, and contour public road systems; long-range land conservation and reclamation program activities, including restricted land-use agreements, possible

legislative changes, as well as better integration of program activities; and finally, the implementing of a public awareness and public educational program in order that landowners are given greater opportunity to take necessary corrective action in some of their methods of farming today.

Two statements of Alberta Environment come to mind when considering this motion: "Roads are the greatest single erosion factor in the forested areas" and "50% of water resource problems are associated with roads". Although efforts have been made to solve these problems, several reasons are given for the lack of effectiveness: first, the insufficient level of funding by municipal governments to address the magnitude of the problem; two, the lack of priority setting to address the critical need of erosion control; three, the complex administrative procedures between provincial departments and municipal governments; four, the lack of integration of departmental program objectives with other department programs; and finally, the lack of sufficient understanding by the public themselves on erosion control methodology and assistance. This is particularly true for water-caused erosion problems occurring from agricultural and forestry resource operations.

Those affected by erosion frequently include individuals or groups who are not responsible for causing that erosion problem. Numerous examples of this can be documented in the Peace River country, with which I am familiar. For instance, drainage of sloughs may result in diversion of water into neighboring lands, resulting in sheet, sill, or gully erosion. The neighbors affected must contend with this problem caused by someone else draining water onto their land. Another example could include the development of roads which alter the natural drainage course and, in some instances, lead to erosion problems on nearby farms. There is a third example that results from erosion caused by poor farm management practices. This is deep tillage, which creates a water quality problem in the watercourse receiving that sediment.

These examples illustrate situations where individuals or groups either cause or receive somebody else's problem. Therefore I believe the province should be more involved through both financial and educational programs to relieve this problem. The provincial action committee on erosion, one of the interdepartmental committees of Alberta Environment, recently made a submission to the Heritage Savings Trust Fund committee. One part of that submission was a request for funds to correct existing erosion problems associated with highways and secondary roads. This regional action committee on erosion has identified similar problems on tertiary roads.

The need for roads has always been high in Alberta. The opening of new agricultural lands in resource areas dictated rapid development of road systems. Although design of the roads usually allows for existing watercourses, problems arise due to changing conditions. Ditches are normally designed to provide drainage from and protection for the roadbeds. If other waters enter these ditches, sometimes the volumes go beyond the capacity of the ditch and erosion results. This can happen from improper planning or surveillance of drainage patterns. The highway referral system would attack this problem, receiving input on soil erosion and water management from both provincial and local governments.

Drainage of agricultural land to increase crop acreage is a very prevalent situation across the north. Macrodrainage projects are handled through Alberta Environment

so that flood and erosion control are built into the design process according to the overall basin plan. However, microdamage projects occur through the normal tillage of soil, removal of ground cover and, yes, even small ditches made by farmers. Some of these are improved by Environment, some occur naturally through working of the soil, and some are even illegal. A recent brief presented to the Northern Alberta Development Council provided an appropriate statement on this problem:

A comprehensive water management policy would not be complete without the inclusion of roadway drainage design that would incorporate the best features in erosion control. All ditches should be viewed as part of a drainage grid.

Local authorities are starting to hire consultants to lay out roads. Hopefully this will result in more attention being given to related issues; for example, drainage, erosion control, and natural runoff patterns. This was supported again by the provincial action committee on the environment, which outlined additional benefits such as the reduction of safety hazards resulting from ditch erosion along the roads, reduction of sediment, easier maintenance of road allowances, brush control and mowing, which will assist in the control of noxious weeds and, finally, the improved aesthetics.

Further consideration of the problem of drainage and erosion has been addressed by the regional action committee on the environment, as indicated in a letter to the Northern Alberta Development Council from Alberta Environment. I quote:

An example of the topics that have been discussed by the Regional Action Committee is the use of road ditches as ... a regional drainage system. Proper safety conditions and flow control measures need to be incorporated as an integral part of this concept. Implementation may require some policy modifications and associated budget increases with the departments involved.

What I hope I have pointed out in all this is that a large scale problem exists, that presently the main thrust is remedial work, and that there has been a lot of talk of preventative measures being instituted but no action. It is now time to give direction from this Legislative Assembly to get at the solutions. When planning of new land areas occurs, road allowances should be designed for multipurpose use. The road allowances must be wide enough to accommodate this multi-use, and budgets must allow for the proper design and construction to ensure that the water movement will not create further problems downstream. When road repair occurs on the existing systems, planning should include drainage and erosion control, and upgrading. Many miles of roads have been built without this consideration.

The costs of all this will vary, depending on the circumstances. In cases where drainage ditches are needed in addition to road ditches, the soil from the drainage ditch could be used in the construction of the road base. Effectively this would reduce the cost of the two projects. Where the ditch is to be used for the movement of water, proper backsloping must occur, and this will require additional right of way. The traditional 66 feet will probably have to be increased to 100 feet. Where drop structures or additional culverts are needed, the cost will be quite high.

However, in the long run it is cheaper to build these before expensive remedial action is required in later years. Presently it costs about \$100,000 a mile to build a secondary road, and tertiary roads run in the neighbor-

hood of \$30,000 to \$50,000 a mile. If this motion is passed, additional costs would be involved, in the purchase of additional right of way for backsloping to a minimum. However, this expense occurs anyway when the road is rebuilt or normal upgrading takes place. So the motion suggests that this be done now instead of later.

In considering the costs, one should look at the savings for the future. Presently it is estimated that \$20 million could be spent to remedy poorly designed erosion and flood control projects in northwestern Alberta. Although present research is inadequate, it is estimated that sheet erosion is costing millions of dollars each year in loss of soil to the province. Many thousands of acres are taken out of production each year due to standing water. Maintenance of the improperly designed road is at very high cost, and it causes inconvenience to the people in the area. Therefore if Alberta Transportation followed the road referral program closely, erosion and environmental standards would be greatly improved.

The construction of roads affects most land and resource management activities. The major road builders — the timber, petroleum, and coal industries, and Alberta Transportation — all have a hand in this. I believe the key to minimizing erosion from roads is careful advance planning. I don't want to lay the blame totally at the door of Alberta Transportation. In northern Alberta timber harvesting plays a large part, which will have to be managed through proper location of roads, cut-blocks, to minimize the amount of land surface and stream disturbance.

In the past, and even today, land seems to be viewed as a commodity. I believe this must change. About 163 million acres of land in Alberta are covered by the Canadian Land Inventory. Of this, one-third has the potential to produce commonly cultivated crops such as oats, barley, and wheat. In turn, 50 per cent of this one-third consists of marginally productive land, Class 4 or up, and much of that is in northern Alberta. As we cover up more of our productive land in central and southern Alberta with pavement and plants, we will have to look to northern Alberta and the gray-wooded soils for our food production. Studies show that with the same input costs, it costs twice as much to produce a bushel of grain on No. 4 soil as it would on No. 1 soil.

When you consider the millions of dollars spent on irrigating land to make it productive, consideration should be given to this motion. Road construction costs will increase, but the benefits will be better roads, increased agricultural production, and an erosion prevention and drainage program to save our soils for future generations. To me it is at least on par with irrigation but even cheaper.

I would like to conclude by recommending that the provincial government allocate funds either from the heritage trust fund or the surplus, in a 10-year program, making a yearly allotment to carry out a rehabilitation program to repair present drainage programs and an educational program to assist farmers to alleviate erosion. Municipalities and Alberta Transportation should use the highway referral system in planning integrated drainage into the future road systems being built. I realize this will reduce the number of roads being built, but I believe it will be cheaper in the long run.

Today I have spoken mostly about northern Alberta, but I believe this is a common problem in many parts of the province. I noticed an article in the paper a few days ago about the dust bowls they talk about in Saskatche-

wan. I'd like to point out that we should be carrying out some of these preventative programs before we end up in the same condition. Therefore I would strongly urge members to support this motion.

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for Grande Prairie for proposing Motion 204 to this Assembly. Motion 204 expresses concern with respect to land protection, water management, erosion, and also as those relate to road construction.

My knowledge of this province and my readings on this subject lead me to the conclusion that the problems of soil erosion vary greatly across the province of Alberta. The major causes of erosion would appear to be wind and water actions which occur after man disturbs the soil. Left to itself nature does an excellent job of protecting the soil. Only when man starts interfering with the state nature has left the soil in do the forces of wind and water cause substantive damage. Mr. Speaker, this leads me to the conclusion that if we can control the activities of man and assure that he is erosion conscious, the problem can be greatly reduced, if not resolved.

In considering erosion, we have problems in southeastern Alberta caused mainly by wind and to a certain extent by water. It would appear from my readings and from listening to the hon. Member for Grande Prairie that in the northwestern part of the province we have rather unique problems caused mainly by water. The northeast corner of the province that I represent is not subject to serious erosion problems at this point in time. I stress "at this point in time". Wind erosion is almost non-existent in the Lakeland country, so I re-extend my invitation to southerners to take a holiday with us this summer. Water erosion can be a problem when improper land clearing techniques are employed in the northeast. This can be eliminated if care is taken not to remove the brush and grass cover nature has provided for watershed areas near our lakes, rivers, and streams. I would support a province-wide policy to retain, and in some cases regain, public ownership of watershed lands near lakes, rivers, and streams.

Mr. Speaker, the clearing practices employed by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, more particularly the Public Lands part of it, on the development of the Wolf Lake grazing reserve, a project under the capital projects division of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, were well developed in the area north of the Beaver River in northeast Alberta. They took into consideration watersheds, wildlife protection areas, the type of land that would be suitable for grazing cattle, et cetera. I would suggest that this type of land clearing and development be looked at carefully. I'd also encourage some of our overconcerned environmentalists to take a look at this type of clearing program before they start crying that we're interfering or destroying the environment.

I believe this reserve is developing as a good example of compatible land uses. Cattle grazing is under way and the wildlife population, particularly the deer population, is increasing, mainly as a result of improved winter feed. Some problem is being encountered in getting grasses established, and this is one of the many reasons I'm advocating an agricultural research station in northeastern Alberta. Mr. Speaker, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The Bonnyville constituency, more particularly the light gray wooded soil area that circles from Beaverdam through the Cherry Grove area to the northeast, crosses the river, and extends a substantial

distance north of the Beaver River, I think will have a vast agricultural potential if developed and managed properly. We should now be researching proper land clearing methods for this type of soil and this type of water drainage area, proper cultivation practices, proper fertilization practices, types of grain that can be established and do well in that type of soil, grassing and re-grassing programs and how they should be carried out. In many cases we are still seeing the development of virgin farmland. If we do it properly, I'm hopeful we can avoid the creation of erosion problems that we're fighting to correct in other parts of the province.

The terms "province-wide land protection" and "water management program" caught my eye in this motion. I touched on land protection earlier when I was talking about watershed areas, but should we not also consider the protection of our land from urban sprawl, acreage development, pipeline and transmission line damage, oil and gas well drilling damage, and coalmining damage? Mr. Speaker, it is not my suggestion or intention that land should not be used for the above-mentioned purposes, rather that policies and programs be developed to ensure selective areas for use and proper reclamation. When one travels this province, one realizes that we have a tremendous land base, which we must manage and use properly.

I raise a couple of questions on urban sprawl. Is there a way to direct urban sprawl or growth to the less desirable agricultural lands? Is there a possibility, or should we be considering putting a limit on the size of some of our cities and encouraging growth of new cities in selected areas of the province?

MR. PAHL: I thought you weren't an environmentalist.

MR. ISLEY: I'm not. I use some logic, I hope.

Acreage development: should these be scattered or should they be in close proximity to one another? The municipal district of Bonnyville established as phase 1 of their land-use by-law with respect to acreages that where quarter sections had waste corners — low, rough, rocky corners, et cetera — they would permit one acreage out subdivisions, minimum three acres, maximum 10. It seems to be working well in our area of the province. I think they had two strategies in developing the by-law. One was to allow the economics of subdivision to be spread out among the farming population, as opposed to farmland flipping to developers and a few getting the action. I think the other was to try to encourage acreage dwellers to live intermingled with farmers and to think, feel and expect, demand services like rural people, as opposed to urban people, which they were afraid would happen if you had large acreages created side by side.

Just a couple of comments on pipelines and transmission lines, particularly pipelines. In travelling the province this winter and sitting through public hearings with the select committee of this Legislature on surface rights, we heard a lot of concern about pipeline installation and the damage it does to land, the reduced productivity, et cetera. There again I think that because of the very types of land in this province, we hit areas where people were quite satisfied that productivity came back if reclamation was properly done. We hit other areas where the landowner or farmer felt that productivity would never come back. Yesterday morning I hitch-hiked a ride to Edmonton on a small airplane. Flying at about 2,000 feet from here to Bonnyville, at this time of the year you can read the pipelines on the soil just about as plainly as you can

read the lines on your hands. So I think we're going to have to take a serious look at reclamation procedures on pipelines, and make sure they are strong enough and enforced.

Oil and gas well drilling: in our area of the province, to the east, the oil play in the heavy oil fields, particularly in the Cold Lake, Lloydminster, and Elk Point areas, is such that well spacings become very small, down to 10-acre spacing and, in some cases, five-acre spacing. We have examples now of quarter sections with 35, 40, or 45 wells located on them. This means that you're seeing a complete transfer of land use. When I look at this going on and then at the techniques employed by the Esso Resources project north of that area, and see the pulling together of wells on a pad and the technique of directional drilling, I wonder if it isn't technically possible and if we shouldn't be encouraging more use of directional drilling where we have joint demands on land use by the agriculture and the oil industries, and save the costs of reclaiming land somewhere down the road.

AN HON. MEMBER: I hope you can relate that to water.

MR. ISLEY: Land protection, Ken.

Water management programs: I would like to compliment the Department of Environment for a major water management study it is doing in northeastern Alberta, looking at the watersheds from such lakes as May Lake, Ray Lake, Ethel Lake, Hilda Lake, Moore Lake, Cold Lake, and the Beaver River water drainage system. It's interesting to note that the residents across the line in Saskatchewan are pressuring their government to support this study and have it extend into their area of the province where the watershed is as well. This water management study was probably initiated as a result of the industrial demand for water in the area, but I think it should give us some information with respect to drainage in that area of the province. It may give us some information with respect to interbasin transfers, which we've heard of, and so on. I would support the hon. Member for Grande Prairie when he says there's a lot of agricultural land that can be put into production by increased drainage programs.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to leave the northeast and deal briefly with erosion problems in the east-central area of this province. That is an area I am probably as familiar with as the northeast, after living 10 years in the special areas. In these special areas we have an example of a form of government that was brought about by a combination of improper farming methods, drought, wind erosion — in other words, erosion that was a factor, I would submit, in creating a particular form of government in this province. This area was homesteaded in the teens and '20s, using a transfer of farming methods from eastern Canada and the European countries. Then came the dry years and the winds created in the dust bowl of the '30s. In 1934 this area had been under local administration, and was then reorganized under the special areas. Special attention was given to land management. Many of the settlers simply abandoned their farms and went elsewhere, thus creating the tax-recovery lands which we have heard discussed on a couple of occasions in this House.

I would like to refer to a brief entitled Retention of Special Areas, submitted recently to ministers of this government by the Neutral Hills ratepayers association, Special Area No. 4, just to give you an idea of what some

of the local people are saying about why the special area existed and what it did.

[It] outlines the needs leading to the formation of the Special Areas, its evolution, the function of its Administrative Board appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, their achievements and what is left to achieve. They administered the public lands (Tax Recovery and Crown), consolidated holdings, and encouraged depopulation to the number the area could manage. A grass-based economy was encouraged, land was classified to enable proper utilization, regrassing was encouraged and subsidized. Communal grazing was instigated to assist smaller operations. Proper cultural practices were encouraged on land that was farmed. Water storage facilities were developed with the assistance of P.F.R.A.

Through years of experience and effort by the people of that area, I think you saw a successful fight to reclaim land from erosion.

This area is now financially stable. The members of this ratepayers association suggest two reasons for this:

One reason for the financial stability of the Areas is the current administrative structure. Funds from each area go into a common pool, with the result that slight variations in farming practices in the Areas tend to soften the impact of natural hardships. If the price of beef drops, the budget may be protected by wheat prices; if one district is hailed out, revenue from other areas will keep the difficulty from becoming a catastrophe . . .

A second reason for the financial success of the Areas lies in the fact that the Board is appointed rather than elected. They have thereby been put in a position where they can say no to requests for expanded services without being concerned over re-election. Areas residents seem to accept the frugal attitude of the Board, perhaps because it is their own attitude, a result of life in an unusually tough and unforgiving climate.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is some merit in the public controlling certain lands to prevent a repeat of the dust bowl years. Too many good years can make private landowners careless and cause them to forget the lessons nature taught their fathers and grandfathers in the dust bowl years of the '30s. It is possible that we are witnessing this with the current wind erosion problems in southeastern Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I came across another paper, a project proposal by the Alberta farmers conservation and crop production association. This group was organized by interested farmers in the Strathcona area, and is promoting research and disseminating information on reduced tillage and continuous cropping:

The association feels quite strongly that the concept should be receiving increased effort. During June 1979, we have witnessed the results of excessive and perhaps improper tillage, in the form of massive soil erosion by wind. The loss of soil and nutrient will be evident from lost productivity. We are also witnessing the reduced availability of fuels required for tillage. The affect for Alberta and Canada will surely be reflected economically.

As a result of the their concerns, they're requesting research assistance from Alberta Agriculture to document and disseminate, over a period of time, farmers efforts in reduced tillage and continuous cropping on field-scale

tracts of land. From such support, they're hoping for benefits in documenting their information on improved soil conservation, energy conservation, and communications. They express what I think is probably a valid concern. Presently many farmers in individual areas are doing good things with respect to erosion control, but there isn't a way of pulling that information together and getting it out to other operators on the land.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that we should be encouraging and supporting people putting forward ideas like the one I just referred to. I would also urge all members of this Assembly to support Motion 204.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to participate in the debate on Motion 204. I'd also like to congratulate the Member for Grande Prairie for bringing this important motion to the floor of this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, in 1976 the ECA held public hearings on the problem of soil erosion in northwestern Alberta. One recommendation was that northwestern Alberta be recognized as an area that differs from the rest of Alberta in characteristics and conditions related to erosion susceptibility, and that agricultural practices, land use, and water management specifically suited to the area be developed and adopted. Following the report of the ECA, the Legislative Assembly of Alberta unanimously passed the following motion on March 22, 1977:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly of Alberta urge the government to implement the recommendations contained in the Environment Conservation Authority report on erosion of land in northwestern Alberta.

As a result of that motion, an interdepartmental committee was established to review the ECA recommendation and to develop an action plan. This action plan, entitled interdepartmental action plan: erosion in northwestern Alberta, was reviewed, approved, and accepted by the deputy ministers of Environment, Agriculture, Municipal Affairs, Transportation, Energy and Natural Resources, and was submitted to the Minister of Environment on April 12, 1978.

