

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA**

Title: **Wednesday, May 13, 1981 2:30 p.m.**

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

**PRAYERS**

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. I believe I would reflect the wishes of the Members of the Legislative Assembly if, subsequent to Prayers in this Assembly, we extended the prayers of the Members of this Legislative Assembly for the full and complete recovery of His Holiness Pope John Paul, which I'm sure would be joined by the people of Alberta, arising from the tragic circumstances that occurred in the Vatican earlier today.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to take the opportunity to endorse the remarks of the Premier in issuing the concern on this day of many Albertans, Canadians, and persons around the world, I'm sure, as to such a tragic incident.

**head: INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS**

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Speaker, it is a special pleasure today for me to introduce to you and hon. members of this Assembly one of the most outstanding and respected officials of the petroleum industry of India, Mr. C. R. Jagannathan, the managing director of Oil India, Parliament Street, New Delhi. He is accompanied by Mr. Banerjee, BME, production superintendent; Mr. Baruah, senior development geologist; and Mr. B. B. Sharma, assistant drilling superintendent, all with Oil India from Assam. With them is Mr. Denis Courchene of the regional office of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of our trade mission to India, these gentlemen are here to acquaint themselves personally with the available technology of Alberta's petroleum equipment manufacturers, and represent one of India's primary petroleum exploration, drilling, and production companies. Contracts in the millions of dollars are under negotiation with Alberta companies.

I would like to thank Mr. Jagannathan again for his exceptionally warm welcome to us in India and wish him and the other members of his mission not only a continued successful but also a most pleasant stay in our province. They will return to India tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. I would ask them to stand to receive not only our appreciation for their visit but also our best wishes for a safe journey home.

**head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to file with the Legislature Library five copies of the developer package and proposal call for the first alpine village in Kananaskis Country in southwestern Alberta. The request for proposals closing date is July 20, 1981. Any interested developer may obtain a copy at a cost of \$100

by contacting the Department of Tourism and Small Business.

**head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. LYSONS: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to introduce 42 enthusiastic grade 6 students from Viking. Their interests are very strong in taxes and surface rights legislation and what we can do there. They also had experience in how to get into the Legislature Grounds without going through the park. They simply drove over the curb. It guess they're used to those ...

They're accompanied by their teacher Mrs. Evans, Miss Ericksen, and their bus driver John Daugherty. I would ask that they now rise in the members gallery and be recognized by the House.

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to introduce to you and members of the Assembly some 45 grade 6 students from Sifton school in the Edmonton public system in the constituency of Edmonton Beverly. They are seated in the public gallery, accompanied by their teachers Vicki Archer and Steve Shamchuk. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional welcome of the Assembly.

**head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****Agent General's Residence — London**

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my first question today was to the Minister of Agriculture on his recent visit, I understand, to Ottawa. The minister isn't here at this time, so I would like to direct my first question to the Minister of Housing and Public Works.

We've had concern with regard to the interest and mortgage rates Albertans are paying here. One concern I also have is with regard to the payment of \$1 million by the minister for the new Agent General's residence in London in times when Albertans are having difficulty meeting their mortgage interest rates. I wonder if the minister could indicate at this time whether that \$1 million has been forwarded to London House and what the purpose is.

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, I think the position of Agent General has been well recognized for these many years, as every province has an Agent General. I might add that we have recently acquired expanded offices for the use of the government of Alberta in London. I think the residence of the Agent General — and I happen to have seen it; I've looked at it personally — is a very good acquisition. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned \$1 million. I guess that's close. As I recollect, it's about \$920,000, if you convert it to Canadian. This is for a significant property, a square footage that's adequate for an Agent General, located in an appropriate downtown location in London.

AN HON. MEMBER: Only the best.

MR. CHAMBERS: If you look at the value of the Canadian dollar in terms of sterling and so forth, it's generally a rule of thumb that a pound equals a dollar in terms of what you can acquire. The property we acquired over there is very comparable in terms of what other

agents general have. In fact I think it was acquired for less than the properties of several other provinces. It's adequate. It's on a long-term, 53-year lease. I think it's the sort of property needed by our Agent General of Alberta.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. I guess as Albertans we can kind of lower our expectations under those terms of reference and feel we're getting a little short of money in Alberta. Could the minister indicate what persons would be living in that residence? Are there more people than the Agent General, or is it just for the Agent General — I'm not sure whether the Agent General has a wife — and his family, and no other people? Are any offices involved in that residence?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, the residence of the Agent General is to be utilized by the Agent General and his wife. It has adequate entertainment facilities, which I think every member would appreciate are necessary in London, especially today. The offices are within a 10-minute walk; they're very close. Of course they are offices for all the functions performed by the required government representatives in London.

My colleague the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs might wish to supplement my answer.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Could the minister clarify whether this is purchase of a residence? The minister indicated it was a good investment. Could he indicate whether equity is building up for the province of Alberta, or is it just a lease arrangement for these 50 years and, as Albertans, we've lost our money?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to point out that there is very little freehold in London. The only property available for purchase, if you use that terminology, is property available for long-term lease. The length of the lease is important, and the 53-year lease we have obtained is one of the longer leases available. It will build equity, because when you get into a lease situation that long, 10 years from now that property is undoubtedly going to have appreciated considerably. So it is a good investment. The lease is really a purchase, but all you can purchase in London is a long-term lease. The best you can hope for is the longest term lease possible. This we have done. Sure, it's going to be an appreciating investment.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. If it is a long-term lease, could the minister indicate why the total lease was paid at this point in time? With interest rates like they are, the persons who have it are earning 15 to 20 per cent interest on our money. Why did all the lease have to be paid at this time?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, I think the point one has to get into context is that if one is thinking in Canadian terms, this is a purchase. What's available to purchase in London is at best a long-term lease. Fifty-three years is indeed a long-term lease.

MR. SINDLINGER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Perhaps for clarification, could the minister please indicate whether the \$1 million is a total lump-sum payment? When you look at \$1 million over 53 years, it becomes

\$18,000 a year, so there must be more than just the \$1 million involved.

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, the actual purchase price for a 53-year tenancy is \$770,000, Canadian equivalent. It was 285,000 pounds, as I recollect. I would again point out to members that one should think in terms of a pound equalling a dollar because, unfortunately, with the weak Canadian dollar and the strength of sterling, that's what one's looking at. So when you put it in that context, even in Canadian terms it's good value for what we acquired. Then, obviously, there are legal fees, valuation fees, and minor alterations. That brought the total to about \$920,000 Canadian. Again, that's for 53 years. That's a purchase, if you like, of that property, with a 53-year leasehold interest. If you take that down to annual cost, it's about \$14,500 a year, which I think members would agree is not a bad number at all, if you look at it from that standpoint.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question to either the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works or the hon. Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. Bearing in mind the lowered expectations the government has urged upon Albertans, what was the reason the government concluded that a residence was required now for the Agent General in London, when we've had agents general there for many years at Alberta House and we've not before had occasion to acquire a residence? Why the priority now, in this time of lowered expectations, to acquire a residence?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would feel it appropriate to comment on the broad policy which has been suggested by the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Spirit River-Fairview; not to supplement the response given by the Minister of Housing and Public Works, but to simply add to what has been provided to the Assembly. I must say I'm somewhat dismayed by the suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition that Alberta should participate in the European common market in a very half-hearted way. [interjections] All along, we have heard ...

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect to the hon. minister, he prefaced his remarks by saying he was not supplementing the previous answer, and it would appear that he is engaging in debate.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'll try to focus my remarks perhaps more specifically and simply give some explanation of the policy.

First of all, all hon. members are aware that one of the critical problems facing Alberta is to expand our trade opportunities into the European market. Clearly, the role of Alberta will not be second place to any province and, in fact, will complement the role of Canada in expanding trade opportunities into this very important trade area of the European common market, in particular into London. For that reason we assigned a very high priority to our role in London, and for that reason we had to provide adequate facilities to the Agent General and to the office staff, which incorporates not just the Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs Department but ranges across all those departments of Alberta which have interests in London and in the European market itself.

Just for one second, Mr. Speaker, let's add to that considerations which must be directed toward the very

important debate focussing on the constitution, the role Alberta must play there as well. These two important options — these two important crises, in fact — facing Canada and Alberta clearly must be defended in London. For that reason we want to have a very important profile when we deal with all members of the United Kingdom Parliament and all members of the European community. Mr. Speaker, I'm very taken aback by the short-sightedness of the Leader of the Opposition, to suggest to us . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hon. minister has used a great deal of latitude, crossing the border into debate a number of times, but he has now firmly planted both feet on the other side of the border.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, no one quarrels with the work that's being done. My very simple question to the hon. minister is: why is it necessary to have a residence to undertake this work when we've had Alberta House for some time now? What specific consideration went into that? Who made the recommendation to the minister? Did the minister make it himself, or was it the Agent General? Who made the recommendation?

MR. JOHNSTON: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I apologize if I leapt with two feet into the area of debate. Let me attempt to back up and simply give clarification as to the reasons for the decision, because I know now that the members opposite appreciate the position we're facing.

First of all, in terms of the details as to the lease, these may well be added to by the Minister of Housing and Public Works, except to say that the lease we had on Hill Street was quickly expiring. In terms of the simple economic benefits, in terms of the investment decision, in terms of the rates of return — whatever criteria you may want to use — it was better for us to acquire a longer term interest in London than simply to put dollars into a short-term investment.

Simply stated, we had about a nine-year lease remaining in Hill Street. We thought that in terms of the economics it was better to invest in a longer term position than simply to rehabilitate a short-term lease arrangement because, of course, the uncertainty at the end of that period was not clear to us and, in fact, there were major constraints as to how we could modify that building. So we had to place some emphasis on a residence for the Agent General and, in fact, a lease on an office structure as well. So for those reasons, and in terms of those considerations, we had to make the decision for both the new residence and a new office building.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Who made the recommendation to the government? Was it the Agent General? On what basis did the government make the decision?

MR. JOHNSTON: I did, Mr. Speaker.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Housing and Public Works. Could the minister indicate whether someone from the minister's department made an assessment of this purchase? Is an assessment available for this Legislature so we know that the action taken was accountable? It seems a little difficult to understand, when we talk about lowered expectations, then \$1 million being spent for lease of a house. Are there written criteria, a written assessment done by

the department, that can be tabled in this Legislature so we know this government and the minister are accountable, as well as the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs who talks about worldly things when we're talking about accountability here in Alberta?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I know that the Leader of the Opposition is very parochial in his views. I agree with that. And in fact the government of Alberta is much wider in its expansive outlook.

But let me note, Mr. Speaker, that in terms of the investment decisions which I would impose on any private sector investment, I'd be willing to defend them in terms of the criteria we used to make that investment.

MR. R. CLARK: Then why don't you?