The action plan contained seven recommendations, which when implemented are expected to improve the efficiency of government programs. These recommendations were designed to prevent the development of new erosion problems in the area, that have resulted in changes in government programs and policies on matters relating to soil erosion.

The regional action committee on erosion and the provincial action committee on erosion have been involved in the co-ordination and implementation of these changes in programs and policies. Mr. Speaker, drainage and erosion are separate but related issues. Both are a problem, since erosion is in part a result of drainage. Erosion commands attention before drainage occurs.

In the Rocky Mountain House constituency, in particular the Eckville area, there was a real problem with drainage, mainly because of the very wet summer last year. It is very important that a drainage program be carried out when you consider the land taken out of production in this highly productive area, due entirely to poor drainage. There are problems, as not all the landowners are in agreement with the drainage ditch crossing their land. However, I feel these problems can be overcome.

I'll deal with another problem in the Rocky Mountain House constituency. It's commonly called muskeg. Of

course muskeg has been a problem to all in the past, but on a recent trip to Finland it was very interesting for me to find out that they use bog, muskeg, or peat soils for firing furnaces to generate electrical energy. Also with that generation of electrical energy, the Finnish people are very aware of the energy shortage they have and consequently use the excess heat energy from these plants to heat their towns.

Mr. Speaker, man's interference by virtue of the activities he pursues increases the course of natural movement of soil by wind, water, ice, and gravity. This is done through many forms: clearing a forest for timber and procuring crop land, breaking and cultivation of prairie sod, drainage of natural water bodies, and forming new watercourses in agriculture and resource development. Soil erosion is as much a human problem as it is a physical problem. Improper management practices employed by individual land users have contributed to much of the erosion occurring in northwestern Alberta and other areas of Alberta as well. Mismanagement of the soil resources is often overlooked, or even magnified by the activities of local governments, which don't identify soil erosion as a priority when making decisions.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has pointed to increased agricultural production as a provincial goal in developing balanced economic growth. I agree with this, as I'm sure all members of this Legislature do. Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this Assembly to support this motion the MLA for Grande Prairie has laid before us. I think it's important that not only the various provincial governments but the local governments and the farmers themselves work together to develop a comprehensive water management policy that would be both preventative and remedial. I realize that developing a satisfactory strategy for controlling erosion is a complex task, but I'm sure we can meet that challenge.

Thank you.

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to participate in Motion 204 this afternoon. At the outset, along with my two colleagues previous to me, I'd like to offer my congratulations to the Member for Grande Prairie for the initiative in drafting this motion and for presenting it in the manner he has. I think he has provided a great deal of food for thought on a very important subject. As well, special congratulations to the Member for Bonnyville and the Member for Rocky Mountain House for participating in this debate this afternoon.

Erosion is very interesting. As we stand here on this April day, we recognize that perhaps in the eyes of many people in this province what should be debated today is erosion caused by wind occurring in the more southerly parts of our province and certainly in parts of our two neighbouring provinces to the east. The stories of the unfortunate events of the 1930s should not go unnoticed by anyone.

Erosion exists in a number of forms, and of course it's caused by a number of different circumstances. But today the subject of our concern for erosion is with respect to water and its impact on both land and transportation infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, I intend to talk about both aspects, water erosion and the transportation component outlined in the motion by the Member for Grande Prairie.

The part of north-central Alberta I represent knows full well the problems associated with water erosion. My constituents live in the midst of three very interesting, yet unique drainage systems. Oftentimes depending on what

year it is and what year it has been over the last five or six decades, the problems we associate with water and erosion tend to be of two types: one, an internal problem where my constituents are the only ones in the province who suffer from the outrages of various rivers, and other times problems are created within our constituency that unfortunately we export to neighbouring constituencies in the form of floods and water that is not manageable.

It may come as a surprise, Mr. Speaker, that the Swan Hills drainage system, located almost totally within the constituency of Barrhead, is the largest watershed fully within the province of Alberta. Those who've never been to Swan Hills may not appreciate that the average topography rises some 5,000 feet above sea level, and that's a point no more than approximately 140 miles from where we are standing and sitting today. In many parts of the world the Swan Hills would be referred to as a mountain range. They are of course very beautiful, very rugged, and loaded with natural resources that have attracted people.

The first people who came to the Swan Hills around the turn of the century were involved with agriculture. It was a very difficult process. They had to clear the land. It took a great deal of time, but with the clearing came one form of water erosion.

Twenty-four years ago the first major oil find north of, I guess, Leduc occurred in the Swan Hills area. As a result of that oil find, there has been a great deal of activity since 1957. Today we have some 1,400 wells drilled in the area; well sites for both oil and natural gas. To accommodate and to reach those well sites has necessitated a great deal of road construction that tends to range from primary highway status to that found in a very, very local, isolated, forested area. So much activity has actually occurred in the Swan Hills area that some 18 per cent of the area has been denuded or touched by man and heavy earth moving equipment, in one form or another.

The development of those resources has caused some difficulties. The difficulties of drainage and the ensuing problems with erosion have not occurred primarily within the constituency of Barrhead, but have been transferred to the north and east of the Swan Hills area and have moved down into the Slave Lake basin where considerable silting on the largest lake in Alberta, Lesser Slave Lake, has caused a considerable amount of water to be located for miles around Lesser Slave Lake. The very high water table has caused real problems with road construction, so much so that it's not at all uncommon to ride in the High Prairie area in mid-October and find water in ditches, and to be told there hasn't been rain in the area for the past two or three months — a very difficult concern when it comes to water management, the development and the construction of roads. Fortunately, as a result of the motion in 1977, mentioned a little earlier and raised by the Member for Lesser Slave Lake, a number of initiatives have been taken and developed with respect to water management in the Swan Hills-Lesser Slave Lake water basins. We as a government have now committed ourselves to a major water lowering program on Lesser Slave Lake.

One hundred miles to the south and east of Swan Hills lies another drainage basin, the Paddle River drainage basin. In fact parts of the Paddle River drainage basin lie within about 45 miles of Edmonton. Agriculture is the prime activity along this water route system. Unfortunately flooding caused by high flows in the Paddle River causes continuous hardships, isolation, and financial insecurity for the farmers located along the river. In addi-

tion to the farms located along the river, other environments are affected by lack of proper water drainage. One is the town of Barrhead. The local drainage system along the Paddle extends for some five miles upstream from the town, and is really some 20 miles long. Some members may recall that in 1974 a very severe flood occurred in the area, so much so that it completely isolated the town and the residents of that community from access to the so-called outside world for some two days until the water levels receded. In fact over the last 30 years some nine major floods have occurred. Of course the effects of those floods are on agricultural land, but as much upon other activities including industry, tourism, recreation, and just general access to the community at large.

The type of flooding that we experience in our part of Alberta tends to be of two forms: spring or summer flooding. In 1974 it was excessive spring flooding. Last year, the latter part of June, we experienced a summer flood which inundated thousands of acres of prime agricultural land, hay land, and the like. It caused real difficulties. In addition to the fact that agricultural land has been inundated, we've had damage to roads, bridges, fences, buildings. Livestock has been lost.

In many ways, Mr. Speaker, the flooding along the Paddle leads to flooding along another drainage system I unfortunately have within the constituency I represent, the continuous flooding that seems to occur on the Pembina River. But in this case the flooding that flows down the Pembina originates a great distance from the constituency of Barrhead. In fact the source of the Pembina River is located just a few miles south of Cadomin in the Rocky Mountains. That river flows north of Drayton Valley, where it picks up water; it flows through Sangudo, south of Barrhead; then it flows west of Jarvie and eventually enters the Athabasca River near Flatbush. The confluence of these two rivers, the Pembina and Athabasca, is in a community known as Athabina, an acronym from the two rivers.

One of the difficulties we have along some rivers in Alberta is that there's little or no bank stability. Some rivers of course go through enormous shields of rock, others do not. The Pembina River goes through very, very rich, soft soil, and every time the water tends to rise and moves with some degree of rapidity, it takes away prime soil with it. As a result of the flooding that goes on — fortunately it's not an annual flood, but one seems to occur with some degree of rapidity every three or four years — acres and acres and acres of excellent agricultural land are taken away. Unfortunately it also creates a whole series of oxbows which make communications from one part of the river to the other extremely difficult. It's not at all uncommon to compare the Pembina River in say, 1981, to the way it was in 1942, and to note that you literally have thousands of oxbows in the area between Sangudo and Flatbush that has eliminated from agricultural production small acreages that may range in size from 30 to 150 acres; that are literally cut off, simply because the river has meandered in such a manner and to such a degree that you have no easy access to this particular land. It's one of the interesting problems that some of us have.

Mr. Speaker, these three examples are mentioned because I sincerely believe that we have to develop a province-wide system of land production and water management. We have to do it because of the agricultural losses Albertans are suffering; agricultural potential we've not realized. We have to commit ourselves to it because of the importance the province of Alberta places on

tourism. Industry could benefit greatly by knowing that they have a regular and secure source of water, and also knowing that rivers don't simply move away from where the original site of the particular plant might be. It's quite true that some rivers tend to move, and they can move a half, a third, or a quarter of a mile in one or two floods. The recreation potential and management factors have to be considered as being extremely important as well. Of course the overriding concern we all have to have with respect to this question of water management and erosion deals with the quality of life for the literally hundreds of thousands of Albertans who are affected on an annual and even a daily basis with respect to water control and management.

It's of interest to me, Mr. Speaker, that in Motion 204 the Member for Grande Prairie talked not only about erosion and water management, but he connected it to the whole question of planning and designing a number of road systems in the province of Alberta, including the secondary road system and the resource road system. I want to spend a few moments going over both systems, because I think they're extremely important to all Alberta. They're particularly important when we start talking about water management.

The secondary road system came about as a result of a study embarked upon in 1965. The government of the day encouraged municipal councils and councillors from all parts of Alberta to get together. Essentially some 19 study groups were determined. For the most part they were based on the county, the MD, or the improvement district structure. These study groups began studies in late 1965 and went through 1966. Essentially they concerned themselves with five specifics in looking at a new system of roads for the province of Alberta. They undertook to compile an inventory of existing roads. They looked at the existing traffic patterns to see the direction and the manner in which people moved about. They looked at the physical features, the topography of the land closest to them. They looked at population trends. They looked at land use and, in essence, came up with a series of analyses and information with respect to a proposed provincial secondary road system.

A provincial secondary road system policy was established in 1969, and at that time some 8,486 miles of secondary roads were designated. In 1981, 12 years later, the total secondary road system measures some 9,143 miles. Of that, 8,634 of them are open. Out of interest, there are really five jurisdictions in which these secondary roads find themselves: 4,299 miles lie within counties, 2,003 miles lie within municipal districts, 1,581 miles lie within improvement districts, 616 miles are in special areas, and 135 miles are located on Indian reservations.

The prime purpose of the secondary road system was multifold. Needless to say, one had to take a look at meeting the transportation needs of rural Albertans, to connect neighbor to neighbor and market town to market town. A second concern was to ensure that there was some degree of consistency in province-wide construction.

When we start talking about this road system, all members know that it's a heck of a lot more difficult to construct secondary roads in some parts of Alberta than it is in other parts of Alberta. Certainly if you go to the area that was described by the Member for Rocky Mountain House, when he mentioned "muskeg", the infamous word a lot of us have to suffer with on a daily basis, you can build a road in the spring, show up in October, and find out that your road has disappeared. It has suddenly sunk on you. It's a very serious concern.

When the Minister of Transportation undertook his pothole competition, I noted with interest that he said it was restricted to mayors. If he had encouraged municipalities, counties, and reeves thereof to get involved in it, many of us would be asking our reeves to present to him illustrations of 14- and 15-mile long potholes. They tend to exist.

At the time a third major criterion looked at was ensuring that there was going to be uniformity of service in all parts of Alberta on the secondary road program. Unfortunately the other two concerns of the former government in the secondary road program, committing itself to a long-term upgrading program and providing money for it, were forgotten. When the secondary road program really did get going, in the fall of 1971 and the spring of 1972, some \$8 million was allocated for secondary road construction at that time. Now that budget for secondary roads, again based on a certain standard of road, has increased fairly dramatically since 1971, so that in 1981 we have some \$85 million allocated to it.

One thing that program has done, in addition to completing literally thousands of miles of new roads, is that it has provided a higher grade of road, higher above the terrain than the former roads used to be. Unfortunately in some parts of Alberta the very existence of these roads has allowed them to become mini dams and has caused some real problems with drainage from one side of the road to the other, perhaps because of a lack of availability of sufficient numbers of culverts. That's a problem the Member for Grande Prairie so wisely raised in his initial discourse in terms of the referral system for roads.

The second road system I'd like to make a few comments on is the one alluded to by the Member for Grande Prairie: the resource road system. That program was introduced a couple of years ago with an initial budget of \$20 million. This year that budget has risen dramatically to some \$36 million. The resource road program has a number of very beneficial objectives behind it — beneficial, but by the same token they cause erosion and drainage problems. There are really two main guidelines that fall under the resource road program. One essentially is the hard resource development; for example, a gravel haul or gravel pit road. There's little traffic generated, but it's truck intensive. Because of the demand for heavy weights by the trucks, you need to build a higher standard road which, unfortunately in some parts of Alberta, has not allowed water to move in a normal fashion from one side of the road to the other, thereby causing drainage and erosion problems.

The second type of road funded under the resource road program is the tanker haul road. Again, the same kind of construction as the first. We have exploration and development types of roads that go into areas such as mine and areas that other members in the Assembly represent, essentially resource areas. New types of roads cause unfortunate degrees of erosion and drainage. That's particularly so in the fourth type of resource road looked at, the log haul and forestry road. Of course industrial parks also fit into it, and a number of industrial parks close to urban centres. If you just go northwest of Edmonton you'll find some low-lying areas along 137th Avenue where, because of the high grade of the road, you've disturbed the topography and caused problems with drainage, and with that has come problems with erosion.

The second type of major concern under the resource road is the agricultural industry. Three types of roads are included in that: roads to processing plants, roads neces-

situated by railroad abandonment, and of course roads to specialized forms of feedlots and assembly stations to improve agriculture. The interesting thing about any discussion on roads is that you have to ask yourself the question of the cost. As I say, there are approximately over 8,600 miles of secondary roads. As one of the hon. members earlier indicated, it would cost approximately \$100,000 per mile to reconstruct those roads; that is simply the raw construction to a graded standard. One has to be quite cognizant and concerned. But when you consider the necessity for improved agriculture in the province of Alberta, the need to ensure that the number of acres we have in this province are retained for agricultural production, and the need, with proper water management, to increase the number of agricultural acres currently being utilized and employed, I think in terms of saving for the future and protecting Alberta for our future generations, the expenditure level would perhaps not be quite as dear as some would say it might be.

Mr. Speaker, the question of water management in this province affects everyone. I'm very pleased that a few years ago this government embarked upon a rather sophisticated and major program concerned for irrigation areas in the southern part of the province. In the latter part of March I asked my constituents what they thought about the large sum of money allocated to southern Alberta for irrigation purposes. I asked them a specific question: should the Alberta government allocate a similar amount of money to the northern and central parts of the province for surface water drainage projects as has been allocated to southern Alberta for irrigation purposes? The question was asked to 607 people; that's six more than normally participate in a Gallup poll. Three hundred and eighty-five, or 63.4 per cent, said yes; 96, or 15.8 per cent, said no; and 126, or 20.8 per cent, were undecided. I think my constituents are rather astute. They understand that there may be some environmental concerns with respect to water management and relocation. They've certainly indicated to me in a rather sizable percentage that in fact the motion put forward by the Member for Grande Prairie should be supported by their representative. Indeed it should be supported by all members of the House.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on the motion by the hon. Member for Grande Prairie this afternoon, I'd like to start off by saying it's a very interesting and important proposal. It addresses a problem of land and water management to try to prevent as far as possible soil erosion and its results.

To start off with, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to suggest that erosion is not just a man-made problem. It's a natural process in the evolution of our planet Earth. It's a process that has gone on through millennia ever since the planet cooled off enough for the development of water and the sequence of rain to river to sea to evaporation and back to rain started. That process is still a very active one, and it can be seen in many parts of our province. In the mountains it can be seen immediately below the glaciers at the Columbia Icefields. It can be seen at Maligne and other canyons. It can be seen at the sand-filled lakes at Jasper and Brule.

Indeed further downstream in the foothills, many creeks and rivers are doing the reverse of filling the lakes at Jasper and Brule. They are cutting into the glacial deposits with large cutbanks, sometimes 200 or 300 feet high, in the convex aspects of the curves of creeks and

ivers. The end result of that erosion process in the mountains and hills can be shown in some of the most fertile soils on our planet.

Examples are the lower Fraser Valley in British Columbia, which would not exist were it not for erosion in the Rockies and other ranges of British Columbia, and indeed the Nile delta and the fertile soils of the Nile, which have kept man's civilization going for longer than any other place on this planet, are completely dependent upon the erosive process to keep renewing that soil. To revert to our own Rocky Mountains, many of the most scenic effects in those mountains are due to erosion. Even the color of Peyto and Bow lakes is due to erosion of silt by glaciers and streams upstream from those lakes to give the very fine material that reflects sunlight with results that all tourists to the mountains comment on even when they're there for the twentieth time.

The Indian word "Takkakaw", at Takkakaw Falls in British Columbia, is said to be an expression of astonishment. But the falls are the result of erosive processes in the Yoho Valley that have cut almost 1,000 feet into the mountains and resulted in a scenic highlight. I already mentioned Maligne Canyon, but there's Johnston Canyon, Marble Canyon, and of course the canyon at Radium Hot Springs. Were it not for erosion, none of those features would be there.

I've mentioned these natural forms and results of erosion not just out of general interest but to indicate the scale on which this process can occur even without any input by man. As I said at the beginning, it's an important motion, especially important in a province like Alberta which is developing rapidly and where the economy is based mostly on our wealth of both non-renewable and renewable natural resources. The importance is obvious to all of us. In Alberta erosion may be caused by developments in the oil and gas industry, forestry, coal mining, even tourism in the development of parks and campsites — and the enlargement of the area under farming has been mentioned by other members. Many and indeed almost all these developments occur in areas of the province with no or very minimal road system. In addition to this, many resource extractive industries require road networks of their own. These access roads have to be built, in many cases in spite of topographical problems.

To start off with the oil industry, Mr. Speaker, there is a problem in addition to roads in that industry. Anyone who has walked through our foothills in the last decade or 15 years has seen seismic cuts that have been trying to imitate the Maligne Canyon, if not the Grand Canyon, in their results. One can see where water has run down seismic lines and cut 20 or 30 feet into the soil, with big clumps of trees falling into the resulting canyon. The creeks at the bottom of these cuts are so badly silted that they have lost all fishing capability, because there is no residual gravel bed for the fish to spawn on.

Mr. Speaker, it's my considered opinion — and I'm not making this statement lightly — that on hillsides in the foothills the oil industry should be forbidden to use standard seismic techniques if the combination of soil conditions and slope, the incline, indicates the possibility of significant erosion. It's high time the oil industry was forbidden to cut straight up a hillside. Techniques are available where by the use of narrow cutting, hand-cut lines, and helicopters the awful environmental results could be completely avoided. Of course once seismic activity is completed and they have indications that exploratory drilling is required, we then get into the net-

work of roads required for getting the drilling equipment into the drill sites. Indeed we also have the problem of the drill sites themselves. These roads and drilling sites often have to be carved — and I'm using that word quite advisedly — out of the hills. Often roads are built by the famous, or infamous, cut and fill technique, which has subsequent and long-term disastrous results.

So the hon. member to my right will not think I'm particularly picking on the oil industry, I would like to mention that some of the worst examples of cut and fill that can be seen anywhere in our foothills are along the Alberta Resources Railroad between Brule and Grande Cache. There are examples there where almost a whole hillside has been denuded by the cut and fill technique in order to build a 10-foot railbed.

The engineering of roads for extractive industries could be greatly improved, and although that might well involve greater movements of soil, gravel, and rock, long-term results by engineering them properly might well justify the effort and expense. Mr. Speaker, once drilling is completed and the road network is in — and it's often an extensive road network — we then have the additional difficulty of pipelines to take the oil and gas out. Again rather like the seismic lines, these pipeline rights of way are often built on a straight-line basis regardless of the topography. More than once I have seen pipelines hanging out in the open, because the pipeline right of way has eroded so badly that the pipeline has been completely exposed. This happens not just with minor pipelines to wells but with the major transmountain pipeline between Hinton and the national park gate, where on one occasion two very large lines were completely exposed following a rainstorm.

Surely it should be obvious to the industry that a little time, effort, and planning could avoid going straight down 30 per cent slopes. It might be a little more expensive, but for themselves, as well as for the rest of us, it might be worth while.

To move from the oil and gas industry to the forest industry: for perhaps two or three decades now in this province, the forest industry to a large degree has gone to block clear cutting. Although they appear initially to be very destructive of the environment, these techniques have been shown — and this is now confirmed within our own province — to result in much improved management of the forest and, in the long run, a more productive forest. But more importantly in relation to this particular motion, it has been shown very adequately that they very seldom produce significant erosion. When you look at freshly cut areas it seems surprising that erosion is not a result; but indeed it is not. If anyone doubts what I'm saying, all they need to do is walk over the Procter & Gamble, St. Regis, North Canadian Forest Industries, or Simpson cut areas and they will find minimal erosion and beautiful young forests growing.

But again one cannot just cut trees; one has to truck them out of the forest. There have been problems with resource roads required in the logging process. Because lumber and paper industries function on a longer term basis in the same location, they perhaps have been a little more aware of problems they could get into than the oil and gas industry. As a result, they have been more careful with routes for their roads. They have been a little more careful trying to avoid erosion in ditches, and indeed to some degree have had a better record than the oil and gas industry.

We then get down to the problem in the foothills of the tourist industry and the secondary and forestry road

network built by the province. All of us who have travelled through that area have seen the results of flooding on the upper Pembina River, where during a flood the river decided to go down the forestry trunk road rather than down its natural bed. That could have been avoided so easily by adequate and proper design of the forestry trunk road. The second road is much better built than the first one was, but we still have two river beds to live with.

A problem that exists with all road construction anywhere in the province is the requirement for the material to build the road. The borrow pits and gravel pits of themselves often create a greater erosion and silting problem than the road and ditches that result from the construction. I think most of us know of borrow pits and gravel pits that have resulted in great difficulty with subsequent soil slumping, the erosion of the surrounding ground into those pits, and generally ecologically unpleasant results.

We have other resource extractive industries. The coal strip mining that has gone on in many parts of the province, from the flat agricultural land at Forestburg to the subalpine climate at Luscar, has caused some difficulty in the mining process, particularly the silting that can occur in the streams and rivers that drain the mined areas. The more recent coal mines — I'm thinking of the ones at Wabamun and Cardinal River in particular — have shown some admirable efforts to avoid erosion and silting during the mining process. In particular, when you compare the results of those mining processes with the earlier ones on the south Coal Branch, one can see that the eventual result is rather nice forage for the mountain sheep that can be seen within the coal mining areas. In general the result is not a bad one at all.

It has to be remembered that the areas I'm speaking about, the foothills, are the headwaters of many streams and rivers. It's not only erosion at the roadside that is difficult. It's the problem of the silt that is carried into the streams and rivers and, very often, into the headwater areas where the fish spawn on road and gravel beds. When one sees the very fine silt — indeed, sometimes coal — filling these gravel beds and realizes that the result is going to be a tremendous impact upon tourist fishing, one can realize it is not only Albertans but tourists visiting the area who suffer the results of bad management in the design of roads.

The difficulty is really the type of soil and rock we are dealing with. We're dealing with glacial deposits, varying from gravel 2 feet in diameter down to the finest of glacial dust. Once it's disturbed, the erosion is almost inevitable, unless the disturbance is very carefully designed and engineered so that the slopes are not beyond what is capable of self-covering with natural reforestation or grass.

This is not a new problem, Mr. Speaker. The erosion in northwestern Alberta study has been mentioned by other members. I have a book here, *Anthropogenic Erosion in Swan Hills, Alberta*, published some years ago by the Environment Conservation Authority. There are quotations that go back more than 60 years. I'd just like to quote two of them. This refers to the Swan Hills area, mentioned by the hon. Member for Barrhead:

"In a few exposures there is a tendency for the clayey sandstone to erode into badland topography."

That was written by a Mr. Allan in 1918. Another one:

"Nowhere on the Swan Hills will the timber of some species be of use for anything more than a protective covering. But it has an important function in this regard."

That was written by Cameron in 1917.

The hon. Member for Barrhead mentioned that some 18 per cent of the Swan Hills have been denuded of trees, and anyone who wants to see the results of that denudation just needs to look at this report and see some results that really are amongst the most appalling on this continent. In truth they do compete with Appalachia in the eastern United States.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention the title of this book. It says, Anthropogenic Erosion. If one takes the word 'anthropogenic' back to its roots, it means 'ape caused'. There are only two apes on the North American continent, *Homo sapiens* and Sasquatch. By the actions of this Legislature, lets us make sure that *Homo sapiens* does not leave behind a disaster. We cannot take responsibility for Sasquatch, Mr. Speaker. We can take responsibility for our own actions.

I would therefore commend to the members the motion presented by the hon. Member for Grande Prairie. Thank you.

MR. BATIUK: Mr. Speaker, in rising to support the motion I would like to commend the Member for Grande Prairie for seeing the need to bring in such a resolution. There has been widespread concern that much of our good land is taken up for urban and industrial development, and I think that concern is being expressed more and more. We know particularly that the cities have to grow; we need other things. Even at present, when we see the controversy about a proposal for annexation of St. Albert, Sherwood Park, and considerable tracts of land, regardless whether or not annexation will be approved, it is not going to solve the problem. The city of Edmonton will not be able to put a second layer over St. Albert or Sherwood Park, but they are going to continue to grow and will need more land. I can see that approval for more land will have to be given.

True enough, particularly in this area, this is one of the more fertile lands in the province. Maybe so; maybe our cities could have been in different areas: some place north of Smoky Lake or where there are the [inaudible] in the sands. But a hundred years ago people looked to see that a city would be very close to a river, because water is more important than anything else. You can get by without natural gas; you can use propane, and if you haven't got propane you can use fuel oil or even wood and coal. But you cannot have a replacement for water.

Roads also seem to take a considerable amount of our very fine soil. Once the cement is put on them, you might as well forget that they will ever produce anything. Even in this Legislature, how many times has the Minister of Transportation been questioned on when this road is going to be widened, when this highway is going to be twinned? So it's obvious that more and more land is going to be used for our roads.

However, maybe there are other areas that could compensate for this loss of land: the number of potholes there are throughout the land, the sloughs, how much solonchic soil is being created because of standing water. I have always supported irrigation in southern Alberta because I have seen what irrigation can do and how much more it can produce than dryland farming. At the same time I would say that the northern half of the province has the opposite problem, too much water. I think nature has provided for these run-offs, but over the last hundred years the fashion of farming has created many of these potholes, diversions of water, and so forth. Maybe how much damage the water does in erosion is not as notice-

able, but when we look at the geysers in Jasper park and Maligne Canyon, maybe several hundred feet deep, nothing else but water has washed away through that trough. Maybe it has taken many millions of years to do it, but it has done it. Wait another million years: what the water is going to do to our fine soil.

I served on the county council for a number of years. During that time I also served on the agricultural service board. We had a continuous program to try to fix these gullies and so forth. I must say, particularly in the county of Lamont that I represent, the agricultural field man has already served for over 30 years. When he was first appointed, he was only one of two who had graduated in agriculture. Through his dedication I think much has been done to repair gullies and so forth, but how much could he do, even in his dedication? There were times he'd work seven days a week, 14 to 16 hours per day. But to be able to control erosion, silting, and washouts that are caused you need money and equipment. Even though there were times when maybe money was available, there was no equipment. I'm sure many members know what it's like to be in the county. The road construction comes first, and if there is any time in the fall before freeze-up, probably the field man could get some equipment to do this work. So I know that in the past there have been counties that did not use up their entire grants from the government. Because of this they weren't able to.

We see that the population of the world reached 1 billion in 1831 and reached its second billion in another 100 years. It is presumed that by 1985 there will already be 5 billion people in the world. So we know we'll be needing more and more land to be able to raise food for these people. It is said that at present two-thirds of the people go to bed hungry every night. I think a program such as this, recommended and brought in a resolution by the Member for Grande Prairie, is very essential.

Much work can be done to prevent silting. I don't think very much is needed in the various areas, but this can be done. I know that in the area I represent in the county — the Member for Redwater-Andrew, while speaking in the budget debate, mentioned the number of flood controlled areas in that area. Boards have been doing this for many years, but it is very limited. I wonder whether they'll ever catch up at this rate. While they repair one, another two are created. So I think a lot of land could be drained by simple channelling, Mr. Speaker, and this can maybe be done through agricultural service boards, county councils. But I still think we need the provincial program for that if we want it to be effective.

In those few words, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I support this motion and ask all hon. members to support it.

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, I think I'm the only city boy who will be talking about an essentially rural problem this afternoon. I'd like to talk from the perspective of a consumer of agricultural products. When I roll my Safeway cart through the aisles, I pay for the increased costs of production.

AN HON. MEMBER: You need a wife, and then you can delegate that.

MR. COOK: I think we've had a sexist remark over here, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to start off by referring to a headline in the weekend edition of *The Globe and Mail*: "Winds conjure

up dust-bowl ghosts". Mr. Speaker, the motion of the hon. Member for Grande Prairie couldn't have come at a more opportune time to discuss a problem that — frankly, our farmers don't seem to have learned a lesson from the dust bowl '30s.

I'd just like to talk about some of the observations made about the area just south of Calgary. This is the fourth dust storm of the year through the Calgary and southern Alberta-southern Saskatchewan area. The RCMP closed the highway between Calgary and Lethbridge. A constable said:

"There's [a lot] of soil moving and drifting and it's bad enough next to some fields that you have to drive with the headlights on." . . . There was no discernible sunrise at daybreak.

The sun had been blotted out by the dust.

Fred Bentley is a retired Dean of Agriculture at the University of Alberta. I've spoken to Dr. Bentley a number of times. He is quoted in *The Globe and Mail* a number of times. On Saturday he was quoted as saying that the farmers can't blame nature; they have only themselves to blame.

Instead of leaving stubble on their fields last fall, many tilled the soil to cut down on the amount of work [that] would have [to be done in the] spring. The stubble traps snow and ensures that moisture seeps into the soil in the spring. It also [prevents] wind erosion by providing an anchor.

Strip farming — the practice of alternating rows of seeded land with fallow land — is one way of reducing wind erosion. However, it is falling into disfavor with many farmers who have invested in large cultivating . . . equipment . . .

Again, Mr. Speaker, the point's being made that farmers are largely themselves to blame, not particular climatic conditions. Fred Bentley went on to point out that many of the younger farmers today haven't read their history very well. The lessons the fathers learned in the 1930s have not been passed on to their children. Those are the conclusions of the former Dean of Agriculture at the University of Alberta.

I'd like to make a couple of quick points in my remarks this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. The University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon conducted a conference last year on soils and land resources in western Canada. They made a couple of points I'd like to refer to as well. The wheat fallow rotation system we follow in the prairie provinces, or basically the continuous cropping of grain cereals, reduces the fertility of soil and increases its erodibility. Mr. Speaker, the effect of that is that farmers tend not to leave the stubble on the soil. They plow it under with deep discing in the fall or the spring. That tillage tends to break up the texture of the soil; it becomes finer. Research shows that zero tillage or minimum tillage techniques conserve more of the crop residue on the surface level of the soil. That's very important, because a lot of the winds we experience in western Canada occur in the winter and early spring.

Weed control can be done chemically. A lot of research being done now at the University of Saskatchewan shows that the techniques we use now, tilling two or three times with weed control applicants — that there are other ways of controlling weeds, with chemicals that require only one . . .

MRS. CRIPPS: Seventy-six of those chemicals have been banned, you know.

MR. COOK: Yes, but I understand new chemicals are available that require only one application over the year, rather than several. Crop residue has also been shown as being a way to reduce weed growth, Mr. Speaker.

The point I'm going to make, Mr. Speaker, is that last year agriculture represented to Alberta a \$3 billion industry in farm cash receipts. If you take that \$3 billion and multiply it through the economy, the impact of agriculture is very significant in the province. Yet the research being done in agriculture in this province is minor; it is insignificant. A quick review of the estimates of the Department of Agriculture last year shows me that we spent something like \$6 million or \$7 million. The work done at the universities might add another \$6 million or \$7 million. But it's not a significant amount in pure research.

The research we do is primarily problem oriented. We might do some extension work, or we might try to solve — not with new research, but just taking research we've done and applying it through extension services. But we aren't going out and trying to find new solutions to problems. Fred Bentley at the University of Alberta is fairly critical of the budgeting of the government, and makes the point that if we were to try to develop crops that could be sown in the fall — he's thinking in particular of fall rye and winter wheat — we would have a system of cropping that would bind the soil together in the winter and spring, the most critical months of the year.

We need to invest money in genetic research to extend the range of winter wheat and fall rye. Professor Bentley also points out that we could be developing new crops that would break the cropping methods we have in Alberta, the continuous cropping of grain with occasional summer fallowing. Professor Bentley suggests that genetic research be done on improving the productivity of legume crops, like fava beans and field peas, that would be a cash crop for the farmer and would provide an increase in the humus and nitrogen content in the soil. It would reduce the amount of nitrogen that would have to be applied, and therefore one more tillage operation, and would also provide a cash crop for the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, the texture of the soil, the organic matter content, the moisture, the method of tilling the soil, and the stubble or soil residue left on in the fall all effect the erodibility of soils. Farm practices in this province tend to increase the vulnerability of our soils. I'd like to commend the Member for Grande Prairie for raising this matter, and to make a couple of suggestions in passing.

It seems fairly clear that we need to do more research to increase the range of crops available, the range of winter wheat and fall rye, to increase the productivity of legume crops which can bind the soil together and provide increased nitrogen, and to provide research funding for wind and water control. A few years ago Dr. Toogood of the soil sciences department at the University of Alberta prepared a paper for presentation at a conference in Red Deer. Dr. Toogood outlined two main factors in erosion of soils in Alberta. He pointed out that south of Edmonton wind erosion is the most serious problem we have, and it's a problem that has to be recognized by all farmers. Dr. Toogood has done some important research that outlines different widths of strips for wind erosion control on soils in that area.

Mr. Speaker, I think it would be obvious to most lay observers that we should be doing more work with our extension department. Earlier this week I spoke to an assistant district agriculturist about the problem. I under-

stand that there is not a great deal of work done to try to make the point that we should be using different cropping systems in the province to reduce wind erosion.

Water erosion is a problem that occurs primarily in northern Alberta. It has been virtually ignored over the past few years. It's only in the last five or 10 years that we've become aware of the problem. Soil losses are becoming very, very extensive there, with sheet erosion and gully erosion. For example, we need to do more research on ways to minimize the impact of rain on soil texture. Mr. Speaker, I understand that that can be done with again trying to provide more organic cover on the soil in the fall and over the winter to reduce the impact of spring rains on the soil texture.

Those are a couple of points that I think should be raised. It basically points out that we have not learned the lessons of the 1930s very well. I guess that point is driven home by the fact that there have been four major dust storms in this province this year.

I'd like to make one more point. Work done at the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, has shown that again — largely because of the cropping techniques that have been criticized by agrologists and soil scientists over the last few years — the techniques of basically mining western Canadian soils with continuous cropping, degrading the fertility and soil texture, and simply extracting large grain crops with large fertilizer applications have now reached the point where the natural nitrogen levels in Alberta soils have fallen to where we have to have massive applications of nitrogen. It's no longer sufficient simply to rely on the reserve of nitrogen that was built up when the land was basically grassland. That should scare farmers in Alberta, because nitrogen can really only be obtained from fertilizers that are natural gas based. If one looks at natural gas costs, and projects them into the future, we're going to find that our farm input costs are going to be dramatically increased. There are ways to get around that. Again, Mr. Speaker, I go back to Dr. Bentley's point that we should be looking at crops that naturally fix nitrogen in the soil.

AN HON. MEMBER: Peanuts.

MR. COOK: Peanuts are one. Peanuts are being developed in Ontario, Mr. Speaker, and their range has been significantly extended through genetic research. That may seem like a facetious comment, but it's not. Fava beans and other legumes are an important way of fixing nitrogen.

Mr. Speaker, we have to consider what we are really doing to our soil texture with the development of big equipment and machinery being used on large fields, breaking down the soil texture and mining the soil of its humus and nitrogen content. We're increasing our farm input costs and the soil erodibility. We're going to pay for it, both as farmers in rural areas and consumers like Rollie Cook walking through Safeway on Saturday afternoon.