MR. JOHNSTON: I should note, as well, Mr. Speaker, that Alberta has had a house in London for some years, going back approximately to 1930. We're not really changing our policy; we're merely updating to reflect current events. [interjections]

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. Can the minister produce in this Assembly an assessment of that lease that has been done by Alberta government officials, so that we know that the tax dollars in this province and the decisions made by this government can be accounted for? The verbalization we've had to this point doesn't mean accountability. It means a lot of noise, and that's about all we've heard in the constitution and energy debates. [interjections]

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I find it very convenient: on one hand they want the ministers to account for the decision; on the other hand they want somebody else to assess it for them. I'll account for that decision, and I will recommend it to this Assembly and to our government.

MR. NOTLEY: I was not aware that the minister is an appraiser, certainly not on the constitution. [interjections] Has any appraisal been conducted by Alberta Housing and Public Works or by any firm commissioned by the government of Alberta to assess the lease and the building we're buying?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview wants to move into present value considerations, rates of returns, I'll be glad to debate that any time. In fact we did use those criteria. I'm willing to defend that decision in this Assembly at any time.

MR. NOTLEY: Supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister prepared to table that information he claims he has, or do we have any information at all?

MR. R. CLARK: We don't.

MR. NOTLEY: Is it just rule of thumb?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, heuristics are an important rule of thumb, an important decision tool. I use them all the time. I'm not denying them as being important. We could give you many pieces of information. If you like, I'd be willing to provide you with my views during the estimates.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works.

MR. SPEAKER: Followed by a supplementary by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, then the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo.

MR. NOTLEY: The hon. Minister of Housing and Public Works assured the House that we were acquiring a residence that was comparable with other provinces'. I would like the hon. minister to advise the Assembly on what objective basis he is able to provide that information to the Assembly, and whether the Department of Housing and Public Works has done any assessment with respect to comparing this residence to residences of other provinces.

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, the Assembly has just heard from the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. When I gave out some numbers, I thought I laid out a pretty clear assessment. If one would check with neighboring provinces, one would find that the purchase price of our flat, which is at least as big and as properly laid out for the purposes, is an even better deal.

MR. R. CLARK: It's not a residence, it's a flat.

MR. HORSMAN: That's what they call them over there, you know.

MR. CHAMBERS: You spend a week over there, and you use that terminology.

Anyway, it's an excellent property. Public Works has looked at it. I've personally looked at it, and I can assure members that compared to what has been acquired by other provinces, it's a very good arrangement indeed.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to either minister. The minister says he looked at the building and it looks great. Well, there's an old saying about a book and its cover, and I think it applies in this situation.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, to either minister: \$139,600 is going to be spent in renovations of this property that is acquired by lease.

MR. NOTLEY: At a time of lowered expectations.

MR. R. SPEAKER: That's right. Well said. [interjections]

One hundred and thirty-nine thousand dollars for draperies, windows, and whatever, for one man and his wife to live in luxury over in London while we poor Albertans live in poverty.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Well, you wait. The Minister of Agriculture couldn't even come in and talk to Alberta farmers today on their high interest rates, high housing interest rates. You just give him a little time under the pressure.

Mr. Speaker, who did the assessment and approved that kind of expenditure for a lease worth \$770,000? Who approved that kind of alteration, purchase of furniture, for that specific house? Who is that kind of authority who sits on that side of the House? The two hon. members may be engineers and accountants, but in my mind that

doesn't give them qualifications to make those kinds of judgments.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'm interested to note that the combination of questions coming from the opposition really obviates a reaction. They have already previously asked us who made the decision. I said I was prepared — and I'm sure the Minister of Housing and Public Works is prepared — to account to this Assembly for the decision made. Obviously it was not an easy decision. It was based on application of criteria which we think are uniform to both government and the private sector. That's the choice you have to make.

You have to make decisions in this government. We're not afraid to make decisions. We're not afraid to advance interests of Alberta. We're not afraid to be aggressive in terms of marketing what Alberta stands for. For that reason I make no apology for what we have done.

MR. SINDLINGER: Mr. Speaker, I don't know that I can reach the level of rhetoric that has come from both sides of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed. [laughter]

MR. SINDLINGER: Perhaps after I've spent as much time here as they have, I will reach that level. [laughter]

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Housing and Public Works is simply this. In regard to the statistics he gave us earlier, indicating they ought to be satisfactory, he indicated that the total cost would be in the order of \$14,000 per year, which in my calculation is a little over \$1,000 per month. To me that doesn't seem adequate for something of this nature. I could support this type of expenditure, but I'd like to know the answer to the simple question: how much does it cost?

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, I thought I gave that. The purchase price of the lease was \$770,000. Again, that's purchase. It's not lease in terms of what we think of here; that's purchase for the rights to have that for 53 years. Ten or 20 years from now, that's going to appreciate appreciably in value. It's a good deal. As my colleague pointed out, the property at Hill Street that we had for many years had only nine years remaining on the lease, required about \$1 million in renovations, and was very run-down. This represents a fully renovated property, in new condition, and therefore good economics. I would think my colleague over there would recognize good economics.

#### Kananaskis — Alpine Village

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Tourism and Small Business is in regard to his announcement today about the village at Ribbon Creek in Kananaskis park. Why was it a proposal call instead of the usual tender method?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, the proposal concept is one where we have provided to the developers who may be interested in developing the villages in Kananaskis Country the parameters under which they can construct that village; for example, the architectural design, the exterior architectural design, the requirements relative to retail space that might be available, the factors where we as a government will be involved — i.e., road access to the site

and the day use facility that will be provided by government.

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Some of us down there have a concern about the developments. Is this valley apt to end up like another Banff townsite?

MR. ADAIR: No, Mr. Speaker, but I might qualify that. The intent within the parameters of the village site is very specific in the request for proposals: that it will be for a total of 250 units of rental space and that there will be no future expansion of that; in other words, the site could not be built on down into the valley. The concept is to create a very small pedestrian village. Should there be expansion, it would be in the form of a future village, a village number two, at some other location in Kananaskis Country.

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect to Banff, I'm glad to hear the minister give us that assurance. I suspect that it is an entirely private venture. If so, how are Albertans responding to this proposal?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, the intent is that it's going to be privately developed. That is the concept of today's announcements in the paper and the request for proposal packages being available to developers and interested parties.

To this particular point in time we've had a great deal of interest, some 200-plus enquiries as to the project itself. They are primarily from Alberta, although they are from other interested groups in western Canada and the rest of Canada. To date we have 24 or 25 actual firm requests, I believe; in other words, the \$100 deposit has been provided to us for the actual documentation. Those will be sent out today to those interested developers.

MR. WOLSTENHOLME: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the developer get a toe hold in there and get hold of this land, or is it all strictly leased and will remain leased?

MR. ADAIR: That's a good question, Mr. Speaker. It is not the intent to sell the land. It will be leased land, and included in the development package is a copy of the lease that would be available for the developer to sign in co-operation with the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, public lands division.

#### Health Care for the Elderly

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, my question to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care is on the subject of health care for the elderly. It arises from concerns raised that many elderly persons suffering from psychogeriatric illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease are not receiving assessment and care in our health care facilities, rather are simply lumped in with other elderly patients. Can the minister advise whether his department has in place a comprehensive long-term strategy or policy to ensure that we have proper health care for persons suffering from psychogeriatric illnesses and, if so, what that policy or strategy is?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the strategy is not in place at the present time, although it is being developed. We

expect considerable meaningful input into the issues raised by the hon. member as a result of the work that will be carried out during the next year by the Nursing Home Review Panel.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister advise — and I want to make it clear that the question is intended to be broader than simply restricted to nursing homes — whether the recommendations of the Provincial Senior Citizens' Advisory Council, which called for special assessment and treatment facilities, special psychogeriatric day therapy programs, and small community-based group homes, have been implemented or will be implemented in the near future?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that as notice and check back. I'm not familiar with the details of the resolutions the hon. member is referring to.

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, a point of information for those lay members of the Assembly who are neither lawyers nor ministers of health. Could one of the hon. members tell the rest of the Assembly what a psychogeriatric disease is?

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Rising to the point of information, Mr. Speaker. As this member understands it, the term psychogeriatric illness refers to mental and psychiatric illnesses suffered by the elderly.

To the minister on this same question. Given concern that there is significant use of both physical and chemical restraints on psychogeriatric patients in our health care facilities due to the lack of special facilities where these patients could have a maximum amount of freedom of activity, could the minister advise the Assembly what specific steps he has taken to ensure a minimal use of both types of restraints, particularly with respect to psychogeriatric patients?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the matter of restraints was recently a matter of wide public news coverage as a result of deaths from the misuse of those restraints. We've discussed the matter with the Alberta Medical Association and the Alberta Hospital Association as well as with other provincial governments, and the AMA as well as the department have recently issued bulletins to all hospitals in the province with respect to the use of those restraints.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: A supplementary. Apart from the 180 new auxiliary beds planned for the Foothills hospital, could the minister advise what other new health care facilities for the elderly are planned for the Calgary region in the immediate future? More specifically, is a facility for assessment and treatment of psychogeriatric patients similar to the Youville Memorial hospital presently under construction in Edmonton being planned for southern Alberta?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, from memory, the only current projects I can think of are some important ones being proposed by district board No. 7 in the city of Calgary, which is responsible for the metropolitan area auxiliary and nursing home beds. The kind of centre described by the hon. member is in their medium-range planning outlook.

While I'm on my feet, I should comment about the

recent tradition of responding to the kinds of problems raised by the hon. member by building facilities. In Alberta we're becoming very concerned that on a proportionate basis we're tending to institutionalize permanently a much larger proportion of our elderly population than seems to be necessary. So I think hon. members can expect a much greater emphasis in the coming months on other kinds of programs than the institutionalizing we have relied on during recent years.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: A final supplementary to the minister. I would observe that I share his view. I think that's the recommendation to the Provincial Senior Citizens' Advisory Council as well.

Additionally, could the minister advise what steps are being taken to ensure an adequate staff of psychiatrically trained medical personnel to deal with psychogeriatric patients in all types of health care facilities in this province, be they auxiliary hospitals, nursing homes, or active care hospitals?

MR. RUSSELL: I believe I can assure the member that all steps that can be taken are being taken by both agencies within my own department's jurisdiction and those that are the responsibility of my colleague the Minister of Social Services and Community Health.