I'd like to touch on one final point, Mr. Speaker, and then I will finish my remarks. It relates to a motion that is going to come up a little later in this session. Soil conservation is the theme of that one, as it is of this one. Our best soils are being lost to urban sprawl. Our best soils are the most resistant to erosion because they have more humus content, because the black chernozem soil tends to form in large clumps rather than the fine, silty texture of poor soils. So as we turn more and more to developing our agricultural resources in Alberta on the

gray-wooded soils, the No. 4 and No. 5 soils of the Canada land inventory, we are going to have an accelerating problem. The problem is going to get greater and greater. It is becoming a geometric problem. The curve is going to accelerate dramatically. The point I'm making is this: we're mining our humus content, we're relying on our poorer soils, which are more vulnerable to begin with, and as we do, and over time, we're going to find the humus content is going to drop so dramatically that by turning to the poorer soils and losing the humus content in our existing soils, we will have created a problem that will be almost insoluble.

A professor at the University of Amsterdam, Dr. Allison, has shown that in western Canadian soils the soil lost in the top two inches is three to five times richer than the soils in the lower horizons. I want to bang this one point home. Any soil that we lose through water and wind erosion is three to five times more productive than the soil at lower levels. By losing, as just south of Calgary they lost several inches in one dust storm, in effect they've increased their farm input costs by three to five times, Mr. Speaker.

Now if that doesn't scare farmers, it certainly scares this consumer who is concerned about the price of hamburger. I think we should be trying to develop programs, not to shelter farmers in terms of gas costs or fertilizer costs; we should be trying to provide those same levels of subsidies, so they're not hidden but direct costs to farmers, and develop direct programs to solve their problems. By sheltering farmers I think we spread the costs of poor farm management techniques over society, and we don't really bang home the point to the farmers that there is a cost involved that society is picking up.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should be doing several things. We should be trying to take away the shields in agriculture that encourage this type of activity, and replacing them with equivalent cash subsidies for specific programs that encourage better management of the soils. We should recognize that the farmer is a trustee of the land and not the owner per se, that the farmer cannot do simply what he or she wants with the land and expect the rest of society to pay the social and economic costs associated with that. The farmer is simply a trustee.

We should be increasing our research, Mr. Speaker, to increase the productivity of our soils and to increase the conservation programs. We should be trying to increase our research in genetics, where we can significantly extend the range of certain crops that would be valuable for natural fertilizer — in a sense fixing nitrogen with legumes — and, by sowing crops in the fall and having them in place over the winter, would tend to bind the soils together.

We should be dramatically increasing our extension services, Mr. Speaker, trying to educate the farmers of Alberta and teach them the lessons of the 1930s so we don't have to repeat that sad lesson of our history. As an urban Albertan, I think I have an interest in the efficiency of the farm community and the long-range conservation of our soil resource. It's a natural resource that we can never replace. With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to finish.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, to make a few comments on Motion 204. Before I get into the actual text of my speech this afternoon, I take exception to what the Member for Edmonton Glengarry has said about some of our very proud farmers out in rural Alberta. I think it's a sad day when a member can come into this Assembly and make

some of the statements he's made, such as the "farmers are only the trustees of our land". That is so much . . . boy, it gets me really upset when a member makes that type of . . .

AN. HON. MEMBER: Don't say it, just think it.

MR. PURDY: I'm thinking it. But the farmers are the ones who opened up western Canada. My grandmother and grandfather came out here in 1880 to make Alberta a place for some of the urban people to live in. When members come into this Assembly and start making remarks like that, I'm sure my hon. colleagues from rural Alberta will certainly agree with me that maybe we have to start educating some of the urban members on what's actually taking place in rural Alberta, and take the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry out to some of the farms in the Stony Plain area, the Leduc area, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, and so on and show the hon. member what's taking place in good farming operations and practices being done by our farmers here in the province of Alberta.

MRS. CHICHAK: I wonder if the hon. member would permit me to ask a question on his point at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to ask the hon. Member for Stony Plain whether he is aware that the point the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry was making was that the change being put forward in the new constitution by the Prime Minister of Canada would in fact create the kind of situation the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry was posing. It would make the farmers and all the people of Canada trustees of their land rather than owners.

MR. PURDY: No, he wasn't trying to make that point at all. He went on and talked about no research in agriculture for research and development. He only has to look at the estimates before this Assembly now — and we'll be looking at them as soon as the Minister of Agriculture gets back so we can go into committee. There are a number of dollars being put forth for agricultural research in this province. We only have to go down and look at the Lethbridge research station and the excellent job the province of Alberta is doing down there to try to put forth some of the views.

Before I adjourn the debate, Mr. Speaker, I just think some of the remarks the hon. member made about large equipment and things like this are out of context for the farming community in the Stony Plain area and any other rural area of this province. So I would think the hon. member should resurvey and rethink what he's said. Never mind reading texts of some professor at the University of Saskatchewan or in Alberta someplace. Let's go out and look at the basics and see what the farmers are doing who have done a pretty good job in looking after this province.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to adjourn debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Assembly agree with the motion to adjourn the debate?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is proposed this evening that the House will assemble in Committee of Supply, at which time the estimates of the Department of the Attorney General might be dealt with, possibly followed

by the estimates of the Department of Culture. I would therefore move that when the House adjourns this evening it reassemble in Committee of Supply and recommence after the committee rises and reports progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Assembly agree with the motion of the hon. deputy Government House Leader?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[The House recessed at 5:27 p.m.]

[The Committee of Supply met at 8 p.m.]

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

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

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

Department of the Attorney General

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I was almost late for the committee meeting. Of course the reason was that I was so attentive to this work that my preparation took me up to the last minute.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What's the score?

MR. CRAWFORD: I wish I knew. [laughter]

MR. R. CLARK: One to nothing for Minnesota.

MRS. CRIPPS: Do you watch TV down there in your office?

MR. CRAWFORD: I was going to say that, having taken all that trouble, I think I'll make a few opening remarks, which won't necessarily forestall any particular questions but might point the direction to some areas that would be of interest to members.

The estimates reflect that we're in a very, very active and very, very busy time in the Department of the Attorney General this year. That is certainly the record of last year. I think the year we're looking forward to now holds every promise of being an extremely busy, interesting and, in some respects, difficult year.

One of the things we have done recently in the organization of the department, which would perhaps be of interest to members, is the regionalization, in the sense of the appointment of a regional agent in the criminal law system for northern Alberta and southern Alberta. Two senior counsel were selected, Mr. Abbott in Edmonton and Mr. Chrumka in Calgary, both of whom are very well known in the profession and beyond. With the new reporting lines and new assignments of the two senior counsel involved, we believe we will have a greater uniformity in prosecution policy and greater efficiency in carrying out the work of what is in excess of 100 Crown counsel who carry out duties in the courtrooms throughout the province.

We also have something that I have perhaps reported

on in the past but something extremely important in the sense of the long-term development of services that are necessary and are provided in a very important and vital way to the people of the province through the Department of the Attorney General; that is, the significant movements we have been making in the last couple of years; and accelerating still at the present time, in regard to computerization and certain automatic systems that are improving the efficiencies we have, in particular in the management of operations in the courts. We've recently brought in data processing in Edmonton and Calgary. This is a new system: the prosecutor-oriented management information system, that you would know we call PROMIS, in accordance with the modern tendency to find a name for something rather than describe what it is. PROMIS is operational in the United States, but the one in use in Alberta at the present time is the first one in Canada. It is being looked at by several other provinces and by the government of Canada. The system keeps track of cases being handled by prosecutors' offices at all levels of court, and is able to enter details of each event which occurs throughout the case, from the time the charge is laid until the conclusion of the final appeal.

I might say that for anybody who ever practised in court under a purely manual type of arrangement for all this record keeping, this is rather impressive progress. For example, the system produces subpoenas for all witnesses being called by the Crown, as well as reports of the more serious cases and certain statistical reports as well as daily, weekly, and monthly dockets of various kinds. I saw part of the automatic system in operation a number of months ago and was most interested in the way it selects the names of witnesses from its own information, in effect, and sets about to type the subpoenas in respect of the case it is called upon to type the subpoenas for. Quite an interesting operation, and it has with it the promise, if I can use that word, of increasing the throughput without unnecessary increases in manpower in respect of what is now a very, very busy court system. We expect that statistical data which the system will eventually produce will be of significant benefit to everyone involved in the administration of justice, particularly in respect of the future requirements of courthouses, courtrooms, judges, Crown counsel, and court personnel. So that is a very important development.

Of course in mentioning computerization, we're well into the area in the registration of land titles and registration of personal property transactions as well. I think you could say we're pretty definitely committed to automatic systems, and it seems to be about the only way we can begin to handle the type of workload that has developed in recent years and satisfy the type of record keeping and information that is called for these days in the type of service we are committed to provide.

A few other areas that continue to be of interest: I know that members are aware that the Attorney General's Department recently was authorized to bring on strength a native liaison officer and a small staff. This is a direct result of the recommendations of the Kirby Board of Review, in particular Report No. 4. We hope to have that position filled very soon in this fiscal year. The responsibilities of the position would be special information and liaison programs for native people, improvement and expansion of programs which involve native people in the enforcement and judicial processes, the improvement and expansion of service to native people who come into contact with the law, and the provision of additional justice services directly to native people in isolated

communities.

This year as well, speaking of the calendar year, January was the effective date of the new Alberta Gaming Commission. So for the first time the estimates this year reflect a significant cost, which we think is fully and well justified, in regard to the operation of the Gaming Commission. The sort of change that is a result of what was done in coming up with the new gaming policy is very, very extensive indeed. Not only do we have a full-time gaming commissioner to head the commission, six members of the public are with him in order to do primarily two things. One is to continue a complete updating and advisory role in regard to gaming policy for the province so the policies will not become out of date and archaic. We won't have people saying to us all the time, as they were certainly a year or so ago when gaming became of considerable interest to charitable and volunteer groups, that the system was not serving the purpose it was meant for, that the red tape was impossible, the decisions were inconsistent one with the other, and on and on with that type of complaint. We believe that the commission, with its citizen representation and an experienced and very able public servant at the head, will be giving a different picture with respect to gaming in and throughout the province. The commission has geographical representation and representation from various types of volunteer agencies.

Apart from that advisory function, the commission also has direct responsibility for administration and granting or refusing licences. A form of appeal procedure is provided for, and the commission is obliged to provide reasons in writing where the decision is that a licence not be granted. So these are wide-ranging changes that I hope can be generally applied.

I might mention a few other things, Mr. Chairman, by way of overview remarks. The work the department does in the area of fatality review is very, very important. I made some observations during the year, and in some respects the function of the fatality review mechanism in the Attorney General's Department attracted a lot of public interest and attention. We wanted to make sure that the new system, which supplanted the coroner system about three years ago, would work effectively in yielding the type of information that would be most useful to people in making sure that otherwise unexplained deaths were investigated in the fullest possible way.

As part of the ability to carry out the important work of the medical examiner function, we'll be opening this year in Edmonton one of the finest laboratories in the country dedicated to forensic and related examinations that have to be done with regard to unexplained deaths. There are about 4,000 such deaths in the province each year. If you take the overall figure that the medical examiner's office and the Fatality Review Board begin with, they reduce that from there. Some deaths are relatively easily explained, but formal inquiries are held in about 70 cases a year. These are very important to have conducted in public, as they are, and to have the recommendations of the Provincial Court judge in each case.

The Provincial Court is handling a very, very significant workload and now numbers just over 90 judges. We're very proud of the court and the work being done by its various divisions and judges. This is a large court now when you get close to 100 judges. It handles some 270,000 cases of differing types in the year. At the rate of over 20,000 cases a month, this is a very, very busy court.

Mr. Chairman, those are some remarks by way of

introduction. I'd be pleased to try to assist members with whatever other information I can with respect to details.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, perhaps three areas of question to the Attorney General before we become involved in each of the nine specific votes. First, Mr. Attorney General, we're being asked this evening to approve a 22.3 per cent increase in the estimates for the Attorney General's Department. When I look at the increases other than fatal inquiries — and I'll have some comments about that in a moment — it seems to me that the kinds of increases, excluding legal aid, are rather sizable. I look at the estimates for the department that the Assembly approved in '77-78, and they were some \$41 million. So we have a situation between '77-78 and this year, really a doubling of the estimates in the Attorney General's Department.

Now I have no particular quarrel with that if in fact we're getting value for the money spent. But it seems somewhat strange to me that in the Attorney General's Department we're in fact doubling the estimates from \$41 million in '77-78 to \$82 million this year. So, Mr. Minister, if we can, I would like some overall explanation with regard to the increases as far as Vote 2, court services, is concerned. On one hand, if that is tied to the data computer program — I think the minister used the word PROMIS, which I hope would lead towards the promise that we wouldn't have the kind of backlogs we've had in the past as far as setting court dates is concerned, the long, extended periods of time that I know the minister is well familiar with, as well as many other members. If in fact that's the result of PROMIS, then I can rest a little more comfortably with a 22 per cent increase there.

I would appreciate it very much if we could get some view into the minister's crystal ball for the future. Mr. Minister, are we looking at these kinds of increases for the next two to three to four years? Or this fact that we've doubled the department's estimates in virtually four estimates, which if you use the new or old math comes to about a 25 per cent increase per year — do we expect this kind of increase next year and the following year? Or in fact are we in a position where the minister can indicate to the Assembly that this will enable us to catch up, to implement a number of Kirby's final recommendations, 1, 2, 3, and 4? If that's the case, that's one thing. On the other hand, if we're going to continue to see a 22 per cent increase next year, then I think it would be helpful — certainly at least to my colleagues and me — if we had some indication as to the kind of budgetary call that will be coming from the Attorney General's Department over the next two, three, or four years.

I ask that in all seriousness, because the budget for the department has doubled over four years. I fully recognize there was a need to catch up in the court area. I fully recognize there was some need to move ahead with some of Kirby's recommendations. On the other hand, we've had the Kirby report now for some four years since the first Kirby report, and how are we doing as far as implementing those recommendations?

Mr. Chairman, the second area deals with Vote 6. I'd appreciate it if the minister would make some comments in this area now, rather than getting to Vote 6. Mr. Minister, what is the reason for a 96 per cent increase in the cost for fatality inquiries? I don't think anyone would suspect the Attorney General's Department is looking at that kind of increase from the standpoint of fatalities. So, Mr. Minister, I assume we're going to have a rather very sizable expansion of work done by the gentleman in

charge of fatal inquiries, Dr. Butt, I believe, from Calgary. Mr. Minister, I think some explanation would be helpful there.

The third area that I'd like some elaboration on is gaming control and licence. As the minister said in his initial comments, this has been an area of considerable controversy for some time. I'm sure my colleague from Clover Bar will have some comments with regard to this area. The announcement was made some months ago with regard to general information on all gaming events that came from Mr. Gardiner's people some time ago. Very frankly, what initiatives will the gaming control people be embarking on this year that justifies an almost 250 per cent increase in their estimates?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Stony Plain followed by the hon. Member for Edson.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, where the questions are generally put before we're into the specific items, I wonder if maybe I could respond in a general way.

As to the gaming — I do them in reverse. My hon. friend perhaps is not surprised at that. I'm sure the only reason the increase is so large is that the commission was funded for only part of the year, from December last year when Mr. Gardiner was appointed. The commission itself was appointed in January. So we have that relatively short period of time, and the increase from last year to this year really reflects the need to operate it on a year-round basis.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, might I just interrupt the minister there. The minister perhaps wouldn't be surprised at my interruption either. Mr. Minister, the gaming control people, Mr. Sheppard and the crew he had working for him in the Attorney General's department, were previously funded within the Attorney General's department. I can appreciate that we now have a gaming controls commission, but the more or less day-to-day operations of the gaming regulation in Alberta had to be carried on in the Attorney General's department previously. I would assume that's moved over and is included in the \$131,000 in the estimate forecast for last year. That had to go on all year, Mr. Minister. I recognize that the commission itself was set up under Mr. Gardiner later in the year, for the last quarter of the year. But it would seem to me that they'd be a small portion of the estimates of \$131,000, which is really the regulatory portion of what was previously going in the AG's Department.

MR. CRAWFORD: That's fair enough comment, Mr. Chairman. In order that I might make it clear, the way the estimates have been prepared is to single out the proper comparison for the work the commission is doing. The commission is not doing all the work that some 30-odd people who worked with Mr. Sheppard were doing. That still remains within the department. That is an enforcement role which has nothing to do with licensing, an audit type of role. If advice is required on specific applications, say as a result of an audit that's been done, that is still done by Mr. Sheppard's people and produced to the commission. The commission is something along the line of an appeal agency, because under the legislation we operate under, which is the Criminal Code, we believe that we cannot provide a full appeal function. So the way it works is: Mr. Sheppard's group makes what is in effect a recommendation in regard to the licence, but they're

not part of the commission. Then if the recommendation is not to issue a licence, the person is notified. At that point they come to see the commissioners rather than the staff who handled the matter before.

I'm not sure exactly how many people were employed in Mr. Sheppard's operation. I would guess it was over 30. We're looking at the essence of the commission itself with seven full-time positions: an executive director, a clerk of appeals, as I recall it, probably a couple of principal secretaries and, say, another secretary and two clerks, something like that; but no enforcement officers, no audit officers, and so on, all of whom remain in the gaming branch with Mr. Sheppard. So when I say that the 1980-81 forecast covers only part of a year, it covers part of a year for the small operation, not the overall one. I think the cost of the seven individuals and their supplies and services, wages and salaries, pension benefits, and the like, is not unreasonable at \$454,000. That's the best explanation I can give of that matter at the present time, Mr. Chairman.

Vote 6, the fatality inquiries: once again, the capital item is rolled into the \$3.5 million amount to be voted. That's the figure that shows the 96.3 per cent increase. The capital item is some 35 to 40 per cent of the overall figure. I'm not sure what it would work out to on the other, but that is the purchase of fixed assets, laboratory equipment and the like, to furnish and make operational the new laboratory located on the university farm, and has recently been completed as to its construction. We expect it will be open this fall.

The capital being the largest, the balance of the increase would be made up in three ways. One is that 10 people have been hired in connection with the new facility. So that's 10 positions and salaries in connection with that. Another aspect of the cost would be the normal increases that have to be built in for inflation in regard to supplies and services, and of course, negotiated agreements in regard to manpower and other salary adjustments for those outside the bargaining unit. The third area would be one that goes through a great many, if not all these votes; that is, the combined effect of the new dental plan and the collective agreements and what is now the prepayment of pension benefits. Members will recall that a few years ago those were received into general revenue. The change was made only last year. A portion of it was funded via a special appropriation, but it also changed the way they're handled with respect to each individual. Moneys are no longer paid into the General Revenue Fund, so the department is responsible for the employer's share of that.

I share the concern or observation with any hon. member who raises the point that increases should not be excessive on a percentage basis. I think, though, that when the hon. member quoted me the figures of \$40 million-odd, \$44 million, I think it was, for 1977-78 — I think the hon. member indicated that it's virtually doubling in that period of time. That is four years, of course, '77 to '81. I think the most significant things about this year are the ones I've referred to. There is the heavy input in regard to computerization, and collective agreements and pension benefits. I honestly don't think the department is being extravagant in regard to the demands being made on it at present.

We have had to acquire numbers of new employees. That's something that every department faces. But we acquired some 96 new employees just in the court services division, for example, and going from, let's call it 2,200 employees a year ago to 2,357 this year, an increase of

156 positions. Each of them requires not only the wages, salaries, and benefits, but in many cases some additional equipment or space. We look at it from the point of view that we're having a terrific run of the consumer on areas like property registration, land titles, and certainly the use of the courts. We estimate the increase in the number of Court of Queen's Bench cases alone this year is perhaps in excess of 25 per cent, partly a result of a fast-growing population, partly a result of a high economic activity.

A lot of people involved in the increase of 96 were judicial clerks and people who, along with the judicial clerks, serve the courtroom and the judges. We've had increases in the size of all the courts, both federal and provincial. I'm concentrating now just on this court administration aspect and why so many of the 156 or 157 are into that area. Those are the reasons, and I do think it's possible that we will have a year or so at a time when there will be a sort of levelling in the demand we have for manpower. Now I don't make that a prediction, because predictions can be brought back and proven dangerous, but it's an observation I make. I think it's more than a hope being expressed; it's an expectation that having sort of closed that gap for now and seen the terrific mushrooming of work, maybe it will be restrained in the next few years.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to make a couple of comments and a question to the minister regarding the Gaming Commission, but in his initial remarks and when the Member for Olds-Didsbury asked his questions regarding the Gaming Commission, the minister answered a number of the questions I had.

I'd just like to thank the minister for coming in so quickly after our caucus committee for gaming, of which I was chairman, came in with recommendations in October, for acting so fast and expeditiously to put in the chairman for the Gaming Commission and establish the other six members so in fact we would have in place the Gaming Commission that has been in front of us as government for about two years now. I would hope the seven members, including Mr. Gardiner — and I think he'll do a good job.

I guess I could say that prior to the establishment of the Gaming Commission I had a number of inquiries about gaming regulations, gaming permits, and so on, from various citizens in my constituency. But since the establishment of the Gaming Commission, the mail in that particular area has certainly cut down. In fact I've had no mail from community groups or individuals who have had problems gaining licences. So I think the establishment of the commission, which divorces the enforcement end from the application end, will certainly help. I think most organizations in the province will come to use the Gaming Commission — and I hope they do — instead of using the other route, known as the political route for a number of years in this province. So with the commission in place, I hope it will certainly take pressures and some of the decision-making away from us and leave it with them.

The question I'd ask the minister: has the commission come in with a firm set of policy guidelines that we established as a caucus committee, or is that still sometime down the road?

MR. CRAWFORD: I think that's sometime down the road yet, Mr. Chairman. In effect the commission is working through the familiarization with the area it must work in. It uses the report of the caucus committee,

which had in it numerous principles in regard to definition, although not precisely, of charitable objectives, ways certain events might be handled with less strict formality, and ways certain types of events might have previous restrictions and limitations removed.

At present the commission is in effect applying a basic philosophy. I believe the actual publication of a series of policy guidelines, which would then be forwarded to all groups interested in any way, has perhaps not yet been forwarded by the commission, but that will be an important document when they do. One of the advantages in the new policy is that it would be subject to revision itself, based on experience and on the advice of the commission.

DR. CARTER: My two general comments are first with respect to the comments of the Attorney General regarding native work. I wonder if you might go a bit further with respect to whether or not interpreters who are able to deal with the language differences between all the tribal bands in the province of Alberta have been put in place.

The second comment is with respect to what I believe is known as sudden infant death syndrome, SIDS. I think the figure I caught for sudden deaths or deaths that needed to come within the ambit of your office in the course of the year is something like 4,000. I wonder if any special attention is being directed to the coroners to have special care and attention with regard to the number of infant fatalities in the province. My understanding is that oftentimes children have been physically abused by their parents before death occurs and that oftentimes the deaths are listed as accidental. It takes a high degree of sensitivity and perhaps some extra admonition to coroners to be on the lookout for variations within this sudden infant death syndrome.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, first as to the interpreters. Interpreters are available for any case where a native, or indeed any other person unfamiliar with the English language, at any time requires. It does occasionally result in delays if one in a particular language doesn't happen to be available at a particular time. But that is an inconvenience and not a denial of the process in any way.

I know that from time to time ideas are current that involve, say, additional training of interpreters and the sort of retention of interpreters as court officers rather than the way they're produced at present, which is primarily to find a person who is able to take the oath that he is familiar with the two languages, and he is then available for a particular case. Lawyers and the court officials generally know who these people are and are generally able to make them available for a particular case. So although perhaps more could be done in the sense of ready availability — and if members would like to refer to any problems that are specifically known of, I'd be glad to look further into it. I don't think that particular aspect is a problem, at least not an overwhelming problem at the present time.

I think the other matter of fatalities deserves a certain comment on the statistics I gave. I gave the two ends of them. I said that about 4,000 cases in a year come under the purview of the Chief Medical Examiner in the first instance. They would be cases that he would look at for some reason or another. Many of them are very rapidly explained. Then I said that in a given year about 70 would be made the subject of a judicial inquiry. But in between those figures is probably the prime workload of the medical examiner's office. After weaning down the

4,000 and before you get to those where the Fatality Review Board advises or the Attorney General directs that a fatality inquiry take place, in the formal sense of a judge presiding over it, in between that you have all of the very large caseload handled by the medical examiners working on behalf of the Chief Medical Examiner throughout the province and providing reports.

Now we have the growing capacity to enter on computers all the ones that are made the subject of a direct report as a result of judicial findings. We're quickly developing and putting that into the situation, where if trends of any sort develop we would be able to find them. If recommendations in one case tend to be similar to another's, we would be able to say how many cases were involved and whether the circumstances were indeed similar.

On cases where an actual judicial inquiry wasn't held but where a file exists and certain recommendations were made, we already have a follow-up system for those but could probably do more in that area in the sense of identifying trends. The point is that this is the program at the present time, and this is actually what we're developing because we know full well the purpose of the legislation is, if possible, to learn from the tragic circumstances of accidental deaths and cause public authorities, manufacturers, and others, who are involved in some way in either types of equipment or potentially dangerous situations, to adopt different standards or procedures and, as a result of that, save future deaths.

I suppose the difficulty in discussing the overall subject can be that we can learn these things and may still find that deaths occur under similar circumstances at some other time and place. That is a practical problem that may well be insurmountable. I don't say it is, but it may be in the sense that, at the moment an accidental death occurs, in all likelihood, some individual is there who is being inadvertent or careless. I don't know how you create a system that will stop that.

The best example of accidental death is the motor vehicle. No matter how much we know about the causes and how much we know about momentary inadvertence, many people die as a result of momentary inadvertence. No matter how much we know about alcohol, many people die in motor vehicle accidents as a result of alcohol. What you can do, other than to have information programs and of course, if there's a crime involved, proper proceedings and punishment with respect to criminal negligence, impaired driving, and things like that — you know, you can do all that, but it doesn't mean to say that having done so there won't be somebody who will make a similar mistake again somewhere else in the province the following day. In fact people are made that way and, in all likelihood, a mistake will be made more than once.

Therefore with respect to the specific interest of the hon. Member for Calgary Millican relative to the deaths of youngsters, I think I should point to the reference I made to the ability we are developing to classify and sort of track causes of deaths and tendencies of deaths of certain types. We will continue to work at that. We regard it as a very useful, indeed vital part of what we're doing. We hope to continue to improve it.

MR. PAHL: Mr. Chairman, I just want to rise with respect to Vote 6, the fatality inquiries program, and commend the minister. Hopefully that commendation will reach into his department.

Over the course of the last year, I had the misfortune to

be the next of kin in an accidental death situation. I can't say enough about the caseworker who appeared at the University hospital to involve herself in notification of the next of kin, advise of the requirements of an autopsy and, finally, the disposition of the remains at the request of the family. I just want to let the minister and the Assembly know that this is a program where, for a government/citizen interface, the minister and his department have been extremely effective in providing, in that case at least, a person whose sensitivity and effectiveness was overwhelmingly adequate for the job. I just want to put that commendation on record.

Thank you.

MR. MACK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the hon. Attorney General a couple of points. My particular interest in this area is because of the high cost today of not only wages but also benefits on an ongoing basis. What percentage is being used, if the hon. Attorney General can respond to it, of the contracting out, particularly in the area of court reporting, which I presume would be a fairly heavy component of the court services or operations?

My other point is in the area of the courts that are being cluttered up with very, very minor traffic offences. Are any further systems being contemplated to free the courts from the minor traffic ticket kind of situations as opposed to summoning them into court on a regular basis? I believe much has been done in this area, but I'm wondering if there's contemplation of doing a greater amount of work in order perhaps to cut down on the cost and have more voluntary attention by the public at large that happens to get involved in these minor offences, to attend to them voluntarily as opposed to being summoned to court.

My other question is the time being spent, for example, by the Public Trustee. I'm not sure that the hon. Attorney General can respond to it, but I certainly would appreciate it if he were able to. What areas would the major portion of their time — for example, do they spend a tremendous amount of time with the general population, or can it be more definable as to whether they spent a lot more time for, let's say, people who are confined in the two major provincial hospitals? Can there be a separation from that particular aspect of their operations as far as the Public Trustee is concerned? If the hon. Attorney General can provide some information on that, I would certainly be appreciative.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, court reporting is indeed an area where contracting out is done. I can't give a percentage, but I would guess that still well over half is done by departmental employees and other work is contracted out. I think this is a situation where, from the point of view of a person who wants to deliver a very, very important and a very high-cost service, being the services of court reporters, we would look to the ideal situation being a balance of some sort. Balance of course isn't a precise fifty-fifty arrangement, but we would want some work done by departmental employees who are traditionally there and achieve a very high standard, and we would want some work done by people who are in the private sector and able to do the same work. It is a matter of necessary discussion with the employed court reporters, of course, because they are bargaining with the government in regard to their remuneration, part of their remuneration being based on the way in which the work is done; that is, on an assignment or per page type basis.

It's very important to them not to be completely deprived of that area when outside contractors are used. So we know some sensitivities are there and will continue to be there on both sides.

It's not a one-sided matter. We have the general policy that I referred to of trying to maintain a balance, talking fully both to the private sector people and to the government employees, and trying to see that the work is fairly apportioned and gets done on time. We'll have to continue that effort. It's the sort of thing that requires constant attention in order to be to the satisfaction of those involved.

On the question of minor traffic offences, I'm quite happy to be able to say that about a year and a half ago one of the national magazines published an article on the Alberta provincial court system. They happened to write particularly about the court in Calgary, but the same would apply to the court in Edmonton, and how the system had been successful in reducing the time for the process of cases to an enviable period in comparison with other jurisdictions in the country — enviable because it was so far superior to the others. A lot of this has to do with the way in which court matters are now processed, the fact that hearing officers are used, that we have a specified penalty system, and are slowly turning to a virtual civil process for the recovery of most ordinary, small fines where no serious offence is involved that should be made the subject of a trial. So I think we might as well take whatever credit there is and note that, although sometimes it can look like there's a pretty heavy load being handled by a court on a particular day, overall the system is functioning well and is dealing with large numbers of cases very expeditiously. We're proud of that, and we'll continue to monitor it and make sure that adjustments are done as they're required.

As to the Public Trustee, I'm afraid I'm not able to answer the hon. member's question as to what portion of time might be spent in different types of duties. Primarily the Public Trustee is there because citizens occasionally get themselves into the position where they have not made other arrangements that might be more suitable for certain of their affairs. Whether it be the case of infant survivors in estates or the case of a person with no known next of kin and who has a small, or occasionally a large estate or at least an estate of some consequence within the province, the Public Trustee is normally named and steps in.

Over the years I think it's been a very, very good piece of work done by the Public Trustee in that although individual complaints have come to my attention, and undoubtedly occasionally to the attention of hon. members, I usually find that when I seek an explanation, the Public Trustee can document a very excellent sequence of steps taken on behalf of the person involved. I think the record keeping is superb. We do not find that the Public Trustee is ever in a position where he's unable to say what happened in a particular case, no matter how old it is. I can remember cases where we would be able to ascertain the exact price of a small payment that had to be made to somebody who got in touch with the Public Trustee from outside the jurisdiction, even though the estate may have expired in something like 1940 and the tiny asset long since reverted to the General Revenue Fund. In such cases the Public Trustee has always been in a position to do a calculation from his records, come up with something, and handle the matter.

That doesn't directly answer the hon. member's question. Of course there are the involvements upon the part

of dependent adults, but the Public Trustee does not have the exclusive area there in regard to acting on behalf in the sense of being a trustee. So I would be quite happy to get back to the hon. member with a little different breakdown on how the time is spent, but I'm not able to give it now.

Agreed to:

1.01 — Minister's Office	\$176,450
1.02 — Deputy Minister's Office	\$225,270
1.03 — Information Centre	\$1,058,350

1.04 — Planning, Research and Development

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Mr. Minister, there's about \$160,000 increase here over the forecast for last year. What's the basic reason?

MR. CRAWFORD: We have \$74,000 in merit increments and management increases. We have two new positions, a programmer analyst and a systems analyst, at \$45,000. I'm just picking the ones of any size here. The employer contribution for the pension and dental plan under this particular vote is now \$29,000. That is the portion of the increase. In 1.04 it would undoubtedly be more. I think that totals all but about \$30,000 of the items.

I can give further detail. There's a \$7,000 item, the wage increase.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. Talking about Vote 1.04, what was the major reason once again, before the two individuals that were being added?

MR. CRAWFORD: The management people involved in that particular vote would be responsible for almost half the figure of \$74,000 covering merit increments and management increases.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vote 1.04: \$672,500. Are you agreed?

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, just one moment. To the minister. Why would the merit increases in 1.04, planning, research, and development be so much larger than, for example, Vote 1.05 or Vote 1.06, where you'd normally expect to find more people and secondly, likely a higher percentage built in for merit increase? I would assume in planning, research and development that not all that's done within the department. Isn't a portion of it contracted out? I simply find the suggestion that a large portion of that being for merit increases in planning, research and development, when I'd expect to find in the next two votes, 1.05 and 1.06, certainly in 1.06, far more merit increase built in there than I would in 1.04.

MR. CRAWFORD: That's fair enough comment, Mr. Chairman. In the other ones the figures are indeed less. The only guess I could hazard is that we would have people in planning and research who are relatively senior and skilled, despite the fact that work is sent out. For example, the involvement that we have now is into a very highly specialized area where we're doing much development of computer programs. As I indicated in my general remarks, we're very heavily into this in a number of areas, and planning people are definitely involved in the plan-

ning of such programs. These are long-term, complex thrusts which require highly skilled people.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to hold the estimate up, but might I ask the minister if he would simply go back and check on Vote 1.04. to give us precise figures as to the make-up of the increase between the forecast of \$508,000 to \$672,000 for this year. If that could be exchanged in the form of a memo, I'd be quite prepared to have the estimate go on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you asking for 1.04. to be held for the moment?

MR. R. CLARK: No, I'm simply saying if the minister will agree to send information to the office — I take it that's agreeable.

Agreed to:

1.04. — Planning, Research and Development	\$672,500
1.05. — Administrative Services	\$225,470
1.06. — Personnel	\$890,190
1.07. — Finance	\$2,473,230
1.08. — Materials and Facilities	\$967,550
1.09. — Management Audit	\$189,940
Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$6,878,950

2.1 — Court Support Services	\$5,217,960
2.2 — Court Operations	\$29,515,390
Total Vote 2 — Court Services	\$34,733,350

Vote 3 — Legal Services

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, to the minister. I have just two questions on legal services. Mr. Minister, if we look into the summary of elements on page 21, I believe it is, Vote 3.0.3, legal reform, University of Alberta. I notice that figure has remained virtually constant from the 1980-81 estimates to the forecast — and I realize the money is transferred over if my recollection is accurate — the same amount this year. I'm not one who generally advocates unnecessary spending. I'm not on this occasion, but I find it interesting that this is one of the very few appropriations we're being asked to review. As I understand it, this is the Institute of Law Research and Reform at the university where in fact an increase is not even built in for inflation.

Mr. Minister, on the same Vote 3.0.7., assistant deputy minister's office — law, I note that in the estimates last year we approved \$235,000, spent \$571,000, and now this year are being asked to approve \$336,000. I'd be interested in knowing the reason for that situation also.

MR. CRAWFORD: There would be no change in the amount made available to the university simply because they have other sources of income. Their budget in a year is significantly larger than the figure shown here, and they have other sources of income, as I recall, primarily from the Law Foundation, which is the system administered through the foundation to make certain types of grants based on interest earned from banks on lawyers' trust accounts. I believe some of the money that the institute gets comes from there. They may indeed have a source at the university. I'm not sure of that. But they have not

complained to me about our grant. They seem to find the \$289,000 ... [interjection] These are rare cases perhaps.

The other one, the assistant deputy minister's office, is a reflection of the amount of work done in various aspects of constitutional law. The estimate ended up considerably below the actual, and the figure selected for this year is on the assumption that this was an unusual year we've recently been through, and perhaps it won't be quite so high again.

Agreed to:

Total Vote 3 — Legal Services	\$14,739,900
Total Vote 4 — Support for Legal Aid	\$5,014,000

5.1 — Public Trustee	\$3,448,430
5.2 — Central Registration	\$2,016,200
5.3 — Land Titles	\$8,138,270
5.4 — Land Compensation	\$354,050
Total Vote 5 — Protection and Administration of Property Rights	\$13,956,950

Vote 6 — Fatality Inquiries

DR. REID: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask some questions of the minister regarding this particular vote. First of all I'd like to congratulate him on the provision of the new facility in Edmonton. I understand there's going to be a further, similar facility in Calgary.

The first concern I have is, will the Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Butt, be instructed to ensure that these facilities and the cases available at them are used for medical teaching, both at the undergraduate and especially at the postgraduate level? Because of the nature of The Fatality Inquiries Act all accidental deaths, which includes all motor vehicle accidents, all homicides, and similar forensic cases, are now handled through the medical examiner's Act and the department.

There has been difficulty in having access to this material for teaching purposes. That could be aggravated by moving all of it into a separate facility away from the university environment. Because of difficulties I've heard about, I'd like to have some assurance that this material will not be denied to the teaching staffs at the university, or we won't have any future forensic pathologists available, trained in this province.

The old coroner system was criticized by Mr. Justice Kirby for essentially three reasons: there wasn't enough information, there weren't enough autopsies, and there weren't enough inquests. Admittedly all three are important and, because of the increased budget now available, the autopsy situation has been corrected. I think that Dr. Cantor in the old coroner system would have appreciated the present-day budget.