As far as psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, and other related specialties are concerned, I think there is quite a serious shortage of those people in Alberta at the present time. Every effort that can be made to recruit them from other jurisdictions is being undertaken, as well as encouraging their training within the province. However, other jurisdictions are undergoing the same kind of problem, and we're in competition for those necessary people who are in current short supply.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. On March 31 the Member for Edmonton Norwood, as chairman of the Health Facilities Review Committee, submitted a report to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. In it is a recommendation regarding elderly people and people trained in the field of gerontology, which relates directly to the question just asked. Has the minister taken any steps, either within his department or within the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower, to implement that recommendation with regard to increased professional training for health professionals in gerontology and diseases of the aged?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, so far as my department is concerned, we've recently taken such a specialist on staff. For details of educational opportunities, I'd refer that question to my colleague the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: If I could ask a final supplementary while the minister has an opportunity to consider a response to that. Could the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care advise the Assembly what studies have been conducted by his department to assure his department that, given the expectation that the size of our senior citizen population will double in the next decade or so, we will have in place the full range of necessary facilities, ranging from the more institutional type to the day home type of program, to meet that anticipated need in the years to come.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I have difficulty answering that question, because again it implies that all these problems being identified can somehow be completely effectively responded to by the provision of provincial institutions. That's the very issue which is giving us very serious concern at the present time.

Perhaps I could illustrate the point I'm trying to make by relating a recent incident in Calgary during a serious fire in a nursing home. Of 144 patients who were living there when their home was burned down overnight, we only got the agreement of four families to respond in that emergency to take those residents back. The other 140 believed it was the responsibility of government to look after those people. We can't go on like that, responding with bricks and mortar to the growing concerns outlined by the hon. member.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, having reference to programs, I take it they're now under way within postsecondary institutions to deal with the concerns of supply of trained personnel. A number of programs have recently been approved, and a number of others are under consideration by the various institutions. I'd be pleased to make that information available to the hon. member.

#### **Hazardous Spills**

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Minister of Environment. Bearing in mind the position the then Leader of the Opposition and his Environment critic took on the Athabasca pipeline spill in 1970, that all polluters should be named, both for the types and the materials they discharge, my question very directly to the minister is: why has there been no public report concerning the break in the Peace pipeline, which occurred in December 1980 and spilled an estimated 40,000 barrels into Sweathouse Creek, a tributary of the Little Smoky River?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, it's pretty hard for me to comment on any commitments made by anyone back in 1970. I wasn't even in government at that time.

Insofar as spills, I would presume it was pretty public at the time. I'm not aware of that particular spill. I think I made the comment yesterday that spills of some nature go on every day of the year in the province. If they are a serious health concern, we immediately respond to the problem. Companies, et cetera, are required to report spills to us.

I think it's a matter of semantics as to whether or not one is talking about a major public announcement about a spill. I think I've said before that there's absolutely no reason to excite all the people of Alberta with regard to a specific spill. In our professional judgment, we will make the decision as to how big an area should be alerted if it's a health problem. Primarily, that's the way we handle it.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I would remind the minister that we're not talking about a small spill but a 40,000-barrel spill. As a result of a pretty substantial oil spill, one which in 1970 would no doubt quite properly have excited the then official opposition, what effort was made by the government to notify downstream water users?

MR. COOKSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that if it was a 40,000-barrel spill, people in the general area were aware of it.

Insofar as downstream users, it's pretty clear — and the member should know this — that no one should be using surface water without proper treatment. In the province it's now a standard procedure that it's only proper that anyone in a system involving two or more people treat their water. All surface water is polluted to some degree. We have the coliform problem because of human beings. As I say, it's just standard procedure to treat your water; you don't use raw water.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question to the hon. minister. Is the minister in a position to advise the Assembly why the ERCB held a closed, rather than public, board of inquiry when they looked into this matter?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd really have to refer that to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, under whose jurisdiction the ERCB operates. I don't know what procedures — they may have preferred a closed procedure. It's a judgment they make. There's no law against the procedure, I guess, that they follow under the legislation.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister, for clarification. The minister has talked about spills occurring all the time, but obviously we're talking about a fairly substantial spill. Is it government policy that such spills should remain secret, unless the public inadvertently finds out about them? If so, in whose interest is such a policy pursued?

MR. COOKSON: The first remark is nonsense. We will make public in any way we can any danger to human health, so the implication is absolutely incorrect. We use our judgment insofar as advising the public of danger.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister, because this is an important question. What basis and criteria does the department use in determining whether or not information should be made available to the broader public? Is it just a judgment at the time, or has any set of criteria, any guidelines at all, been developed by the department?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, I could ask the hon. member what criteria he uses to drive on the right side of the road. It's a heck of a lot safer than driving on the left side. Unless you're in England; then you may have a choice.

AN HON. MEMBER: He's always on the left.

MR. COOKSON: That's not with reference to his politics, Mr. Speaker. He lives in danger of those all the time, which you can obviously see because he's sitting alone.

Insofar as criteria, I could check to see if we have any procedure with regard to public announcements. The ERCB, which doesn't come under my jurisdiction — I don't think the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources is here at this time, but I could take notice as to the procedure they follow in terms of a hearing with regard to a spill.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, so there's no misunderstanding. Is the minister telling us that as Minister of Environment, the watchdog of the environment for the public, he is not in a position to advise the House

whether the department has guidelines as to whether or not information is made public? Is the minister saying he's not in a position to give us that information? Really.

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Speaker, I suppose I could bring in whatever documents we have with regard to procedure in terms of public advisement of danger. But I don't think I can go beyond the comments I've made: when a spill occurs, there is a number which is called. If it involves the responsibility of the ERCB, they in turn are called. There's Disaster Services, which has a number which is common to everyone; you can open the phone book and it's there. Environment has a number.

We have a well-trained group responsible for clean-up in the event of a spill. We assess the type of spill on the basis of the material concerned. If a truckload of butter spills, that's a lot different from a truckload of dynamite. We'll make our judgment accordingly, as to advising the general area.

#### Extended Health Care Benefits

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Has the minister received any representation with regard to permanent extended health care services being provided to widowed spouses between the ages of 60 and 65? As the regulations now read, a spouse who becomes widowed when the applicant is over 65 years of age doesn't receive free medicare on the extended health care. I wonder if the minister has had any representation to provide this service to spouses between the ages of 60 and 65.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I can't recall offhand any specific representations that have been made to us on that issue, although it's under current review because of the issue raised by the hon. member.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I see that we have two Bills now: one, from the Minister of Housing and Public Works, is a Bill where these widows are going to receive the senior citizens' home improvement program; also, through social development, health care. I wonder if the minister is thinking of bringing in a change in the regulations in the near future to provide for these widows. They're now being taken care of as far as housing and social development are concerned.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the hon. member would recognize the basic differences between the two kinds of programs. In the case of the medical care benefits, the extended benefits program, the survivors do have their premiums looked after under other existing medical programs at the present time, either by way of their adjusted income or by the Department of Social Services and Community Health. The question being addressed is whether that is a good system or whether an improvement can be found.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for the question period has practically run out. But if the members would agree, I've recognized the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury, and perhaps we could deal with one further question.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: We did spend a fair amount of time in London at what might be called a housewarming.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, perhaps at least a flatwarming.

### **Odyssey Project**

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife deals with the Odyssey project near Nordegg. What is the present status of the application? Has the application in fact been granted on a conditional approval basis?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, yes it has. Approval has been granted, subject to certain conditions which have to be met.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, what are those conditions?

MR. MILLER: Basically, they tend to be environmental factors. For example, waste disposal and adequate water supply are our two main concerns at this point.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, having regard for the time in question period, perhaps I could bundle two questions together. Is the minister prepared to make available copies of the conditions attached to the conditional approval? Also, is the minister in a position to indicate to the Assembly what conditions have been set out by the department regarding the location of the construction crews who will be involved in building what I understand is close to a \$30 million project?

MR. MILLER: Yes, I will make those conditions available to the Legislature and to the hon. member. Right now the thought is that consideration will be given to locating in Nordegg the people doing the construction.

MR. R. CLARK: Can the minister give an unqualified commitment to the Assembly that in fact the construction crews will either live in Nordegg or in the town of Rocky Mountain House, that the conditions which the government has outlined will guarantee that no community will be developed in the vicinity of the Odyssey project now or in the foreseeable future, and that the towns of Nordegg and Rocky Mountain House will not be undercut by this kind of development in any way, shape, or form?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take that question as notice, if I may.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the Committee of Supply please come to order.

### **Department of the Solicitor General**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did the minister wish to make some

beginning comments?

MR. HARLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I could say a few words about the progress of the department and particularly the estimates this year. We're obviously trying and have to meet the increased demands in the area of motor vehicle registration and operators' licences. As a result, we are in the process of building a better capacity with computers. We are also in the process of following up on the recommendations by the Kirby Board of Review to have, in effect, a decriminalization of traffic offences. That of course is a very extensive and expensive program that has to be tied in with developments of a similar nature by the Department of the Attorney General. At the same time, we're developing better services for the members of the public, particularly in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, and hopefully adding a capacity to serve the public better in Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray before the end of 1981.

Of course the emphasis in the corrections area is on building additional and better correction facilities. That is well under way. The latest addition will be the replacement Fort Saskatchewan correction facility. The planning is going ahead on that.

I would like to pay particular attention to the effort we're making in integrating the services of female corrections officers into the correctional facilities. At present we have about 118 female correction officers on staff. I might say that in this regard the efforts of both the members and officials of the Alberta Union of [Provincial] Employees were extremely beneficial in integrating female correction officers into the institutions, with the result that we now have males serving in the female area and females serving in the male area.

Along with that, we have taken steps to develop and get some experience with co-corrections, both at Belmont and hopefully eventually in Calgary with the addition of an institution which will serve Calgary in a similar way the Belmont facility serves the Edmonton area, so that eventually we can build and have a co-corrections facility at the Fort Saskatchewan correctional replacement.

In the area of law enforcement, we are still placing a great deal of effort in crime prevention, both through the Check Stop program — I think all hon. members have seen the increased effort in that area — Lady Beware, and the other crime prevention programs developed to try to make citizens aware of the fact that some simple precautions can be taken to avoid the possibility of criminal activity. That's been particularly worth while.

I had a very useful experience, in meeting with the members of the Western Stock Growers' Association, in the area of prevention of cattle theft and the work there. As a result of some concerns they had, that was followed up by members of the RCMP, who of course are most directly involved in rural areas. I believe we have in fact taken some steps to try to reduce that problem, which is very serious to rural Alberta.

I'd be happy to answer questions and discuss any matters members may have with regard to the estimates generally and of course under the various votes.

Thank you.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to put a couple of questions to the hon. Solicitor General. First of all, could the Solicitor General give a progress report on the new jail under construction in the Lethbridge community? Is it on schedule? I had understood, and I'd like confirmation,



that there was provision for a co-ed arrangement, for female prisoners in that jail.

With regard to the impaired driving area, I see where convictions are now between 25,000 and 30,000 a year. I believe the Check Stop program has been very successful. Indeed without it that figure could have been far higher. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Solicitor General could comment on what effect the new legislation, as of last fall, has had with regard to second offences and the provision of imprisonment, incarceration, or some short, snappy jail terms to get these drunk drivers off the road or to impress upon them the very, very serious nature of driving while impaired.