The other question I would like to ask is in relation to dissemination of information to the relatives of the deceased. The hon. Member for Edmonton Mill Woods made some complimentary remarks about the system and the sympathy shown to him as a next of kin. That may be true in the urban areas where the staff of the Chief Medical Examiner's office are available. All the information sent back to medical examiners in the rural areas is marked confidential, and we have been instructed not to discuss the details with the relatives. I ignore that directive myself. I was a coroner under the old system, and I choose to ignore that directive. But younger doctors and those new to the system may be somewhat intimidated by

it. I have had complaints from people in the rural areas of a lack of information about the cause of death and the details on the decease. I would appreciate some action on this by the minister. I would think he now has an adequate budget for that to be done.

MR. CRAWFORD: I can respond to that, Mr. Chairman. I recall the hon. member raised the question last year of how information is provided to relatives of the deceased. I have to indicate to him that in recent months I haven't gone further into that matter, but I will clarify the existing policy for him and see why the type of criticism being made might be made. Then we could certainly address the policy further to see if there is a sort of agreed basis in the medical profession as to why it might be a little easier to provide certain types of information to relatives. I think I can be well assured that that can be extremely important at the difficult times when it is necessary to impart such information.

On the question of teaching, this has come to my attention. Once again, I have set in motion, through the Alberta Medical Association and a committee they have, a way of consulting, I hope, as to any unresolved problems about the availability of accident cases in regard to medical teaching. There are some complexities to it that seem to make it not so easy simply to give the assurance the hon. member has asked for. The discussions to try to work out the difficulty are being undertaken.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Attorney General about Vote 6. First of all, I think this is the third or fourth year now we've had this statute on the books, which replaced The Coroners Act. As I recall we were somewhat unique in Canada. I think at the time only one other jurisdiction adopted a fatality inquiries Act, similar to The Coroners Act. As I recall, it's specific objective was to investigate the cause of sudden death, under various circumstances, with or without medical physicians being involved.

I'd like the minister to comment, first of all, with regard to how he perceives The Fatality Inquiries Act functioning in the province of Alberta relative to the old system of The Coroners Act, whereby today we have essentially volunteers appointed by the government to sit on the fatality inquiries board and travel through the province. I understand it always uses a provincial judge to chair inquiries. I'd like his comments in that regard.

Secondly, a specific question: recently we had a tragedy in the constituency of Lethbridge West, perhaps best known as the Roy Plaza collapse. As a result of that, it appears there's an unusual amount of litigation under way. However, we saw the Minister responsible for Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation and his people do an investigation and make recommendations publicly for prosecutions with the Attorney General's Department. Inasmuch as The Fatality Inquiries Act falls under the same minister, the Attorney General, and insofar as The Fatality Inquiries Act I believe has now concluded with regard to carrying out an inquiry on the Roy Plaza, it would be helpful if the minister could indicate to me the scenario that if The Fatality Inquiries Act, the summation by the provincial judge who is chairing that, makes recommendations, will the Attorney General's office then be in a position of having to make a judgment whether to proceed with prosecutions of principals involved with the collapse of that building, or is it a mandatory thing based on the findings of the fatality inquiries board that's investigating?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, as to how the Fatality Review Board and the legislation itself is functioning at the present time, I realize that one can say for only so long that we're working into new systems and new legislation, developing an area perhaps of new expertise, and handling things in a different way. Nevertheless that is the case and, being a sort of new venture in comparison with other jurisdictions in the country at the time this legislation came forward, I don't think we've done at all badly in implementing and getting on the road the new systems we have in regard to fatality inquiries, after the period of three years, which is what it is. I think the legislation is very important in that it is dedicated to making the public accessible to the processes and the findings in regard to the inquiries held by the judges. Certainly there are some investigations where, for various reasons, such as potential criminal charges or civil litigation, certain aspects might not be readily made available. But when conducted by a judge, the inquiries themselves are held in public and the reports are published. I think that's very important.

We have the Fatality Review Board, which basically looks at a potential case for investigation and recommends that a judicial inquiry be held. I think the board is functioning well in that aspect. I can remember only one or two cases. I believe that in either the very earliest stage of my duties in this position or in the hands of my predecessor, there was a case where it seemed apparent that an inquiry should be held. On that particular occasion the board did not recommend that one be held, and I believe it was my predecessor Mr. Foster who directed that one be held in that case. The Act allows for that. It permits the Attorney General to receive representations, whether they be by way of legal counsel on the part of somebody involved, a letter from a relative, or any number of things like that that could trigger the system if the Attorney General concludes that it's a sincere representation and that there are reasons an inquiry should be held, even though the Fatality Review Board itself may have concluded otherwise.

So I think in that way the objective of keeping the glare of publicity on the type of situation where there is either an unexplained death or one where an investigation should be held even though there is an explanation — for example, nursing home deaths. Investigations should be held in those even though there is an explanation; i.e., strangulation by a particular type of restraining device. So the full light of publicity is on those cases. I'm sure there was a time when it was possible that that didn't happen, that the full light of publicity was not on circumstances like that.

The hon. member is into a difficult area in raising the very contemporary Roy Plaza case. I will explain what I mean by that in raising the question of prosecutions. It is a contemporary case because the report was produced only yesterday, I believe, and was published today. Certain findings were made by the judge who conducted that inquiry. One of the principles of the legislation is that the judge is not to determine legal liability. He is to try to ascertain the cause of an unexplained or accidental death and make recommendations.

If he did more, he would be fulfilling one of two other roles: the attributing of blame, say, in the sense of negligence — something that can only be done after a trial and both parties have had the benefit of proceedings taken in the usual way in the Court of Queen's Bench. The type of process the judge goes through in holding his inquiry does not, in any sense, fulfil the full aspects of what a Queen's Bench trial would be, with witnesses, full argu-

ment of legal principles, issues of what does and does not constitute negligence, and so on. So that's the civil process. Then if the result is that some prosecution should take place, whether it be under a statute such as The Occupational Health and Safety Act — and there have been prosecutions under those Acts — or the rare case where there might be a criminal negligence charge filed. Those are hard to prove. Once again, if he got involved in that, the judge would be outside the area of his inquiry. Because if a charge is to be laid, the assessment of evidence deemed to be sufficient is required, so that the prosecutor has a reasonable chance of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that an offence actually occurred. Now to have a judge, listening to the cause of the accident and making recommendations, try to make that decision as well — which is primarily a decision of a Crown counsel, determining whether charges should be laid — once again would becloud and befuddle the function the judge is trying to perform.

In the Roy Plaza case, we had to assess what evidence was available and decide whether there were circumstances that were not only possible, but were indeed evident, that would bring home to some individual or corporation that could be charged, the responsibility for what occurred. It was our judgment that charges laid on that basis would probably not succeed. Even though the circumstances of the accident are there, the demands of criminal justice are very high, in the sense of proof beyond reasonable doubt. The Crown counsel has to make decisions as to whether he could ever succeed in a particular case. When he decides he could not, then no matter how tragic the circumstances are, it may be necessary, for lack of evidence, to say that a certain case will not proceed. That's the sort of explanation I can give, Mr. Chairman, about the roles of the various people involved in the inquiry process.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to prolong this unduly. The minister just made reference to the fact that one of the great advantages with the legislation of the Fatalities Review Board was that it highlights. I think we saw ample evidence within the past 10 days with Judge Lynch-Staunton, with regard to the hunter who was mauled by a bear and died, west of Pincher Creek. The judge made some very positive recommendations. It's not a bad idea, for example, to have a policeman who is capable of being off pavement, you know, and able to go into the hills. I think that's an excellent example of what the minister is talking about.

However, I am not aware, nor I have been aware, that the report on the Roy Plaza was in. As the minister knows, it takes four to six days to get a newspaper north 300 miles. The point I was attempting to make with respect to the minister, was: as I recall, the Minister responsible for Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation had made recommendations that there be prosecutions — perhaps I'm in error. I understand further that as a result of the inquiry, a judge will be making certain recommendations.

The minister has just said that one of the benefits of The Fatality Inquiries Act is to highlight. I suggest when there's loss of life in the province of Alberta through the collapse of a building put up by professional people, protected by statute in the province of Alberta; when that occurs, even though in the judgment of prosecutors the chances are of not getting a successful prosecution, I think the people of the province would be better served if, in fact, prosecution were proceeded with, and the goal of

highlighting was achieved. I honestly believe, Mr. Attorney General, that the very fact that it was carried out would appear to many citizens anyway — and I think appearances are very important — that the government of Alberta is sincere about the protection of life with regard to constructing buildings and buildings that collapse.

I don't really want a response from the minister. I just wanted to make that point.

Agreed to:

Total Vote 6 — Fatality Inquiries	\$3,542,660
Total Vote 7 — Crimes Compensation	\$855,990
Total Vote 8 — Public Utilities Regulation	\$2,305,210
Total Vote 9 — Gaming Control and Licensing	\$456,690

Department Total \$82,483,700

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

[Motion carried]

Department of Culture

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the minister wish to make any opening remarks?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to say a few comments. Alberta Culture will continue to serve the people of this province through programs and services already in place under our cultural development and historical resources division. A major new research institute will be constructed in the Midland's provincial park in Drumheller. The \$25 million project, in 1980 dollars, will include major museum displays of remains of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals, as well as having a research and a teaching facility. This project will be constructed over the next three years and will enhance the tourism and economic viability of the Drumheller area.

In fulfilment of the master plan for prehistoric and historic resources announced last year, my government will begin construction on the development of interpretive facilities in the Crownsnest Pass at Frank Slide and Leitch Collieries. Father Lacombe church, Stephansson house, and the Victoria settlement will be open to the public in the summer of 1981. Work will continue on the unique Ukrainian village, with the completion of the interpretive plan. The \$60 million Calgary centre for the performing arts, a joint project with the city of Calgary, will get under way this year. Work will continue in 1981 on the Jubilee auditoriums, with functional upgrading and refurbishing to meet today's standards on safety and equipment.

Continued support will be given under our international assistance program to match moneys donated by Alberta's citizens to help people in third world countries meet the basic needs of life. Other programs provided by Alberta Culture will receive continued support with dollars allocated to take care of the normal inflationary pressures.

The 75th Anniversary was one of the outstanding events in 1980. Over 7,000 events took place throughout the year. Over 900 homecomings were held which brought in over \$100 million in tourism funds.

Mr. Chairman, I would be only too happy to answer any questions.

[Mr. Purdy in the Chair]

MR. L. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, the minister has answered some of the questions I was going to ask on the costs, but I would like to ask a few more on the museum. First, on behalf of all the people in the Drumheller area, I would like to thank you very much for picking Drumheller. I know it's greatly appreciated and will be of great benefit to our community. While I'm up, I'd like to say that we appreciate the Marigold library system you are putting in effect to bring regional libraries to the rural area. It's a very positive program, and we'd also like to thank you for that.

I would like to say just one other thing. You gave the cost of the museum in some of your general remarks. I would like to know the operating cost and the number of people employed. I couldn't find the museum in the estimates, but I'm sure it's in here somewhere. I'd also like to ask you what the size of the museum will be when completed and whether it will have some teaching — you said it was going to have teaching aspects, but I am thinking more of displays of the type of foliage and plant growth of that era.

One other thing I would like to know is: will a renewed emphasis be placed on the excavation of some of the remains of the species that are close to Drumheller right now and have been known to be there for quite a number of years? I understand that a large, flesh-eating dinosaur, one of the largest ever found, has gradually been eroding from the banks very near Drumheller. I'm hoping maybe this dinosaur can be brought back now that we have a place to display the remains of these animals in Alberta rather than sending them down east. I would hope we would be able to save some of these skeletons which are gradually eroding from the banks.

I believe that's all. Thanks again. It's really a very positive program for the Drumheller constituency.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Does the minister wish to answer the members individually or as a group?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, I'll try to answer them as they come up, because I think there were many questions in that one sentence, if I can recall all that was said. The operating cost will be approximately \$2 million a year. When the dinosaur museum is actually in operation it will have approximately 45 people on staff. But in order to have the opening in 1984 which we hope to achieve, we will now start putting staff on hand to start building the displays and getting the fossils and display units in place. We will not only be excavating in the Red Deer valley but as far up as the Peace River country and right down to the southern part of the province. If I left anything else out, maybe the member would tell me what else he asked.

MR. L. CLARK: I believe that's all. Thank you.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, I don't have a museum, but I do live in the county of Wetaskiwin. I know that over the past number of years there have been discussions with Stan Reynolds of Wetaskiwin regarding his collection. I'd like to know if an agreement has been reached. I understand by the grapevine that it has nearly been reached, if it has not. How many artifacts are included in the agreement, if it has been reached? I understand Mr. Reynolds has a concern that some of them may be sold. Maybe you could give us the assurance regarding that.

In my constituency I also have the Berrymoor ferry, which is of historical significance. At one time a number of ferries were on the Saskatchewan River, and at this time the Berrymoor ferry is the only remaining ferry. I would urge that it be retained, not necessarily as an historical site, as I know the ferry has been rebuilt over the years and kept in good condition, but certainly for its historical significance and maybe as a future tourist attraction. It would certainly be a loss to future generations if they were not able to experience a trip on the one remaining ferry on the Saskatchewan River.

MR. L. CLARK: I've got one I'll give them.

MRS. CRIPPS: We've got one. All we need to do is preserve it.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This past Friday a contract was sent to Mr. Reynolds. After he has had a chance to peruse the contract with his lawyers, hopefully we will shortly be hearing from him. As to the number, we made a statement that we would like to have a minimum of 300 pieces. In no case would we sell any of the pieces we acquire. Our hope is that some of the pieces we acquire would be able to be sent to other museums around the province.

As for the ferry at Berrymoor, I would like to see it continued as a tourist attraction. I think one of the sad things that has happened in this day and age is that many of our children have never ridden on a ferry. I will certainly take notice of the member's question and see what we can do.

Thank you.

DR. BUCK: To say the least, Mr. Chairman, I am more than a little disappointed that we have a caretaker provincial budget, and now we have a caretaker minister who is just going through the motions: no new initiatives, no new nothing. [interjections]

Well, well, well. I say that in all sincerity. I'm not trying to be mean or anything to the minister. The minister has just said, we're just going along, drifting merrily along. A caretaker minister is what we have. I would like to know what some of the new plans for the department are, Mr. Chairman. The minister has given us no indication.

While the minister has her pen handy, I would also like to find out from her the final cost of the ill-fated Roloff Beny project, under the auspices of the minister of foreign affairs, the minister for grants. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to know what some of the new grant programs are. Are we continuing the community hall programs? How about libraries? We're so proud of the initiatives we're taking in providing help for libraries, but are we still way down the totem pole, compared to other provinces?

Then the minister can tell us all about the great 75th Anniversary. What was so great about the thing? [interjections] The greatest greatness of it was that the people involved really tried to do the best they could in the amount of time they had. They were really trying to spend that \$75 million any way they could get rid of the money. [interjections]

Fine. All the members had to do was go with the delegation that went to Saskatchewan. That's all they had to do. The Speaker and I represented this Legislature.

MR. STEVENS: ... the two of you go around to all the celebrations we had here.

DR. BUCK: That's good. I'm glad. You'll need the help next time, Mr. Stevens, or hon. member from Canmore.

The thing is, they concentrated on people there, not trying to show how much money we can blow. What was the most successful part of our 75th Anniversary celebrations? The homecomings, the people things. It wasn't the amount of money we were giving away, the amount of money we were wasting in many instances.

AN HON. MEMBER: You wanted more pins.

DR. BUCK: Sure we wanted more pins. Everybody wanted pins. But when you needed pins, you couldn't get them.

MR. McCRAE: Come on, Walter. You gave away more than everybody else.

DR. BUCK: That's right. Because the minister didn't want to end up with a vault full of pins in November and December when the celebrations were over. That's when all the pins came, not when we needed them in May, June, July, and August, Mr. Minister. Where were you then? But we're not talking about the past. Let's look in the future: nothing, no new initiatives in this department.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say to the hon. minister, when we're talking about the Stan Reynolds collection, the minister's department has been fiddling and fooling around for about three years now. Mr. Reynolds has ... [interjection] Sure, fine, hon. Member for Drayton Valley. Go tell your constituents that. Mr. Reynolds has made that offer to the province many, many times. I would like to say to the minister that if the minister is going to show some new initiative, the minister should take a trip with the minister for world affairs, go down to Saskatoon, and have a look at the pioneer museum in Saskatoon. If I were an Albertan, I would be very, very proud of that museum.

MR. TRYNCHY: You're not an Albertan?

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, those people down there have gathered together one of the — to me it's the most, the widest range of agricultural equipment I have ever seen. Also you don't have to wade through snowbanks or stand out in a rainstorm to go look at it. It's under cover. So if the minister wants some new ideas, the minister can take a trip down to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Chairman, I am not too happy, to say the least, with the lack of initiative in this department. The minister says we're going to go ahead and do a little more with the Ukrainian cultural village. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I hope that I live long enough, because it may take 40 years before that thing is finally in full swing. That has a great potential.

Another place the minister should go to is New Brunswick, the poor people of New Brunswick. Maybe we should lend them another couple of hundred million dollars. [interjection] But at least they've done a lot with what little they've had. Go down to King's Landing in New Brunswick, hon. minister, and see what they have done down there. That's what we can do with the Ukrainian cultural village. That site out there is in close proximity to Edmonton. From April 1 or May 1 until November 1 that place should be going full blast, full

Ukrainian meals five nights a week. If the thing were promoted and done properly, on Saturday and Sunday you wouldn't be able to get into the parking lot. Not only is it in close proximity ... [interjection] Sure, John, where have you been? You had your two minutes in caucus. Where were you? Why didn't you tell the minister to do something besides just ...

MR. BATIUK: I'll tell you after.

DR. BUCK: Okay, tell me after. Fine. You're on that committee.

While I'm standing in my place, I'd like to say to the hon. Member for Vegreville that, as a member of this Assembly and the representative for Clover Bar, my people and I felt more than a little slighted in that we were not included in the program. I'm not saying that only because I am of Ukrainian descent but because I was and still am the MLA of that constituency. I thought I could have been shown the courtesy to be formally invited.

MR. BATIUK: You were.

DR. BUCK: Oh sure, just come with the crowd, John. Maybe you could have given me a small helicopter. The Premier could have the big one, and I could have the little one, you know. But I thought that was a cheap shot, and I think it's just about time that I told the people of this province. Anyway, Mr. Chairman, that cultural village has great potential, but let's do something about it.

Another thing to the caretaker minister of this department: it has been brought to my attention that now that we are trying to preserve historic artifacts and every piece of land now has to be searched, if the government wants it searched, the government can be made well pay for it. Right now you can't get a permit. If you're going to develop a subdivision or anything, you pay the cost of digging through the rocks, sediment, old garbage dumps, and everything. Well if the minister and the government want these things preserved, they should pay the cost.

Mr. Chairman, I think the minister has enough to get started on. As we proceed through the estimates, I think maybe the hon. minister will find out it's about time to show some new initiatives in this department.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask a question when my supplementary was interrupted by the hon. Member for Clover Bar. No expenditures were shown in the budget for the Stan Reynolds museum. When you're giving an answer, can you explain how you expect to acquire that and how the expenditure will be made?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If you don't mind, I think I'll address myself first to the supplementary. Depending on the number of artifacts we do get from Mr. Reynolds, that will depend on the size of the building. I would like to add to the hon. member that I have been down to Saskatoon. I was most impressed with the building and display they had down there. Perhaps the hon. member would listen. Ours will be an indoor museum also. You will not have to go over snowbanks to get to it. I can't actually put a cost on it until I know the exact number of equipment and if we're going to go ahead, [if] Mr. Reynolds is going to sign the contract.

To address myself to the questions of the hon. member

of the opposition, the total cost of the Beny collection to the Department of Culture was \$1,309.44.

DR. BUCK: Oh, come on, Mary.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Perhaps the hon. member would explain what he meant by ...

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, it cost more than that for air fare for some of the people who went over there. Is the minister trying to tell us that the total cost of the aborted Roloff Beny acquisition was \$1,000? Is that what the minister is trying to tell us in this Assembly?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, \$1,309.44.

DR. BUCK: Which fiscal year is that?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I believe that was two years ago, Mr. Chairman.

Then perhaps the hon. member would explain what he meant by community hall programs. I'm not too aware of what that term meant.

DR. BUCK: Ask Horst.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Then, as far as libraries are concerned, Mr. Chairman, we are second from the top in Canada in funding of libraries. [interjection]

AN HON. MEMBER: What were we in 1970?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: But we worked hard and were able to achieve that.

As far as the Ukrainian village, Mr. Chairman, I have been to New Brunswick and at King's Landing, and it is a very successful village. We have divided the Ukrainian village into three phases and hope to develop phase one starting this summer and to have — which I'm sure the hon. member will be pleased about — an eating place which would be in one of the houses, that we would have a museum with some of the artifacts on display. But I agree with the hon. member that it could be a major tourist attraction. I hope we'll get that into operation very soon.

Now to get to the 75th. Perhaps the hon. member won't agree with me, but I think one of the pertinent things that came out of the 75th was the people involvement, the volunteers, and the desire of the municipalities to spend the dollars given to them the way they chose that would be of most benefit to their communities.

I think those were all the questions at this time, Mr. Chairman.

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Chairman, after listening to old sour grapes over there, I'd just like to point out to him that when pioneers ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A number of members are not addressing the Chair. They're not using the proper parliamentary language.

MR. STROMBERG: Oh, the member for sour grapes. But I would like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that it's fine and dandy for him to stand up there and talk about what Saskatchewan did with Pionera. But when Pionera was formed by the people of Saskatchewan, and all the government did was give them some hangar buildings,

where was his government at that time? Saskatchewan was 20 years ahead of the Social Credit government. They collected their heritage and antiques. But you had a minister — well I'd like to address this to the Member for Clover Bar — by the name of, I think my pronunciation is right, Ambrose Holowach or something, and collectors and concerned citizens from all across Alberta who wanted to save our heritage pleaded with your minister and government, why can't you do the same thing as Saskatchewan?

What did Pionera do? When you were the government, they came into Alberta and took out the vintage cars and the good steam engines. They took out our history, and you people sat at your desks and didn't do anything. Now I'd just like to point out to the Member for Clover Bar, how many Ukrainian villages are there in Saskatchewan? None. This government has seen fit to protect this heritage. [interjection]

When he talks about cemeteries, I really appreciate the memos from the minister stating that funding went out to such and such a cemetery in my constituency. I believe we've had about five this year. These are cemeteries that missed funding before, but we really appreciate that you doubled the amount of funding for them.

MR. COOK: How about a memorial for Social Credit?

MR. STROMBERG: Yes, we'll put that fund into Clover Bar for that cemetery for the Socreds.

Speaking of libraries, my gosh, we just opened up the new Camrose city library, just a fantastic building, a fantastic effort by the community. We certainly appreciate the funding from your department. When you talk of the anniversaries — you know, I'm going to send *Hansard* to every anniversary committee in my constituency that worked so hard and pencil in red the remarks from the Member for Clover Bar. He won't be too welcome with those committees. Speaking of anniversaries, I rather appreciate that the anniversaries are continuing. Wetaskiwin has their 75th anniversary this year. Duhamel has their 100th anniversary. There's \$4,000 in funding going out to that community. That's rather tremendous.

I would like to get on to another subject, Mr. Chairman, local, provincial historic sites. I think the minister knows the subject I'm going to bring up. In our constituency we have a very, very unique local historic site. But how can you put a label on it as local? To someone coming in from Quebec or out from B.C., by golly that's got to be the most interesting story they've ever heard. It's the story of Driedmeat Hill. Now that's kind of unique. It goes back in legend. How do you expect the Cree and the Blackfoot to etch it in granite or put it into writing? Your department wants to have everything documented; it's got to be down there. But the name itself — and the Battle River. The Battle River was so called because it was a boundary between the Blackfoot and the Cree. For three winters Crowfoot camped on the banks of the Battle River — Big Knife Park. In those days the Cree and the Blackfoot were a little like the Irish and the English, or the Swedes and the Norwegians; they had their disagreements. That was the boundary. But each year the Cree from the western part of Alberta would come downstream, pick their saskatoons and chokecherries, kill their buffalo, and make their pemmican on Driedmeat Lake and Driedmeat Hill.

Mme. Minister, that hill has kind of an interesting story. It's very unique geology-wise. The hill was the remains of a glacier. At the time of the melt 10,000 years

ago, the glacier developed what is referred to as a melt somewhere in the middle of it. So all the water ran into this hole. Out there on the plains a very high hill developed, and you can see the strata in it: gravel/sand/gravel. The national archaeology group from Ottawa did a dig on it three years ago, and their findings showed that someone was on that hill 10,000 years ago. Now I think that's significant.

But the hill has had its ups and downs. At one time a private contractor was mining some gravel and sand, and he went broke at it because of the quality. It was sold two or three times, and approximately a third of the hill has been removed through the mining of coal and gravel. But all at once some wise people found a good sucker, and that was in that former sour grapes government over there, in the Department of Highways and sold the hill for a heck of a profit. So the Department of Highways was going to come in and pave all our roads and streets. That was election year, and the former government was offering all kinds of promises. But the local citizens got darn mad at the former government and the former Department of Highways, and they said, there's no way you're taking our hill. Being election year, they backed off. So Highways has owned the hill and title.

Things went along well till about three years ago. Once in a while the Department of Highways — they sure watch their dollar over there. There's still a lot of gravel in Alberta, but why they've got to take our hill, I don't know. They served notice that they were going to mine out the hill. The people of the Camrose constituency got up in arms. There was just no darn way. They're taking out a local historic site. I think that hill is, by word of mouth — it's not documented, but the Palliser group that came out to survey the west made reference to the hill by sweet water. Every pioneer who unloaded at Wetaskiwin, he unloaded his two boxcars, one of a wife and about half a dozen or a dozen kids, and his farm implements, and then struck across country, clean to the Saskatchewan border, trying to find a stake out there in the brush, the slough, or out in the prairie, which was his homestead stake — was instructed at Wetaskiwin, as you get through the Johnston Canyon, to the right, on the other side of Driedmeat Lake is the hill. Stay to the left of the hill, head straight east, and maybe you'll hit Provost, Amisk, or Wainwright. It is of significant importance to Albertans.

But to get on with the story. The people of Camrose were so riled up when our department, not sour grapes government, was going to mine the hill. So how do we save it? We talked to the good Minister of Agriculture, Horst ... [interjection] Well, it depends on how you pronounce it. He kind of turned off his hearing aid. We got a little perturbed that the federal government had for \$10,000 funded the re-enactment of the signing of Treaty 7 down there at Crowfoot Crossing. I understand the bills aren't paid for yet. They had about 6,000 people out, half of them were Liberals, and Prince Charles. So the Camrose group decided, well we'll show the Department of Culture that our hill means something to us. So we enacted the signing of Treaty 6.

Mr. Chairman, you've got to understand the signing of Treaty 6. The first signing was way back in the 1800s, and was signed up at Fort Pitt. But they couldn't get everybody to come to Fort Pitt. My gosh, there were people in the fish camps and the fur camps, and they were way up the Battle River and the Athabasca. So there was a second signing of Treaty 6, which actually took place just west of Edmonton on the Alexander Reserve. But we

enacted the second signing of Treaty 6. The RCMP co-operated. They had their horses in. Mme. Minister, your department had a large part to play in the writing of that presentation, and 5,000 people came out to that hill that day. That's what that hill means to my community. Oh, I forgot one thing. I was mentioning the feds spending \$10,000 on the enactment of the signing of Treaty 7 down at Crowfoot. Guess what this thing cost the province and the Department of Culture on Dominion Day? There was a grant for \$1,500; we spent \$1,493. We had 5,000 people there. We had the good will, paid our bills, and everybody was happy.

But the minister will be coming down to Camrose in May. She'll be speaking to the Battle River Tourist Association. She will be having an historical tour, and she will have the honor of being the first Minister of Culture in Alberta to walk up the hill and view the surrounding area. Mme. Minister, I hope that you will make the hill a provincial historic site and make it so holy that any time a department of highway engineer comes on to that hill, he's got to take his shoes off to walk on it.

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, my comment is with regard to the Writers' Guild of Alberta. Also my comments relate to the responsibilities of the Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Planche, in developing a film industry in the province of Alberta. The point I'd like to make to the minister and to have comment on is that I'm sure we all agree we have in Alberta good writers, good filmmakers, good artists, talented people in Alberta: a terrific pool of human resource who can contribute to filmmaking and the literary arts here in the province. When I examine the budget and talk to some of these people, I find that we do give some grants but very minimal ones in terms of encouraging and supporting these people in their cultural endeavors.

For example, when we talk about grants to individuals — and I understand there are various classifications in the budget — the sums of money are in terms of \$41,000, \$32,000, \$6,000, \$75,000. When you look at the fact that in Alberta we have 240 writers, from 53 different communities, who belong to the Writers' Guild of Alberta, these are people who have the capability of displaying their work, recording the history of Alberta, creating new thought, creating novels, that isn't very much money to distribute to each of these people really to do their job.

We look further down the budget. In terms of book publishing, we have \$42,000. Well, that's very little money to distribute as incentive to these people. Periodical publishing, \$32,000; agencies and grants to non-profit organizations, \$32,000: it's not a significant amount of money for the talent we have across this province at the present time. There are also grants towards authors' readings, where people who have created poetry, short stories, long stories are able to read them at universities or at various functions. We have \$7,500 there, which is a very minimal amount. That's 75 persons at a \$100 honorarium. A hundred dollars today isn't very much money, so it really doesn't give the necessary incentive or the encouragement.

I'm not sure how we supplement that budget. I'd like to urge the minister that we should consider it some way. I understand that a B budget was looked at, and I certainly think that we should consider some way of enlarging that budget. Secondly, if we can't do it until the next fiscal budget, we should certainly do it at that time. That's one

point. I feel we could do more for these people who are contributing to the film and literary arts of the province.

The second thing that concerns me is that my concept — and I certainly would want to be corrected or to confirm what I am saying at the moment. In building the film industry here in the province of Alberta, we are going ahead, passing legislation, but the people we put into the industry are going to be the important thing.

From the information we have had so far in the Assembly, I feel that the opportunity for those from the United States — whether in producing the film, a writer, a filmmaker, artist, whatever other kind of personnel is necessary for the film industry, will come in and do their film productions here, and that we're trying to encourage more of this film production from the United States.

To me that's wrong in principle. It's like a large engineering company that developed our tar sands, came up and developed a number of engineers, took the good ones back to the United States, and left us without an industry or without that pool of talent here in the province of Alberta. That shouldn't happen if we want to develop our film industry here in this province.

Let's start with a very humble approach in terms of the film industry. Let the opportunity be there for our writers, artists, filmmakers to play a major part in the film industry. One thing that can happen, as I recommend here: one, more funds can be provided to them and, two, in some way we should assure ourselves that the thrust of this government with regard to the building of a film industry is based on utilizing the great human resource we have right in this province of Alberta. Our writers, artists, filmmakers have won many Canadian prizes. I'm sure the minister could tell us about world prizes they have won and competitions they've become involved in. I think it's a chance to enhance their position, not only in Alberta but in the world film and literary arts community. Could the minister comment on that?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Leader of the Opposition was quite correct that it was a B budget item, and perhaps I was not too successful in getting that one part of my budget accepted. During this past year I established a literary advisory committee that was working with me and will continue to work with me. I think that is a step in the direction of how we can address ourselves to the needs of the writers, the poets, and the playwrights.

Also while I'm on my feet I would like to congratulate Stephen Scobie, who won the Governor-General's award on his latest book, and to wish him well as he moves on to British Columbia. I think that one of the things I will have to do — and I think I did it quite well when it came to libraries — is address myself to and make my colleagues and the community more aware of the needs of writers.

When it comes to the movie industry, over the last two years we have been bringing in some professionals to work with our movie people to help them in the script writing. We've been holding seminars. So hopefully we will be working together to promote the motion picture industry.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, in terms of a supplementary comment from the minister. Could the minister possibly comment a little further on the type of co-ordination going on between the minister's department and the Department of Economic Development with regard to the film industry?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, as I said I think we can enhance one another when the people are producing movies by making sure they have a decent script. In the future we will work with groups so that they will have the expertise in knowing how to put these scripts together, and also in the actual production of the films. Is that an answer for the Leader of the Opposition?

DR. C. ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the minister on the fine job she has been doing over the past two years, since she has taken office. I'd like to take exception to some of the words said by the Member for Clover Bar. In dealing with the 75th Anniversary celebrations, I would like to say that to spend their money my community didn't have to go out and come up with schemes that weren't worthy. St. Paul was the first community to submit a proposal to the commission, and that proposal was sent around the province to show other areas what initiative could be done to make it a successful event. I felt that the privilege of going out and honoring the senior citizens of our community with the gold and silver medallions, the scrolls, and then our other most important resource, our children, with the medallions that were given in our schools for the 75th Anniversary. I thought those were very successful.

I also take exception that the local events that were done in the communities were not of any success. I would say that the homecomings that were carried out in St. Paul, Elk Point, Vilna, Ashmont, and every community within the constituency, were very successful and very meaningful to the people. I wonder what his community did with their \$20 per capita grants, if that wasn't of any value to him? I know that in our community, our \$20 per capita grant was used to realize finally the structure of our swimming pool in St. Paul that the Lions Club there has been working on since about 1971. I think that was a very major project. We also had the development of a Jean Louis Lagasse Memorial Park. Mr. Lagasse was a distinguished lawyer and QC of our community, who was very active throughout his years of life in the community and helped promote the economic growth of that area. With his loss to the community, correctional institute labor plus 75th Anniversary money were used to make a little mark within the community, to recognize one of our important members of society who has left a heritage behind him.

I'd like to go on to the international aid program and ask the member where he has been in the things that have been accomplished with the assistance that was given to Italy in their catastrophe and the problems they have. On behalf of the minister, I had the privilege of giving a cheque of \$163,000-plus to the Mother Theresa Institute in St. Paul, for the use of Mother Theresa in Calcutta to provide shelter and accommodation for lepers. That society developed out of the Habitat world conference in Vancouver a few years ago, and has seen the construction of a home in St. Paul that was totally produced by volunteer donations of labor and equipment and has resulted in our government giving \$163,000 in international aid.

But that's not the only part of it. A Canadian society bought the home for \$163,000, gave the home back to the society, and the society is going to sell it again. We'll be [inaudible] it a second time and will be looking at having this amount come up to over \$1 million, to provide housing in Calcutta.

On several occasions we met with the Library Association of Alberta as well as the Library Trustees' Association.

They have been impressed with the advances that have been made in libraries in the past two years in Alberta. I'm sure that the library program we have is second to none in Canada, and we're progressing. I hope we could look at some way of capital support to help our communities build suitable facilities to house those libraries so they would be more accessible to the community. I suggest we could look at including them in our provincial buildings when we're putting them into communities, and then helping out smaller communities with the capital costs.

I would like to congratulate the minister on the historical site development that is taking place in Drumheller and in Macleod. I would also like to point out that St. Paul constituency has a long history behind it, with the Frog Lake massacre and the fur trading forts of Fort George and Buckingham House. Recently we were privileged to hear a five-year development plan. I don't see it in this budget, but I'm hoping that in a budget very soon we'll have the reconstruction of Fort George and Buckingham House to go along with the provincial park that is being built in that area, which will help increase the economic stimulus for that area.

In 1967 we had the centennial year. That was marked by St. Paul again taking initiative and building the first landing pad in the world, as far as I know.

MR. STEVENS: Has anybody gotten there yet?

DR. C. ANDERSON: We haven't heard which official alien was there first. I suspect that Pierre Elliott Trudeau might be the first one.

MR. KOZIAK: He's definitely out of this world.

DR. C. ANDERSON: Right. Nineteen eighty-one sees us in a unilateral patriation of the constitution by Pierre. To deal with that, our people in St. Paul have decided that if the Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliott, can act unilaterally, well, so can our people. So they've decided to designate the space under the landing pad and the area immediately around it as a republic. I hope our minister would help to give some assistance to that republic and that area.

Thank you very much.

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: I have some interest in the reasons behind the cutbacks for 3.3, archival acquisition, preservation and storage, and 3.4, financial assistance for heritage preservation. I'd also like to comment, as the member for the Historic Sites Board — I suppose the reason I had the appointment on there is, to quote an old horse trader, I'm getting long in the tooth. But I'd like to make it known that the members of the board and the staff of the Historic Sites Board are doing, in my mind, a tremendous job. It's a pleasure to be associated with them.

I can't agree with the Member for Clover Bar on the 75th Anniversary. In my area I had many, many compliments on our celebrations, particularly the school children. When it was my pleasure to present them with their medallions, the enjoyment and satisfaction they got out of that were tremendous. It did my old by-passed heart really good to see the looks on their faces. And the senior citizens and their celebrations when they received the gold medallions, and the Indian people who I had the pleasure of presenting with their gold medallions — my wife took a picture as I was presenting it to them and gave them the

picture. It's something they will cherish for a long, long time. I just can't agree that it wasn't a success. In my area it was a tremendous success, and I'm glad we had the 75th celebration as it was.