Further to that, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Solicitor General could comment on what I think is an extremely positive direction his department has taken in recent years with the community correction programs in various communities across the province; the day absence programs where we encourage people to become normalized, shall we say, with regard to being employed in the daytime and returning to the institution in the evening. I think members of the committee realize that no matter who we put into institutions, we must face the day when they come back. Unique to provincial jurisdictions, our sentences are all less than two years, so they're relatively short term. I believe the average sentence in our institutions is from 45 to 60 days.

With regard to crime prevention, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Solicitor General. In the Lethbridge community each year, the chamber of commerce and, the Lethbridge city police, the municipal police force, put on a crime prevention program mainly to do with shoplifting. The courtesy of the Solicitor General, through a somewhat minor grant, is really the key to holding that each year. Chief Michelson of Lethbridge city police reports to me that it's probably amongst the finest dollars that could be spent. In addition it gives recognition by the province of Alberta, through the Solicitor General, that it's a meaningful program. I want to thank the Solicitor General for that.

Two other areas, Mr. Chairman. Is the Solicitor General prepared to comment with regard to RCMP services throughout the province of Alberta relative to his discussions with, I believe, Mr. Kaplan, his counterpart in Ottawa? I notice there has been some dispute in certain rural communities for those municipal jurisdictions to have adequate services. I look at their projected mill rates, and the increased cost for areas like Claresholm, Cardston, and so on is pretty substantial.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, could the Solicitor General comment relative to the legislation passed by this Assembly last fall, that communities over 1,500 population had to have a police commission installed within those communities? As I recall, part of the motivation for that was for some measure of local responsibility and accountability with regard to police services within that community.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the Solicitor General for the apparent end to the almost daily absences from the remand centre that seemed to be experienced a couple of years ago, which frankly I felt were ones not of enforcement but more of architecture design. I haven't seen or heard any more about that, so I want to commend the department for tightening that up.

In the Lethbridge community, I think the Solicitor General's Department could be proud of the services of the director of the institution. He's ill now, as the minister may know, but he's the sort of man who believes that all

inmates eventually have to return to the community. He's certainly co-operated and instituted many programs in recognition of the fact that these people are going to come back into the Lethbridge community. He's co-operated in great measure with the local people.

Thanks very much.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman, to the Solicitor General. I'm sorry if I missed the Solicitor General's remarks on what is happening with the RCMP contracts. If the minister mentioned that, maybe he can regurgitate it for me.

Secondly, I wish to make a representation to the minister. I have my operator's manual before me. I've made the suggestion before. In light of the fact that many people have had a driver's licence for years and years and years and they've taken no training, no testing, I humbly submit, Mr. Minister and members of the committee, that we send out a letter saying that your driver's licence is about to expire, it's the end of the five years. My suggestion to the minister would be to send the little book with a one- or two-page, self-administered test which would force you to read the manual; you'd have to send the test back in. Surely if you read the book, you should be able to get 100 per cent on it. But it would be a small step toward having people keep their driving up to date.

Whatever you think of it, Mr. Minister, I think it's worth some consideration. Driving in this afternoon, we followed a passenger vehicle that was practically hugging the centre line for about 12 miles. They were afraid they might fall off the edge of the shoulder which was 12 metres to the right. Such a simple thing as that may help with some of the driving we have to put up with.

Thirdly, Mr. Minister, I would like to know if speed enforcement, highway infractions will eventually be entirely enforced by the minister's little blue cars. As the cost of our RCMP contract goes up, I think we should be looking at the possibility of taking this portion of enforcement out of the hands of the RCMP and putting them into crime enforcement. I don't know what some of the ramifications of that program would be, but the minister can at least give me some indication if there's any thought of doing that.

Finally, I also want to make a representation to the minister that even though our costs of the RCMP contract are going up, I don't think we could replace the force we have in this province at this time with a provincial police force. It would take years and years and years to come up to the efficiency and prestige the Royal Canadian Mounted Police force has. Mr. Minister, on behalf of myself and my constituents I would just like to say that we're very happy with the RCMP, and I'm sure most people in this province would endorse that.

With those few brief opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, I will follow the estimates with the minister.

MR. STROMBERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to mention to the minister that I appreciated his permission last year to have a tour of the Fort Saskatchewan gaol, the co-operation shown there by the warden and staff, and my amazement at what the institution was really like. I was rather impressed with the services offered there, such as in the kitchen — barbecued pork chops. Why, they were even better meals than we receive here in our Legislature cafeteria, and I think our meals are probably the best. They were certainly equal to or better than the ones I receive at home. [interjections]

AN HON. MEMBER: You'll pay for that, Gord.

MR. STROMBERG: I said "equal or better"; I was careful.

We asked a number of questions as to recreation and the job role. I was curious, and I wonder if the minister could indicate if he is going to follow what other provinces are doing to further bring the family atmosphere to his hotel — and I have to view it more as a hotel — and that is supplying accommodations for the inmate's wife and family to visit and to stay within the grounds of the prison. Is that a trend he is planning, towards further hotelling the hotel atmosphere of Fort Saskatchewan?

MR. MACK: Mr. Chairman, could the minister provide some definitive response with regard to staff training, particularly in the corrections officers area? If staff are adequately trained, and are secure and confident in the responsibilities they are charged with, I believe that along with that flows the proper kind of approach, psychological and in every other way, with respect to the manner in which the incarcerated individual is handled. I think it's important that the initial approach to rehabilitation commence the day an individual is assigned to that institution. Very often the direction that particular individual may go would be directly influenced by the kind of treatment received upon entry to that particular institution. I think it's imperative and important that a very comprehensive assessment and training program be in place, on an ongoing basis or prior to assuming those responsibilities. I believe that every effort is being made to rehabilitate people, but quite often we generate, or perhaps could generate, the kind of friction that would minimize the benefits during the period of incarceration.

I hold a somewhat different view than the hon. Member for Clover Bar with regard to whether or not the province should contemplate and seriously assess and evaluate introducing a provincial police force, and I wonder if the minister might be able to comment. With not even an ounce of criticism of the ability of the RCMP, I think at some point the sheer growth of the province would mandate that the province provide its own police force. I wonder if the Solicitor General could advise whether there are any ongoing plans or study process for the day we will be entering into a provincial police force.

I think the department has come a long way in providing stability in the area of morale of correctional officers and staff working in those institutions and, of course, I commend the department. We don't hear a great deal about any problems which might be there. I wonder if the Solicitor General might be able to reflect whether we do have great improvement in morale, or whether we just have bad morale during a period of collective bargaining. I think that's important. It's important for us to be able to make those assessments during the life of the agreement, rather than just having them highlighted during the current set of negotiations. I would certainly be interested in hearing from the Solicitor General whether any attention is being given to this particular area in a fairly comprehensive way.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PURDY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two short questions for the Solicitor General. One is a comment, and I guess it's kind of apropos, because I was going to write the minister a letter. It happened yesterday morning. One of the employees where I'm also employed

came to me and asked for a couple of hours off work so he could go in and take his driver's exam in the morning. We said, no problem. He came back to me at 10 o'clock and said, I have to have another two hours off in the afternoon because those guys at the drivers' examining office in Stony Plain don't take appointments over the phone; you have to go down and present yourself personally and able to take an exam, and then come back at a predetermined time. He said, what's wrong with the phone service? And he said, well, we've had too many no-shows; people phone in and then not show up. So I would ask the minister to look at that particular policy, because it does put a hardship on people in rural Alberta who may have to drive 50 miles to the drivers' examining station for an appointment and then go back later in the week or maybe later that day — another 50 miles — for the actual exam.

The other question I have for the minister is regarding the driver's manual. I see all the measurements in there are in metric. I ask the minister to seriously consider that when the next issue comes out, the feet, yards, miles, or whatever, be put in brackets behind the metric component. A lot of our rural Albertans don't understand the metric system, and I believe some of them may never understand it. So if they go for a driver's exam, they should be given the opportunity of doing it in the other system.

Thank you.

MR. KOWALSKI: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make several comments with respect to the question of law enforcement in some parts of rural Alberta. I would like to advise the Solicitor General that in the latter part of March and the first part of April, I undertook a rather massive questionnaire in the constituency of Barrhead. One question I asked my constituents was: do you believe it's timely that the Alberta government entertained the concept of establishing a provincial police force? I received some 625 responses to that particular question, and the response level surprised me considerably. Nearly 50 per cent of my constituents said they were pleased with the response of the RCMP that we have in our part of rural Alberta, but nearly 50 per cent of my constituents who responded said they thought it was time we took a look at a provincial police force for Alberta.

I'm sure one of the reasons they responded in such high percentage to that question is that currently in the constituency of Barrhead we have only one town that is provided the benefit of RCMP policing. The town of Barrhead has its own police force; no problems there at all. But between the town of Barrhead and the town of Swan Hills is a distance of some 75 miles, and a considerable number of people live in between. Unfortunately if they choose to report a crime or an action of public mischief, they have to phone the RCMP detachment in Swan Hills. The reaction time is upwards of 45 to 50 minutes, which causes them a considerable problem. That same problem also exists in the southern part of our constituency; namely, in the areas of Onoway, Alberta Beach, Ross Haven, Yellowstone, Glenevis, and Lisburn, where RCMP have to come from a detachment at Stony Plain. Again, the reaction time is upwards of 40 to 45 minutes.

That reaction time really bothers me. In the village of Onoway is a major centralized school system, and on each day upwards of 2,000 school children are in that town. They are in school, from the ages of 4 to whatever

age it is to complete high school. In this day and age it is not at all uncommon to suggest or perceive that some kook in our society could walk into that little village of Onoway at this given time and decide to spray shotgun shells up and down that school. It would take nearly 45 minutes for a law enforcement agency to respond. That bothers me, and I lose sleep at night over things like that.

My essential concern, to the Solicitor General, really deals with this whole question of providing additional police enforcement to areas of Alberta that unfortunately are some distance from a major RCMP detachment. I have no hesitation also in adding that perhaps that is one of the reasons my constituents responded to the significant level they did to the need for a province-wide police force. We believe there is need for law. We also believe there is need for order in our society. Unfortunately, if no one is there to enforce the law, given nearly three-quarters of an hour reaction time, some members of our society tend to [flout] that law and ignore it.

I can give you several other examples that I think are important. It is not at all uncommon for some negative types in our society to come out to some of these small summer villages within 50 or 60 miles of Edmonton and raise some degree of furor on the weekend. They do it on Friday and Saturday nights, on Saturdays and Sundays. The RCMP does a fine job, but they have to be close by if we can really expect the kind of respect we want them to have.