Thank you.

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Chairman, I was somewhat concerned about the adverse remarks regarding the 75th because, as a rural MLA, I thought it was an exciting summer. I think the government and the Minister of Culture are to be commended for that effort. Also I think the people within the communities, each volunteer who worked in the communities who made it a success, of course, can't go without notice.

I don't see anything mentioned in the votes about Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. Of course I have great concern to see that go ahead and to know the status of it, whether it's being designated a world historic resource or how that is proceeding. I think Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump will be a tremendous boon to tourism in southern Alberta. I think the department and its staff should also be commended. The way they went out and presented what Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump really is and how it's going to operate — I think they did a first-class job and caught the imagination of people in southern Alberta on what this can really be.

Also, Mme. Minister, I'd like to know if it's tucked away somewhere in the votes about the main street of Fort Macleod being designated an historic resource, and how things are proceeding on that, if you're aware of it. That's all.

Thank you.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I'd like to address myself to Head-Smashed-In. Application has been made to UNESCO, and we will have to wait until the fall to see if it becomes an international historic site.

A study has been done on Fort Macleod. We have received the study in the department, and they are reviewing it. It is a very positive study, and I will look forward to receiving it.

MR. BATIUK: Mr. Chairman, I felt that I couldn't resist but say a few words.

Mr. Chairman, although the Department of Culture may not seem very big money-wise, the programs have provided incentives, particularly to the communities. A few of them, I must say, that have meant very much to the constituency I represent are the incentives given to improve community halls. Now even though the program is over, those halls can fall into a bigger program for the preservation of historic sites.

But what really touches very close to my heart is the incentives it has given to communities to upgrade their cemeteries. Living and representing a constituency where the pioneers came before the 20th century — and when they did come there were no railways, no towns, and because of that communities were formed every six, seven, and 10 miles. Once the pioneers would provide themselves with a home and the bare essentials, the next thing they would think of was a church and a community hall. There are many of them in the Vegreville constituency. This year especially, one of those community halls is going to be celebrating its 60th anniversary. It is because of these incentives, but particularly the cemeteries. When I look back where my parents are buried — it was an old cemetery before the turn of the century,

already neglected. Families had moved away and so forth, and many of the graves were not recognizable. But that \$2,000 that was given wasn't a big help, but it really provided an incentive. The cemetery in the parish that I'm part of has spent closer to \$20,000. They did a tremendous job, and it's actually the pride in the community. Even if those small programs may not amount to very much money, they provided the people to do something more.

I just can't help talking about the 75th Anniversary celebrations this past year. Truly I believe that not only in the Vegreville constituency but throughout the province, the celebrations were a success story. Of the many communities I had mentioned earlier that are in the constituency, I attended 23 celebrations in 1980; 21 were in the constituency, two outside. There were about another six I could not attend because there were days when there were two, three, or four communities celebrating the 75th anniversary at the same time. But I must mention that despite how successful the local communities were in their celebrations — when I think of some of the communities where there is only a hall and church today, as many as 2,000 people came out to some of those communities. I must mention the Ukrainian heritage village located in the constituency of the Member for Clover Bar.

DR. BUCK: Don't forget it either next time, John.

MR. BATIUK: Considering that the Ukrainian people in Alberta felt they formed the third largest population, in appreciation to the province, they too decided they should in some way make a celebration. They asked me to chair a committee for that purpose, which we incorporated as the Alberta Commemorative Society, just to be able to have one celebration and be able to collect funds from the Ukrainian community in Alberta to pay the cost of a sculpture we had ordered, which amounted to almost \$50,000. I was really glad that 180,000 Ukrainians in Alberta responded very well. We had people come from every corner of the province, Canada, even beyond: truly a homecoming. We didn't have to send a helicopter for any of them. Truly, we did not provide any helicopters for anybody, because we couldn't afford it. When we were looking at donations from the Ukrainian community, we wanted to spare every penny we did. Realizing that the hon. Member for Clover Bar would have liked to see a helicopter — that's right in his constituency. I didn't have a helicopter to take me. I drove in a 1955 Dodge.

DR. BUCK: You could've ridden with the Premier.

MR. BATIUK: Well, the Premier doesn't live in Mundare, and that was my home place. Anyway, that celebration was very successful. There were approximately 14,000 people. I think it's going to be repeated this summer, because this summer the Ukrainians are going to be celebrating their 90th anniversary of coming to Canada. I would hope the hon. Member for Clover Bar is listening, and if he really won't have a way of coming over, I won't bring him.

Another area that I must say is the medallions. It was a job and a half to distribute them. I guess I had the second highest number in the province. I think the hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Leduc had the highest number. But it was quite a job. Because there are eight urban municipalities in the constituency and the rural area, you just can't get the people at home at one time. It took quite a bit of

effort, but I sure didn't mind it, because they showed their appreciation. A number of the senior citizens, some ladies who received them have already invested money to put them on a locket to be able to wear them with pride.

Now talking about the past: the hon. Member for Clover Bar talks about, you know, we're spending and wasting so much money, but every area of the province received some money to make their celebration. When we look back in 1955, what were the celebrations? Two auditoriums in the province, and that was the celebration. But I'm not surprised, because that was the intention of the previous government. The previous Premier very bluntly stated that by 1975, 85 per cent were going to be in the two metropolitan cities, so he was well preparing for it at that time. I still think that the hon. members who feel that the 75th celebrations were a fiasco should have gone out and seen that that did not happen.

Now as far as Saskatchewan having such a good museum, I give them credit. A province that was also probably much like Alberta some years ago, a have-not province, was able to do it. They were getting a museum ready that's going to be the pride of this country, while the government in Alberta at that time was sleeping.

I would also like to mention one other area, the grants to libraries. We've been hearing about that today. I just thought I might as well dig up a recent letter, and I'm going to read it, if I may:

Alice Melnyk Public Library
Box 460
Two Hills, Alberta

Mr. John Batiuk, M.L.A.
Legislative Assembly
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Mr. Batiuk:

On behalf of the library board of the Alice Melnyk Public Library, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for the grant cheque received recently.

This assistance and support provided by the provincial legislature will indeed continue to help us provide improved library services to the readers in Two Hills and surrounding district.

Thank you, again, and may 1981 hold much success and prosperity for you.

M. Hlewka, Librarian

So, Mr. Chairman, these are the things we get continuously. I'm glad those programs are in existence.

Once more, about the Ukrainian heritage village, the researchers believe that within four or five years the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village is going to bring in more tourists than the Fort Garry museum in Manitoba.

With those few remarks, Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the minister's estimates.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I forgot one or two things. First of all I'd like to say one or two things on the medallion program. I know it's part of the political game that when somebody says there were some things they didn't like about the program, of course the government members are going to jump up and say that I'm saying everything was bad. I'm not saying everything was bad; I'm just saying we spent so much time convincing Albertans: look, you people in Alberta, you are so lucky that you have a Conservative government because we are just going to give everybody money. [interjections] Mr. Chairman, they're just applauding for me, so that's fine.

I think the gold medallion program was excellent.

Where did that Minister of Government Services go? Right now, Mr. Chairman, he's probably down wondering ... [interjections] There's not much difference if he's there or not; he gets about as much participation.

Mr. Chairman, the gold medallion program was excellent for people 75 years or older who were born in this province. But the silver medallion program was not quite so wonderful, hon. members of the government. I had people tell me: I am over 75 years of age; I have lived in this province three years; I feel very, very guilty about receiving a silver medallion when my neighbor, who was born here and lived here 74 and a half years, gets a pioneer pin. Mr. Chairman, what I'm trying to bring to your attention and to the government members' attention, is the fact that they certainly didn't give that very much thought. That's just about as much thought as they gave to trying to organize the 75th Anniversary celebrations when they knew, years before, that it was going to be the 75th anniversary.

MR. COOK: What would you have done, Walt?

DR. BUCK: What would I have done? Just listen, young man. You'll learn. It's fine: all the major facilities, the recreation facilities, some of these capital grant facilities. But all they basically are is extensions of ongoing government programs. Where is the children's hospital that could be a lasting monument to northern Alberta?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: In Calgary.

DR. BUCK: In Calgary. They are even fudging that, trying to make that look like it's a children's hospital when it really is nothing more than an extension.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, come on.

DR. BUCK: Even the hon. Member for St. Paul, who is a medical doctor, should know better.

AN HON. MEMBER: Go back to dentistry.

DR. BUCK: Fine. At least I was a success at that, which is more than I could say for a lot of people. [interjections]

Mr. Chairman, the children's hospital would have been a lasting monument celebrating the 75th anniversary of this province. But the government wouldn't want to do that, because somebody else thought of that; they didn't think of it. If this government doesn't think of it, it can't be that good. But maybe they can use it as an election promise before the next election. A hospital in Grande Prairie got them through two elections there. [interjection] Two elections, Horsman, two elections. It's a good thing the Queen came, because if the Queen hadn't been here we wouldn't have gotten the sod turned.

Mr. Chairman, the people participation things were excellent. But I don't compliment the government on that; I compliment the people. The people of this province would have done that even if the government wasn't there handing out the money. It helped, but the people would have done that themselves. And that's basically what they did in Saskatchewan. The very, very successful things that were successful here, were the things that were successful in our neighboring province of Saskatchewan: the people participation things.

So this government didn't leave a lasting monument, something we can look back on and say — as we do, and I'm sure all members of the Assembly are proud of the

two Jubilee auditoria, one in Edmonton and one in Calgary. Fine. Those are lasting monuments, and everybody is proud of them.

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say that the 75th Anniversary celebrations were a success in spite of the government, not because of the government. I can stay here all night listening to the government members trying to convince me otherwise. The people made it happen, not the government. Because it certainly was not their planning that made it a success.

The last question I would like to ask the hon. minister — and I wish the Minister of Government Services were here. Were plaques sent to the 75th gold medallion recipients? A diploma or something. Were scrolls sent out to people who received the 75th gold medallions? No. Okay. There again, many of the people who received the medallions said to me: we appreciate the gold medallion, but what are we going to do with it, put it in a safety deposit box? Some of them are putting clasps on them. Many people said, we would have like to have had a scroll or something to indicate that we have something, besides just hiding it in a safety deposit box. Again, Mr. Chairman, that just indicates that this government wasn't thinking like the people were thinking.

MR. COOK: You want us to spend more, Walter?

DR. BUCK: For the hon. Member for Edmonton Glenarry, it's not that I ever want this government to spend more; I want this government to spend more wisely. We know they can spend, Mr. Chairman, but they will never convince me they can manage.

The hon. 75th Anniversary Commissioner: I like the gentleman. He's a personal friend. He did a good job under difficult conditions, and he gave of himself. But he was under very, very difficult conditions, trying to organize a celebration that should have been organized, or the groundwork laid, two years previously. So I would like to compliment my friend Robert Dowling, and his wife, because they gave 101 per cent of themselves.

Mr. Chairman, I enjoyed the celebrations. I went to many celebrations. The people enjoyed the people things. But when we look back in later years, there will be no real, permanent, significant monuments to say to the people of Alberta: we are proud; look at our children's hospital in the north; look at something in the south. That's why I say the government didn't do a very good job of planning.

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to participate tonight. I was going to say it's most appropriate that we're discussing Culture tonight, given the performance of the Member for Clover Bar. I think he put on quite an act earlier this evening and has followed up once again. I was really looking forward to the Member for Clover Bar suggesting some new initiatives the province of Alberta should embark upon in terms of the Department of Culture. I heard him say we should serve some meals at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, and that's probably a good suggestion. That's one of the new initiatives he has suggested, and the other was something about putting a cover on the Stan Reynolds collection. I see that the minister is proceeding there, but where are these other new initiatives which the hon. Member for Clover Bar was going to bring forward? I really didn't hear where these new initiatives were which he was suggesting the Minister of Culture should come up with.

Well, here are some of the exciting things that are happening in the minister's budget this year. The paleontological museum at Drumheller: now that's got to be something exciting. That is going to be a world-class museum to preserve Alberta paleontological resources. That's a new initiative. When these remains were first discovered back in the dinosaur days — I mean the Social Credit days — how come we didn't proceed at that point and preserve in Alberta these very significant dinosaur remains for the people of Alberta? We didn't do it. It's unfortunate that the previous administration didn't have that foresight to keep these things here in Alberta at that time. But now we're moving forward with an exciting initiative. We're going to have a world-class facility, and I'm proud of the minister.

In terms of some of the other historical resources we have in the province, in the constituency of Pincher Creek-Crownsnest for some time we've been attempting to preserve the Frank Slide and have some interpretation of that world-class historic site improved. The people there are very enthusiastic about the announcement made by the minister with regard to interpretive facilities there to provide citizens travelling through the area with better information about that significant natural landmark. Also we are putting dollars into an interpretive facility of the early coal mining industry in the Crownsnest Pass at Leitch Collieries. So we are doing some very significant things.

The Member for Clover Bar said he thought that in terms of some of the historical resource impact assessments that are required by the Department of Culture, the province of Alberta should pay for them. Following that principle I suggest he is also suggesting to us that environmental impact assessments, which are required by the government with regard to resource projects, pipelines, any type of industrial development, should be paid for by the province. I support the principle announced by this government, that the costs of such impacts, whether the environmental impact assessment or the new step with regard to historical resources impact assessment, should be borne by the developer because they are the people who profit from these developments. I think it was a landmark decision that was made by this government back in the early '70s, after a hearing by the then Environment Conservation Authority, with regard to historical resources, that this recommendation was followed up on, that we declared the ownership of these *in situ* historical resources vested in the province of Alberta, and if people are going to disturb them, particularly for a profit, they should bear the cost of investigating what sort of historical resources are there. Now the hon. member is suggesting that we step back from that principle. I guess he's suggesting that the environmental impact assessments which are required by the province also should be done by the province and not by the developer who is going to make considerable profit from some of these developments.

This evening I also want to discuss another remark made by the hon. Member for Clover Bar with regard to a northern Alberta children's hospital. The province is developing a children's hospital in Calgary. It's been there, and we've put more dollars into it from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. I think we should have a first-class children's hospital in Alberta, and that's what we're attempting to do. But because Calgary has a facility, does Edmonton have to have a facility? The other question is that the number of beds we already have in Edmonton for pediatrics and children's services are considerable in

number. Do we just sort of forget about those, phase them out and build a new building some place else? We already have these beds allocated throughout the city to serve the people in Edmonton and northern Alberta.

He talks about the 75th Anniversary and that we should build this northern Alberta children's hospital here. He talks about the northern and southern Alberta Jubilee auditoriums. Well, this government made a dramatic and correct decision when it decided to have a per capita grant to all the people of Alberta, people in our smaller rural municipalities, like Fort Saskatchewan, et cetera; a per capita grant so that each individual community could assess its own priorities and come up with a project which was significant to it. We haven't yet seen the impact in Alberta of a number of projects which local communities have initiated or are working on towards completion. That will be a tremendous legacy for the people, in all of Alberta to benefit from the 75th Anniversary celebration, instead of building a monument here or a monument there, like the northern and southern Alberta Jubilee auditoriums were. Certainly they had benefits in the province, but they weren't spread throughout the province, and that's the dramatic departure this government made in terms of celebrating an anniversary from the one the previous administration did.

I couldn't get on my feet tonight without saying, in terms of the cultural area in the province of Alberta, that we have a climate here which is developing and flourishing, a climate we have in terms of the performing arts, almost unparalleled in the country. It's really refreshing to see the number of things that are happening in our smaller communities and our major centres with regard to cultural opportunities and performing arts. Again I would just like to take this opportunity to plug a local amateur group in my constituency, the Crowsnest Pass Symphony Orchestra, which is an excellent example of what is taking place in our smaller communities, providing cultural opportunities. Once again the Crowsnest Pass Symphony Orchestra took the highest marks at the Crowsnest Pass musical festival.

AN HON. MEMBER: There was no other competition. [laughter]

MR. BRADLEY: Hon. members may take this opportunity to express their feelings about the Crowsnest Pass Symphony Orchestra, but I'd like to say that a recent adjudicator said of that group that they were probably one of the top symphony orchestras in the province and that they should go to Calgary and show the Calgary Philharmonic how it's done. This is the calibre of this group. Just to broaden the experience of the hon. member, the spring concert of the Crowsnest Pass Symphony Orchestra is being held on May 6, and if any members are willing or interested in broadening their horizons with regard to the musical arts, I would invite them to attend. The hon. Minister of Culture is going down to take in this performance. I'm sure she'll come back with a first-rate report on the performance of the Crowsnest Pass Symphony Orchestra. Really it's amazing that in a community of 7,000 people, we have a symphony orchestra of approximately 40 members, which is volunteer. These people actually pay to perform. They do an incredible job. They really are a first-rate organization.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Culture on the number of initiatives in her budget, and just say that we are very fortunate in this province to have going on in the various areas, whether

historical resources or the performing arts, such a climate which sees our people performing and flourishing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, maybe in light of the hour, if the hon. member and others don't mind, we could return to this tomorrow. I move that the committee rise and report.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I believe the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo was recognized by you, sir.

MR. CRAWFORD: I didn't hear the interjection of the hon. Member for Clover Bar, Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The motion before the House is that the committee rise and report.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, did the hon. House leader not hear my comment, or did he not wish to hear my comment? Mr. Chairman, my comment was that I believe you've recognized the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Government House Leader rose to make the motion that the committee rise and report. I've accepted the motion. Are you all agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

DR. BUCK: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo was standing, and he was recognized. So either he graciously says, I'll do it tomorrow, or you will recognize him, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the hon. member's information, when the hon. House leader rose, the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo sat down. We had a motion before the House, it has been approved, and we will rise and report.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, did we vote on that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes we did.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to record that I oppose that motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I guess that is recorded in *Hansard*.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

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

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1982, sums not exceeding the following for the Department of the Attorney General: \$6,878,950 for departmental support services; \$34,733,350 for court services; \$14,739,900 for legal services; \$5,014,000 for support for legal aid; \$13,956,950 for protection and administration of property rights; \$3,542,660 for fatality inquiries; [\$855,990] for crimes compensation; \$2,305,210 for public utilities regulation;

\$456,690 for gaming control and licensing.

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.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, we propose that Committee of Supply continue tomorrow afternoon. So

far as possible, we will be taking the estimates more or less in order. That's about the best guidance I can give, other than the fact that ministers are occasionally away. I believe that if we continue with Culture tomorrow, the Minister of Agriculture may well be back. If not, we would move to one of the others that's available in close sequence to the ones we've been dealing with tonight.

Mr. Speaker, it is proposed to sit on Thursday night. I think hon. members maybe would like to know that now.

[At 10:53 p.m., on motion, the House adjourned to Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.]