Finally, I want to read into the record a letter I recently received from a 15-year-old constituent of mine. This is a concern with respect to the whole question of law enforcement. I recognize that this is an area that perhaps the Solicitor General has only some degree of interest in. The Attorney General also has some degree of interest in it. Her name is Lorraine Coppick, and she's given me permission to use her name in the written record. She recently wrote this letter to me. I have already expressed some concerns I have with the question of law enforcement. I think her words speak very, very loudly. She sent me this letter early in April.

Mr. Kowalski:

I have just read an article in the Edmonton Journal about the 14 year old girl who has been beaten up, & I use the term lightly, because she refused to become a prostitute! I, myself, am 15 & think that this man, James Thomas Lavell, who had done this low-down disgusting, loathing, disgraceful act should not get a sentence such as he received! He got *only*, & I repeat, *only* 2 years less one day! What kind of justice system have we got to let this act of cruelty go practically unresolved! What kind of judge would give him this light sentence? What did Thomas do, give the judge a couple of bucks under the table?

I ask you, as our congressman, to look into this case. I ask this of you not only for the one unfortunate girl, but for the others who, like she, refuse to become prostitutes & get beaten up for it! I think that this is your duty! You were elected to *protect* us as well as represent us, therefore, I ask you to step in *and* protect, as is your duty.

Perhaps the girl did have a background of questionable character, but I'm not saying that she did, I ask you, what of it? Thomas Lavell had no right to do this to her, when all she did was to say no! Perhaps she wanted to go straight if she did have a background! So what did the court do? *You* know the answer! With a judge like that, people are going to think that they can do things like this & get away

with it, use him as an example & *stop* it! Once again, I ask you to do something. I'm enclosing the article I read & hoping that you will read it. Do something about it, and it may be the best thing you have done!

I recognize that he is not responsible for the judges in our province, but he is responsible for the question of ensuring there is fair regulation and enforcement of law in all parts of rural Alberta. Essentially I would like him to pay special concern to my comments, because they are the comments of my constituents.

MR. BORSTAD: Mr. Chairman, policing costs are one of the major concerns across the province. The other day in question period, I asked about policing costs and what is going to happen with the new agreement. I wonder if the minister might have in his department some sort of study, or have studies been carried out where the line crosses as to when it is more economical to have your own provincial police force? Has this been done? I do not want to take away from the RCMP force. I think it does a terrific job across the province. But if the costs are going to outstrip us, maybe we have to look at some other method. Maybe that is a provincial police force.

I would also like to ask if the department still has rural isolated camps for short-term offenders. Will the program be expanded, or is it being phased out?

I too had some problems regarding driver examiners similar to the Member for Stony Plain. People came and waited for hours and then were told they would have to come back tomorrow. I wonder if that might be addressed. I would also ask the minister if he might give us some sort of resume of how the write-in licence program worked this year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I might begin where the hon. Member for Grande Prairie left off, with the complaints about the driver examination system in rural Alberta. I'm sure other members have had them brought to their attention too. I have one particular community in my constituency, Worsley, which is approximately 60 miles northwest of Fairview. People have to drive as many as 50 miles to get to Worsley in order to take their exam. Unfortunately, if you've driven 50 miles and find that you've waited all day, and then at the end of the day the driver examiners have to leave, people are left with no end of frustration.

It seems to me that perhaps the problem is that we don't have enough driver examiners, or perhaps we don't have the kind of flexibility in our arrangement to have overtime. I don't know what the arrangement is, Mr. Minister, but it strikes me that if you have somebody who has driven 60 miles from Peace River to Fairview and another 60 miles to Worsley — that's 120 miles — they might as well stay there and deal with the people who are present. If that requires time and a half, or whatever arrangement we have, it seems to me we have to have that kind of flexibility. Otherwise we just are creating a lot of hard feeling.

I have to say that among the various complaints I've received as a M.L.A., I suspect that complaints over the system of driver examination would rank among the areas where there seems to be a good deal of, I think, legitimate frustration. So I'd be interested in what changes we can make, in terms of salary and benefits, recruiting more people, arrangements for overtime, what have you, in order to accommodate this concern.

The second area I'd like to deal with — I was out for a

few minutes, and if the minister raised it in his introductory remarks, I certainly apologize for raising it again — is the question of the number of correctional officers, whether we have sufficient correctional officers, and the morale of those officers. I think the Member for Edmonton Belmont raised the question of training programs for correctional officers. In my judgment that's a valid point to raise.

Last year I had occasion to meet with some of the correctional officers at one of the institutions and was rather appalled to learn of the working conditions, conditions which existed largely because of rapid turnover, new people coming in who simply weren't trained and didn't know how to handle the situation. It's nobody's fault in terms of the administration per se, but just that we weren't attracting people for a long enough period to develop the confidence they need. I think part of that was because of the very low salary levels. We now have a new collective agreement, and correctional officers were certainly a very major part of the dispute last summer that led to a new agreement with the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees. But I am interested in where things now stand, in terms of the number of officers and the turnover rate. Because if the turnover rate is still high, we obviously have a morale problem that has to be overcome.

We can talk all we like about law and order. If you're going to maintain order, you have to have a correctional system in which the people who work in that system feel they're being properly and fairly treated, that they aren't overworked and overburdened, that they're doing their share, but that the rest of society respects and understands the work they're doing. I have to tell you quite frankly, Mr. Minister, that that was not the message I received just a little over a year ago. Nor could I really defend the government, had I been so inclined, when I looked at the salary levels these officers were receiving, because they were totally inadequate. I realize that has been rectified in part by the agreement last year, but I don't think it has been totally rectified. As long as we have to compete with very high wages for similar types of work, or at least alternative work that people who are correctional officers can do in the private sector, then we're going to have trouble retaining qualified officers.

I want to make one additional comment of a general nature, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of specific questions I have when we go through the estimates vote by vote as I assess the elements. But I do want to say just a word or two about this business of a provincial police force. From time to time I have criticized the RCMP when I thought they needed criticism. I think there's no question that some of the operations of Operation Checkmate were wrong. But having said that — the fact is that no agency of government is perfect; nor should we defend wrongdoing, whoever does it — it seems to me that traditionally the RCMP has been a source of Canadian unity. When I see provinces flirting with the idea of a provincial police force and saying, we're going to look at the cost benefits, and taking the ledger out and saying, what is the cost of the contract with the RCMP versus setting up our own police force, Mr. Minister, I suggest to you that we lose sight of one of the really intrinsic values of the RCMP; that is, that you do have a force which in the overwhelming majority of instances has done an outstanding job and, quite properly, received the respect of Canadians in all parts of Canada.

I have some real doubt about the wisdom of embarking on our own provincial police force. I think it would be

much better if the minister, in discussions with his colleagues in other provinces, would press for a substantially expanded training program so that we can continue to have RCMP policing in those provinces which now have contracts with the federal government. Mr. Minister, I think that is a better route to go than attempting to set up our own provincial police force.

I think there's a real danger in fragmenting law enforcement when you have something that is really a symbol bringing the country together. You have young men working in this province from all over the rest of Canada and, similarly, young Albertans posted in other parts of this country. At a time when we should be a little more reflective than perhaps we tend to be about maintaining the links that bind us together, I would be very dubious indeed about marching down the road of setting up our own provincial police force. I would say to the minister that that is a consideration I believe we have to keep in mind, and not just look at the accountant's approach to it. Because I think there is a good deal more to law enforcement than simply the cost benefits one might see on the ledger of an accountant's book.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we listen to the next member, I would like to remind all members of the committee once again, as the Speaker has on several occasions — and the other night the assistant chairman of Committee drew your attention to the fact — would you please use the proper form of address. All remarks going to the ministers would be directed through the Chair.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the hon. Solicitor General follows from comments made by other hon. members, in particular the Member for Grande Prairie, who raised the question of the lack of an agreement between the province and the RCMP in terms of a contract for services in the province of Alberta, and the real concern expressed by many members regarding the very accelerated cost being demanded for these services. The point I would like to leave with the Solicitor General and invite his comments on, deals with what in my mind is at least of equal importance as the matter of cost. I think the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview quite properly raised the point that any decision to move away from utilization of the RCMP might be of doubtful wisdom, if based solely upon a cost factor.

I suggest that a factor of equivalent import is accountability. I would invite the minister's comments as to whether or not, as a result of court decisions recently, the present circumstance whereby the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are not accountable through the Law Enforcement Appeal Board has been raised in the course of negotiations; and whether it might be possible to make a very strong case, and perhaps even a condition of a new agreement, that the force agree to return to the jurisdiction of the Law Enforcement Appeal Board. Because surely the high respect and regard in which they are presently held, to which numerous members have referred, has to be diminished in the long run when there is in fact that failure and lack of accountability. So I invite the minister's comments as to whether or not that might properly be a term and condition of any new agreement with the force.

DR. CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Four matters with respect to the estimates of the Solicitor General. Perhaps the Solicitor General would be good enough to comment on them, please. The first question is, what

proportion of the inmates within the correctional system are native? I'm interested that we have a considerable amount of funding set aside for native court workers, with respect to the court work and the alcoholic programs they carry on. But I wonder if the Solicitor General would also make some comments with respect to what educational opportunities are available for native persons in particular, while they are enjoying their new residence. I also wonder if the Solicitor General would be good enough to comment as to how the program is developing with respect to native policing on reserves. The last question is, what's the timetable with respect to the development of the new remand centre in Calgary?

MR. HARLE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There's a fair number of matters to be covered. I'll try to respond as best I can. In response to the Member for Lethbridge West, the Lethbridge institution is advancing well and should be ready for 1982. I believe it's on schedule. There are of course funds in the budget of the Department of Housing and Public Works to cover the work that is to be done this year.

With regard to convictions for alcohol related offences, I think it is important to realize that we do have an ever-building number of people who are being suspended for six months to three years. It's an ever-growing volume. The incarceration of those who receive sentences on the second or third occasion — I would have to get some details and respond to the hon. member. I don't believe the numbers are very large at present. However, there are some in the institutions on those charges. I might say that if they receive the minimum provided for under the legislation, then of course there's very little chance that they would be out under any of the temporary absence programs. That part of it was discussed with the provincial judges concerned about it.

The RCMP negotiations — and I hope my comments cover the number of members who have raised that. The negotiations are proceeding very, very slowly at present. I think the communities, certainly through the Alberta municipalities association, are very concerned about the increase, as is the provincial government. It is our position that if we're going to have a national force with all that that entails, a portion of the cost should be borne by the federal government. The question is, what is that portion? Certainly the proposals are the highest ever in the history of the service of the RCMP in this province, and I think that has to be taken into account. There are eight provinces negotiating. Hopefully there will be some further meetings, and it could be resolved prior to July 1 when the first quarterly billing is due. I really can't add very much more than that. The figures have been well publicized. While there is a suggestion of some movement by the federal Solicitor General in public comments, the fact is that we have not been able to make much progress during the meetings that have been held so far.

With regard to the requirement that communities of 1,500 establish a police commission, I believe that matter is referred to in the amendments to The Police Act that are presently before the House. I'd prefer to leave debate on that subject to that particular time. With regard to the Member for Clover Bar, I'd be interested in knowing what position he might take with regard to the contract negotiations. I take it he feels that, if necessary, we should be paying the figures suggested by the federal Solicitor General. If I read his comments in that way, then of course I'd take that into account.

I have received a number of good comments this time

with regard to the operator's manual. As all hon. members know, because of the contents and some of the information that was supplied by AADAC which is contained in that manual, it was distributed by the Member for Lethbridge West in his position as chairman of the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission. I think the suggestion with regard to testing might bear looking at. Certainly there are people who have never really received a test because they were grandfathered in, if you like, a long time ago. Certainly when they get to a certain number of demerit points, we do catch up with them and they have to take tests and remedial treatment through the Driver Control Board.

[Mr. Purdy in the Chair]

The notion of retesting people is one that would, of course, irritate a lot of citizens. While some people need remedial driving teaching, if you like, I think the present mechanism of using the Driver Control Board with the demerit system, which catches up with people who violate the rules of the road — and some bad drivers are still bound to escape notice — is the best mechanism. If it is a voluntary system, then it's very difficult to make sure that the objectives are attained by a voluntary testing program. However, I want to say again that the number of people who have, spoken to me and said how good the driver's manual is would certainly indicate that this year's edition is a very valuable tool, which maybe we should look at from the point of view of greater distribution.

With regard to the comments by the Member for Clover Bar regarding the highway patrol, and the possibility of the Alberta highway patrol taking over greater duties on the highway, I want to point out to hon. members something that I think is true of police work. Much police work is done through policing on the highways. A lot of the element that naturally attracts the attention of policemen is on the road, and by being there they have a way of checking up on people. Even with the computerization we now have, it's amazing how efficient our ability is to pick up those with outstanding warrants, for example. By merely getting on the blower in the vehicle to the office to tie into CPIC in Ottawa, they can determine very quickly whether they should make some inquiries about the person they've got in front of them.

I think it should be mentioned that the members of the Alberta highway patrol are not trained policemen. Some of them have that training, but that's not a prerequisite. They're doing the job of enforcing provincial legislation relating particularly to truckers, and of course they're peace officers as well. I think their value is in that area, not as policemen. If we took the RCMP or police generally off highway duties, I think we would find some serious effect on the ability to do regular routine policing because of their ability to follow and keep track of who is moving around the country.

With regard to the question of the hon. Member for Camrose, relating to the family atmosphere — I'm not sure I would describe any of the institutions as a hotel. In fact I'm sure he is saying that tongue in cheek. [interjection] I'm sure he would not feel that way if his freedom were restricted in the way that people are when they're incarcerated.

With regard to the notion of family visits and that type of approach, which is now becoming part of the federal penitentiary system and is becoming more common throughout the United States as well: as we are going to be introducing an ability to look after long-term incar-

cerated females in the replacement for the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Institution, that is one of the topics of the advisory group who have been gathered together to look at the whole program of the new replacement facility. No decision has been reached on that yet, but it would only apply to the long-term female side. We certainly wouldn't be thinking of it from a point of view of inmates who are in on two years less a day, because it's six or nine months or less for most of them. But certainly I think it's incumbent upon us to examine it from a point of view of the long-term female inmates who, instead of going down to Kingston or whatever replaces Kingston, are incarcerated in the new replacement for the Fort Saskatchewan correctional facility.

With regard to the comments by the Member for Edmonton Belmont, particularly on the staff training, we have made some significant changes, increasing the training period from three to seven weeks. In addition there are some funds for refurbishing the Holy Redeemer facility in this year's estimates. It is provincially owned, under lease to the federal government. That lease will be terminating, and it is our thought that we would set up a training program in the Holy Redeemer facility. The seven-week program will give a period of time for service in Holy Redeemer, in an atmosphere that more resembles the institution in which the trainees eventually have to serve. We hope we will be able to give an improved training program as a result. There are funds in this year's estimates for that. The other side of it is that we're building training modules at the more senior levels for the Correction Officer 2, 3, and up. They will also be built on and encouraged. I agree that it's important for morale generally that this training be available for people serving in the correctional facilities.

With regard to morale generally, I can say that the settlement reached in the negotiations last year was, I think, very realistic and has resulted in a great improvement in morale. At present the vacancy rates are about 2 per cent, in fact less. If you take any particular day, we can find them getting down to 1 per cent or even under that. So the turnover rate over the period of a year will show a vast improvement over what it was before.

With regard to the comments by the Member for Stony Plain, driver exam appointments have been a continuing problem in some areas. Some areas seem to serve the public better than others. In the spring we do have a problem caused by a lot of young people who all of a sudden want to get out and start driving on the roads. If we could even it over the year, it wouldn't be so bad. But unfortunately we do have times when individuals can't get service right away. We are working with appointments now. We've tried them. We had a lot of no-shows, and that really creates a great deal of time. If people don't show, what does the driver examiner do? The result is that we're working with a combination of appointments and first come, first served. Every effort is made: I know that in many of the more isolated areas where driver examiners are serving, they are putting in overtime and spending time to try to accommodate those who draw to their attention that they have driven 50 miles. A lot of people will drive 50 miles, present themselves, get sort of rebuffed, and not explain to the driver examiner that they've made the trip. How does the examiner, somehow by magic, understand the situation? But the general impression I have of the motor vehicle branch and the driver examiners is to try to serve the public. That is the ultimate aim. When any member draws to my attention that there is a problem with appointments or people not

getting served, we immediately try to resolve it and usually do. I suggest to hon. members that it is a problem brought on in the springtime particularly when all of a sudden there's an overload, and we have to try to deal with it as best we can.

With regard to the driver's manual in metric, I'll take a look at that. As far as the exams are concerned and what is required of the individual, I know the driver examiners accept both the metric and the other, so there's no problem. The person taking the test doesn't have to have metric if he understands the other. While it's in the book, I'll take a look at it from the point of view of putting both measurements on it. That might be an improvement.

With regard to the comments of hon. Member for Barrhead on law enforcement, this is a very difficult question to respond to. Police forces generally are very, very conscious of response time. They try to make sure it is relatively reasonable, depending on the information they receive. In the example the hon. member used of someone on a street spraying people with bullets, I really don't know how any police force anywhere in this world can attempt to prevent that sort of thing happening. I think it's important to realize that violence is usually a product of the family life that individuals lead. If we're going to try to get at the problem of violence of that type, I think we're really talking about trying to reduce the incidence of violence generally in our society. It's very, very difficult to isolate the individual and say that individual is likely to commit some violent act. I don't think it's possible to expect that any police service anywhere in the world can respond any more than they're doing.

As population increases, of course there are increases in police forces. I really think our need is to make sure there is a level of policing. In most rural communities, we don't see that type of violence. We may see some fist-fights, things like that, and they become a *cause celebre* in an area, something that might be overlooked in larger communities. Certainly police forces everywhere try to build up their response time, try to develop mechanisms of meeting the demands of the public for service, and we must always encourage it. But if we have policemen so numerous that all they find to do is harass, then every member in this Assembly is going to be complaining: why can't they be doing something else; catch criminals, don't harass the citizen. Policing is and always has been a matter of discretion, what the level should be and what the activities of the policeman are in carrying out his duties. I hope that approach always continues.

With regard to the comments of the Member for Grande Prairie on policing costs, I think I've covered that generally. We have a concern about the magnitude of the increases and, as I say, eight provinces are trying to negotiate that with the federal government. As to the question of the line where it may cost — for example, we know the cost per policeman in Toronto, the city of Edmonton, or the city of Calgary, and we know the RCMP cost per man. Those costs are there. I think that by and large it's a matter of arriving at a judgmental decision when you reach the point where you might believe a decision is to be made with regard to the cost of the RCMP versus setting up some other type of force.

We have not gone into that in an extensive way, but I would say that I think there are more than just costs to be weighed. Having the RCMP with its national base has a lot of advantages, from a point of view both of training and accessibility, because the criminal element is generally moving around. All those factors have to be taken into account. Whenever you set up different jurisdictions of

police forces, you get difficulties in trying to communicate. It's something you have to live with. Certainly there are communities that have set up their own police forces, probably regret it now, and say we should go back to the RCMP. On the other hand, because of costs and other factors that have entered into it, other communities have decided to have their own police forces. It's a difficult question, and I think really one of judgment as to when it's more practical to have a locally controlled police force as opposed to a national force. I submit, at least at this time, that there is a lot to be said for having a national force.

With regard to rural camps for correction inmates, yes, we're continuing that program. Quite a number are operating and doing extremely good service in the area where they're located. Two camps operated by Native Counselling Services are doing a whale of a good job. They are very useful types of camps for certain types of inmates who can benefit from the vigorous life of the outdoors. They do a lot of community work in the areas where they are located. Of course we're using them in improvement work in provincial parks.

I think I've covered the driver examiners and the waiting problem. The mail-in licence program went extremely well this year. In excess of 240,000 applications were renewed by mail. As of today, it was an increase of 12.85 per cent over last year. As a result of that, I think we really didn't have any particular problems with the registration renewals this year. On the last day there were some line-ups, which can be anticipated. Other than prodding people all the time to get in, there's no way to get the registrations. We had one small problem in Brooks as a result of someone not keeping an inventory of tags, but we resolved that as soon as we discovered it. Generally I think it's been a good program and we'll be continuing it. It helps reduce the flood towards the end of the renewal period.

With regard to the comments by the Member for Spirit River-Fairview, I think I've covered the driver examination side of it. I think we've made a big turnaround on the corrections officers' morale, training, and number. I've already indicated the increased training period, the fact that vacancy rates are 1 and 2 per cent of late. Over the experience of a year, we'll certainly see that turnover rate going down to very manageable levels. Last year there were problems of rapid turnover and negotiations. All these things create uncertainties, but I think that's been turned around. Certainly at this time morale is basically good. Of course some problem always shows up, and we do have labor representatives who work with the management of the institutions, and that is working out. An experience is built up through that process. I think the integration of female correction officers into the system, and hopefully with the co-corrections as well, has much bearing on the state of morale because it has a tendency to reduce the general hostility in the workplace. I think that is a most important part of the life of a correction officer. By reducing tensions in the institution you certainly make it a better workplace and, as a result, I think help a great deal towards reducing the problems we have experienced at times in the past.

With regard to the questions of the Member for Calgary Forest Lawn on the RCMP negotiations, cost of course is only one factor. As he points out, accountability is another factor. The decision of the Supreme Court of Canada isn't out yet, and I think the hon. member is probably aware that the federal Solicitor General has announced proposals to try to get at this difficulty of

accountability. Legislation is to be introduced, and the proposal is to somehow work in a system of complaints with a federal board to which someone from Alberta would be appointed. We're waiting to see that generate in the legislation, so that we have something to get our teeth into.

With regard to the comments by the Member for Calgary Millican, about 30 per cent of inmates are native. We're gradually bringing it down with the diversionary programs, which are working out. It's still a high percentage, of course, in terms of the total population, and something that I believe we have to work on. It can of course be higher than 30 per cent in institutions such as Peace River and Lethbridge. There are programs for natives. The camps in the rural areas, particularly West Castle and the Lac La Biche one, that's run by Native Counselling, are particularly directed towards the native population. Particular effort is made in the institutions themselves to provide for the needs of the native inmates, with their own religious groupings and particularly alcohol treatment.

I believe that right now we have about 58 native correctional staff. Further details on that, I believe, were well documented in the response by the government to the Kirby Board of Review's report on the native justice system. That is tabled, of course, and in that material there's a fair description of the work we're doing in the native area. I mentioned the alcohol problems, Napi Lodge and the Bonnyville ones operated by AADAC. The native fine-option program is operating on reserves, sponsored by the chiefs and elders of the band.

We're making special efforts to recruit native correctional officers and helping with some personnel problems to even increase the numbers on the staff. I think we've come a long way. We have more to go, and hopefully there'll be a better balance. I've been very encouraged with what I have seen of the work being done with native inmates.

Thank you.

DR. CARTER: Could I ask the Solicitor General: the last question I had was with respect progress on the new Calgary remand centre.

DR. BUCK: Briefly.

MR. HARLE: Briefly. Thank you.

Very slow. Obviously the site is the biggest problem. If we can get that resolved, we can get the functional programming under way. I think you may wish to direct further questions on that to the Minister of Housing and Public Works.

Agreed to:

1.01 — Minister's Office	\$144,920
1.02 — Deputy Minister's Office	\$118,000
1.03 — Finance and Administration	\$1,421,400
1.04 — Personnel	\$751,500
1.05 — Computing Services	\$1,639,180
Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$4,075,000

Vote 2 — Correctional Services:

2.1 — Program Support	\$3,409,988
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## 22 — Institutional Services

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, just before we agree to Vote 2.2, I'd like to ask several questions of the minister. As I look at the elements, Mr. Chairman, we find that at the Edmonton Remand Centre we are going from a forecast of just under \$8,300,000 to \$8,850,000. There's an increase of about 6 per cent. Is the reason we have this inconsistent increase — are there going to be changes in the numbers of inmates in correctional institutions in the province? It would strike me that if we're providing the same level of service this year as we had to last year, there would be something more than a 6 per cent increase in the budget in the case of the Remand Centre.

One could look at other examples. The Fort Saskatchewan correctional centre has gone up by 7 per cent. I don't want to go over all of them, but the two that caught my attention were the Remand Centre and the Fort Saskatchewan centre. Are there any projected changes in the inmate population that would explain what, on the face of it, appears to be less than an inflation rate adjustment?

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, it's basically an inflation adjustment for the institutions. As far as numbers are concerned, obviously the facility has to serve the needs of whoever is presented at the door. We do have concerns, particularly with the Remand Centre in Calgary, and to a lesser degree with the Remand Centre in Edmonton because it has some capacity to deal with the problem. It relates to how many people are brought in who can't be released and therefore have to be retained until their trials. In Calgary particularly, there has been an increase of about 100 a day over the last six months, just a sudden bump. We don't know the explanation. Obviously it varies with the judges and the hearing officers as to whether there has been any recent incident that brings to bear on the decision to release. For many years in Calgary, we have had a prerelease program operated by the community service side of corrections which, after a community investigation of the individual, is able to advise the courts whether he or she can be released and will show up for trial on the appointed day. As of April 1, that has been expanded to Edmonton. Even in spite of that, we've seen this sudden bump caused by judges saying, no, they won't grant bail or they won't allow the inmate to be at large. The correction facilities such as the remand centres in Edmonton and Calgary have to accept these people and it has caused a problem, particularly in Calgary.

But you're right, it's pretty well a stand-pat, inflation budget, without any anticipation that there will be greater needs.

Agreed to:	
2.2 — Institutional Services	\$41,225,600
2.3 — Community Correctional Services	\$7,299,350

## 24 — Community Residential Centres

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I note the comment on the program: "Provides accommodation and counselling services to offenders requiring assistance to reintegrate into society". Considering the fact that this is, I suppose, one of the rehabilitative programs, we have a modest increase of 8.5 per cent. It seems to me that's at least 2.5 or 3.5 per cent behind the inflation rate. I'd like to know

why we have not budgeted what would be a consistent inflation rate increase; similarly with respect to native court workers, and this follows up something the hon. Member for Calgary Millican raised. Again, it seems to me that these are areas where we should have some expansion. As a consequence I'm rather puzzled to see that rather than expanding, in the case of 2.5 we seem to be slightly behind the inflation rate, and in 2.4 somewhat behind the inflation rate.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, those are basically for services rendered by agencies which provide services. Contracts are entered into. I take it that these figures are based on the figures contained in these contracts. If it should be that there is a change because of renegotiation, of course there may be need for additional funds. But I take it that in both cases they're basically payments to agencies that are providing a service to us on a contract basis.

MR. NOTLEY: So there's no misunderstanding, Mr. Chairman, there will be no cutback in the service in either 2.4 or 2.5; any modest increase we have will be as a consequence of a contract agreement, and the contract will still run and the service will still be provided.

MR. HARLE: That's correct.

Agreed to:	
2.4 — Community Residential Centres	\$971,600
2.5 — Native Courtworkers	\$1,123,800
Total Vote 2 — Correctional Services	\$54,030,338
3.1 — Program Support	\$978,606
3.2 — Financial Support	
for Policing	\$61,117,600
3.3 — Highway Motor Patrol	\$3,261,100
3.4 — Federal Gun Control	\$248,400
Total Vote 3 — Law Enforcement	\$65,605,706
Vote 4 — Motor Vehicle Registration	
and Driver Licensing:	
4.1 — Program Support	\$8,059,837

## 42 — Licence Issuing and Accident Claims

MR. MANDEVILLE: I'd like to ask the minister the government policy in regard to having small centres issuing licences. Is it the policy of the government to fade out some of the small towns that are issuing licences as a result of the mail-in applicants for licences? In my own area I have a little village, Tilley, which has been handling licences. Now they've taken it away from them, and they're really concerned about it. We have a Treasury agent there who will handle and disperse the licences for the Solicitor General's Department. On the last two days, there were line-ups in Brooks even with the mail-in. I wasn't here to hear the comments on how the mail-in system worked, but on the last two days for getting licences in Brooks they were lined up and it was really hard to get your licence. I would like to ask the minister if it is the policy of the government — and I certainly hope it isn't — to fade out some of these small licence handling or dispersing centres.

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I commented on the Brooks situation. We had a problem there because the



issuer did not keep up to date with his inventory on tags. As soon as we discovered it, we rushed the tags there and I think it sorted out very quickly.

With regard to the issuing of plates and some services that are done by some of the smaller private issuers, it is a problem. I think our objective must be to serve the public. Along with that must go some training to be given to the operator of the private issuing agency. We do require attendance at training sessions by these individuals, at their own expense of course. It has to be done annually, as well as receiving general training in what is needed, because there's a vast range of people problems and licence categories that go along with these agencies. Unless we have that training, we're not really providing a service to the public.

We have been doing some work to identify problem agencies that have a very high error rate. We're getting at that problem by increasing the amount of training required. When you add all these things up, unless there is a volume of business that makes it pay, we find that some of the private issuers are saying it's just not worth it.

I'd be quite happy to look into the Tilley situation and report to the hon. member by memo as to what the situation was. I do know, and I've had it in my own constituency, where the individual doing it said, look, it's not worth it to have to go through this training process, to have to provide secure facilities — because there has to be some security associated with the tags, the cash, and accounting for this whole process. When you add all that up, unless there's a volume of business to justify it, the local agent can very well say, in spite of the fact that I'd like to have the business and provide the service to the community, I just can't do it economically.

Agreed to:

4.2 — Licence Issuing and Accident Claims	\$21,428,315
4.3 — Operator Licence Control	\$626,703
Total Vote 4 — Motor Vehicle Registration and Driver Licensing	\$30,114,855

#### **Vote 5 — Control and Development of Horse Racing**

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Chairman, why the 20 per cent increase on that?

MR. HARLE: It's strictly a volume matter. There's 1.25 per cent of the pari-mutuel bet that goes to the Racing Commission to operate the commission, and that's the budget.

Agreed to:

Total Vote 5 — Control and Development of Horse Racing	\$2,457,812
Department Total	\$156,283,711

MR. HARLE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the votes be reported.

[Motion carried]

#### **Department of Environment**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Has the minister any opening comments?

MR. COOKSON: Mr. Chairman, before going into the estimates, perhaps I could say a few words with regard to the responsibilities, and give some background on some of the areas we're interested in and some of the problems that occur. First of all, on the make-up of the department, we have one deputy and three assistant deputies. Each in turn is assigned certain portions of the department dealing with environment.

During the course of the year we have been involved quite considerably with the issue of water. As one no doubt knows, either through the media or other means, water and water supply will become a more important issue as the years progress. We have initiated some special programs under the problems of water. One of them is in the Lake Wabamun area. We are doing some special work in the Cold Lake area. As you know, this last year we've been involved in progress on both the Dickson dam and the Paddle River project. That part of the funding is coming out of the Heritage Savings Trust. We've also been involved in negotiations with the Piegans on the Piegan Indian Reserve at Brocket, along with other issues we've been attempting to deal with.

In the area of sewage and the pollution problems we continually face in the province, we have announced a new funding program in the area of both water and sewer which will give an extremely generous benefit to municipalities with populations under 600. We're making good progress with regard to funding and the work that Calgary is doing as far as phosphorous removal from sewage, and we have a number of ongoing regional programs throughout the province, particularly in the Edmonton area.

In the area of hazardous chemicals, always a high-profile issue, as you know we have received the report from the Environment Council, and we forthwith assigned to a select group the responsibility of locating sites for eventual handling of problem materials in this area. There is a time frame. We want to work as quickly as possible. It's a complex area, because one can define a hazardous material as just about anything we use. So a definition of what we're talking about and handling, and correlating with the federal legislation dealing with transportation, is a complex area, overlaps a lot of departments, and we move as quickly as we can on it.

Air pollution is always a great issue. We have had our share of dialogue with the public in general and with the plants involved in air pollution. Over the year we tightened up SO<sub>2</sub> emissions. So far as sour gas plants are concerned, particularly in the north, I think we've almost reached the point where we cannot practically remove any more sulphur from sour gas plants. Further work and upgrading has to be done on any potential new tar sands plants. Of course coal is starting to loom on the horizon as a potential source of SO<sub>2</sub> pollution.

In the area of land reclamation, we are heavily involved under The Land Surface Conservation and Reclamation Act. We work under that legislation through both heritage trust funds and our own budgetary items under Environment. We are heavily involved in reclamation, both in the area of power and pipeline and re-establishing well sites, heavily involved in regulated projects such as coal mining, and this sort of thing.

Mr. Chairman, we also have a new Vegreville environmental research centre which will be officially opened on June 12. At this time, I'd like to extend an invitation to everyone. The new centre will be fully operational, and it's certainly a unit that will grow in stature as the years progress.

We administer The Beverage Container Act legislation. I can't help but compliment those in the past who initiated this particular piece of legislation. It's certainly an excellent program. The other day, I was reading an article which complimented Alberta, in comparison to the rest of Canada and particularly the programs in the United States.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we are also involved in land purchases, as will be reflected in the estimates. We do most of the land purchasing for other departments, with the exception of Housing and Public Works, and Transportation. So we have a specialist group that is involved in this particular area.

Basically I think that sums up the general overview of the department and the areas we're involved in. I welcome any comments, observations, or questions.

MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, in leading off discussion with regard to the Department of Environment, there are a number of areas I'd like to touch upon. Having regard to the time this evening, I'd like to direct my comments in just two very important areas, but it will be brief on this particular occasion. One deals with the whole attitude that the Department of Environment seems to portray, not only to people concerned about the environment in Alberta. Rightly or wrongly, the department is frankly seen as being less than aggressive. I would go one step further than that, and say that I think the series of question I asked and the responses I got from the minister during question period some two weeks ago about the Environment Council of Alberta — on one hand you have the chairman Dr. Crerar, who I have considerable respect for, saying outside the Assembly that in fact they're going to attempt to get permission from the minister so that the Environment Council of Alberta can make representation to the Energy Resources Conservation Board and other government regulatory agencies, yet when we come to the Assembly the minister says he does not impose any restrictions on the Environment Council of Alberta. Now I think it's about time we got the straight goods on that question. Either the Environment Council of Alberta doesn't understand the kind of breadth it has — and knowing Dr. Crerar and some of the people who still work there, I'd be very surprised if that was the case — or in fact are there restrictions, either budgetary restrictions or direction given by the minister to the council as to keeping out of areas such as making representation at the ERCB hearings?

I raise the question, Mr. Minister, and make the comment about the general attitude of the department. And I follow that up by the comments you, sir, made in November 1980 at the annual meeting of the Environment Council of Alberta. Mr. Chairman, if I could take the liberty to quote one or two quotes attributed to the minister. After the minister was presented with a T-shirt by the Environment Council depicting a beaver and saying on it "Leave the dam building to us", the minister said:

"I have a tremendous pressure opposing moves in the area of the environment," he said. "A lot of our ministers have a different point of view."

He said he was getting "shortchanged" in many cabinet decisions.

I think that, if not this afternoon, certainly Thursday night when they come back to the estimates it would be very helpful to at least this member if we had some indication of where this short-changing is taking place. If in fact the department is being short-changed at the

cabinet level and the minister's having difficulty holding up what's a very heavy responsibility as far as the Department of Environment is concerned, then let's lay it out on the table and look at what can be done.

It goes on to say that the minister's speech "was the highlight of the two-day environment council meeting that suffered from poor attendance". Then one of the individuals who was there said: "I don't blame a lot of people for not coming .... Would you come if no one [pays] any attention to your advice."

Mr. Minister, I think we can look at the recommendations the Environment Council made on the dam question down in southern Alberta. Or take a more recent example: what I believe to be a rather excellent report by the Environment Council of Alberta on this question of a public hearing on hazardous waste management in Alberta. Now we have this report. The minister is aware of a proposal put before the minister's department — before he was minister, I concede that, back in 1972 or '73 by the departmental officials — as to a scheme that could be put in place to deal with this question of hazardous waste management in Alberta. Now we have the ECA report, and we have another interdepartmental committee being set up to deal with this matter.

Frankly, Mr. Minister, as minister you've been extremely fortunate that during the period of time all this has been going on there haven't been any very serious incidents in the province. But I put the question to you very, very bluntly: if the Environment Council of Alberta is to have any credibility, then there are two things we've got to straighten out. One is that you've got to be far more frank and straightforward with the ECA. I note in the speech you made to the Environment Council on November 23, 1980, that the minister did indicate that there's going to be a far franker relationship between the minister and the ECA. I think that's helpful. But on the other hand, either the Environment Council's recommendations have to be taken seriously and be dealt with and moved on, or we might just as well wipe that organization out. Because when we get to their annual meeting and there's a very, very small attendance, and you start having people on the council saying, what's the sense of coming if we're not going to be listened to, then clearly we've got some mighty serious problems there.

Mr. Minister, when you yourself at the annual meeting of the council say you have a hard time getting environmental legislation through the provincial caucus, then I think this Assembly deserves some kind of explanation as to where those areas are, and frankly what you're going to do about it.

MR. SINDLINGER: Mr. Chairman, a few brief comments to the minister. I was a little bit concerned about the question asked this afternoon in regard to the Peace River pipeline and the spill of 40,000 barrels. That's a very significant quantity. I'm not too certain what the throughput is on that pipeline, but 40,000 barrels has to represent at least one, if not three days' throughput. I seem to recollect that the throughput is around 12,000 barrels a day. If that's the case, with a volume of that magnitude, there seems to be something more wrong than just the break in the pipeline. There are other things that would warn or indicate that there was a break and spillage was occurring, and steps would be undertaken to curtail it long before 40,000 barrels were spilled. So the response to the question this afternoon was, in my judgment, a little less than satisfactory.

I was a little concerned about the allegation that the

ERCB report was done in private rather than in public. Perhaps you might just elaborate on that and indicate whether or not the ERCB report on that spill is in fact available to the public, and perhaps indicate why it was held in camera rather than in public.

Earlier you mentioned hazardous chemicals. I was just wondering if the department had been doing anything in conjunction with the railways, in terms of setting up special marshalling yards in Alberta for special chemicals, particularly the LPGs that go throughout the province.

In regard to sulphur dioxide emissions, I wonder if the minister could bring us up to date on the status at Pincher Creek in regard to the sulphur dioxide there, and whether or not the minister has ever visited the area personally to see what the situation is. When the Minister of Agriculture was speaking in regard to the estimates, he indicated that they'll have a research aircraft that will deal with weather modification, but it was being done in conjunction with the Department of Environment, I think. I was just wondering if that research aircraft would be able to monitor gas plant emissions as well.

One other subject I'd like to bring up is the logging in the south Castle River valley area. Just as background information, the timber in that area was estimated in 1966, and three logging companies were given quotas to log in that area. However, it appears the amount of merchantable timber was overestimated, and there are now indications that the area is being overlogged. Up to this time, the forest service has been the sole management control in the area. To my knowledge, the departments of Tourism and Small Business, Public Lands and Wildlife, and Environment, haven't had much decision in forest management decision-making, nor has there been much opportunity for public input in that area. Right now salvage logging is going on, and for most intents and purposes, salvage logging is a free-for-all. There are no rules or procedures to follow. A lot of undergrowth or understory has been taken down in the clear-cut salvage logging as well. The problems it's causing is that the understory is being taken down, there's no consideration of that. It's also my understanding that cutting is being done in the prime protection zone in that area; that is, over the 6,500 foot mark. Some of the clear-cuts reach areas of 600 acres, some are 80-acre areas: all are very large. The clear-cutting has resulted in a lack of buffer strips along streams. Whereas I understand the regulations are somewhere around 100 feet or 100 yards, in many places there are no buffer strips at all. There is a great deal of watershed damage, erosion, and increased flow in the spring and decreased flow in the fall. Perhaps just as important as all that is that there's no sustained yield cutting being done in that area.

Given these circumstances in the area, would the minister consider a moratorium on logging in the area until these types of allegations could be cleared up or reviewed, some sort of public hearings into the Alberta forestry service in regard to the logging principles and industry logging practices? I also ask if the minister would give some consideration to designating the south Castle valley as a wilderness recreation area, which has been proposed before. Also, could some consideration be given to select cutting instead of salvage cutting or clear-cutting in the area? Finally, could consideration be given to doing a study of the area, not only in regard to the economic viability of logging but also to the recreational and tourism possibilities of the area? That's all I have for now.

Thank you.

MR. MANDEVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I went over this problem I have in Brooks with the minister, but I would like to go over it again. With regard to the sewage problem we had in Brooks, about two years ago we started a new sewage lagoon in the town. We had a lot of hearings, and a lot of officials from the department and engineers down to tell us how the lagoon should be put in. The Brooks council agreed to go ahead with the project with, I think, almost \$3 million. Six months after it was in operation, the line blew up. I'm going to say that I think it's certainly no fault of the town council, who are not engineers. But some of the responsibility should be laid on the Department of Environment, on some of the officials who approved the project, the engineers who planned it, and the contractors who put in the project. They put in a plastic main line, which wouldn't handle the surges, to go up to the sewage lagoon which was a long way from the town, and it kept blowing up. They can't use the project now, and it's going to cost in the neighborhood of \$1 million to repair it. I realize that the town of Brooks is looking at litigation against the engineers and contractors as far as the problem is concerned. The town has been requesting that this project be considered as never having been satisfactorily completed, because it was a brand new project, six months old, and it blew up. All the town is asking is that they don't have to come up with the \$200 per capita. They're willing to pay their percentage of the repairs of the project. But since they already came up with the \$200 per capita front-ending, they don't feel they should have to do that again. They want a continuation of the project.

I certainly hope the minister will take a good look at this and approve their recommendation, because the town of Brooks hasn't budgeted for it. They're willing to pay their share, whatever it is. But if they have to come up with the front-ending, it's going to be almost an impossibility for them to budget and come up with the money to work on the repairs on that particular project.

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

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

MR. PURDY: 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 Solicitor General for the purposes indicated: \$4,075,000 for departmental support services, \$54,030,338 for correctional services, \$65,605,706 for law enforcement, \$30,114,855 for motor vehicle registration and driver licensing, \$2,457,812 for control and development of horse racing.

The Committee of Supply has under consideration certain resolutions, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Having heard the report and the request for leave to sit again, are you all agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, it's intended that the House sit tomorrow evening in Committee of Supply.

We'll begin with the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and, following that, return to the Department of Environment, if there's time.

I move we call it 5:30.

HON. MEMBERS Agreed.

[At 5:27 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 5, the House adjourned to Thursday at 2:30 p.m.]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Are you all agreed?