

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTATitle: **Friday, March 5, 1982 10:00 a.m.**

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

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

MR. MACK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table with the Legislature the report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 1981 general enumeration.

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. HARLE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the 57th annual report of the Alberta Liquor Control Board for the nine-month period ended December 31, 1980.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table two reports: the Alberta Foundation for the Performing Arts annual report, March 31, 1981, and the Alberta Art Foundation annual report, 1981.

MR. McCRAE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to file the manifest of Alberta Government Services aircraft with respect to Executive Council and government agencies, covering air travel for the calendar year 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: I'm tabling the fourth annual report of the Chief Electoral Officer.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, in the absence of the Minister of Education, who is travelling throughout the province in Education Week, we have 15 special guests with us today. They're winners of the province-wide crafts competition held in honor of Education Week.

This is Education Week across Alberta, as announced Monday by my colleague the hon. Minister of Education. There is a great deal of activity in the schools this week, and the winning crafts made by our 15 guests are on display at the Provincial Museum. I would like to introduce these very bright and talented young Albertans, and I apologize if I mispronounce any of their names. I ask them all to rise and receive the welcome of the House.

Meriah Haynes, representing the winning grade 1 class of Midway elementary school in the Three Hills constituency. Would you stay standing please, Meriah? Mr. Speaker, if the hon. members would like, that would be nice: we will applaud every one of these brilliant young people.

Trent Rix and Bryan Henschel represent the two grade 2 classes that designed the winning project at Centennial elementary school in Wetaskiwin. Kathy Holt represents her class in Vermilion elementary school, which won the

grade 3 model-building competition. Gregory Enslen of Connaught elementary school in Medicine Hat is our grade 4 winner. Shawn MacNeil of Midway elementary and Greg Woodward of Eastbrook elementary in Brooks tied in the grade 5 competition. Kim Gordon of St. Basil's school in Lethbridge had the winning grade 6 display. Trevor Heck of St. Thomas Aquinas school in Provost had the outstanding grade 7 effort. Laurene Drapeau of Blessed Sacrament school in Wainwright won for grade 8, and Ron Griffith of Blessed Sacrament school is the grade 9 winner.

The senior grade photo essay contest was won in grade 10 by Ronald Raduloff of St. John's School of Alberta in Genesee, in grade 11 by Glenn Kerr of Wetaskiwin composite, and in grade 12 by Danny Ramotowski of Lethbridge Collegiate Institute.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first year that the Education Week crafts exhibit has had a category for special education students. This was won by Priscilla Quintal of Smith elementary.

So let's welcome them. Thank you very much.

MR. PAHL: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you, not individually but collectively, 63 grade 6 students from St. Hilda's school in the constituency of Edmonton Mill Woods, who are celebrating Education Week by visiting the Legislature. They are accompanied by their teachers Mr. Jiry and Mr. Tolvay. I think there should be some sort of award for their bus driver Mr. Jim Bunning, who has managed to get 63 active grade 6 students and their teachers into one bus.

AN HON. MEMBER: Thirty-passenger?

MR. PAHL: I don't know if it's a 30-passenger or not.

They are seated in the members gallery, and I would like to have them rise and receive the traditional greeting of the Assembly.

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, it's a great pleasure for me to introduce to you, and through you to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, four students from the constituency of Pincher Creek-Crowsnest: Todd Canderan from Crowsnest consolidated high school in the municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Lori Bonertz from St. Michael's high school in Pincher Creek, Lynn Johnson from Matthew Halton high school in Pincher Creek, and Mark Connellan from Livingstone high school in Lundbreck. They were here yesterday to view the opening of the Assembly and are here today to watch the Assembly in action. Accompanied by Margo Schmidt of Pincher Creek, they are in the public gallery. I ask them to rise and receive the welcome of the members of the Assembly.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****Nurses' Strike**

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour and, as well, follow-up questions to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, with regard to the nurses strike. First of all, to the Minister of Labour, with regard to his participation in that strike and in those negotiations, I'd like the minister to advise the Assembly what actions he has taken to bring the two parties together and settle this strike at this time.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, the first action taken was to appoint a mediator in late November or early December. The second action, in view of the very large number of outstanding items — well in excess of 100 at the point in time that negotiations completely collapsed — was to appoint a disputes inquiry board so that board might bring an independent, third-party, neutral and objective judgment which, it was hoped, would be suggestive to the parties as to approaches they might consider in the resolution of the dispute. Subsequently, the mediator has been assisting the parties.

I am able to advise that yesterday I invited both presidents — Mrs. Ethier, president of United Nurses of Alberta, and Mr. Pals, president of the Alberta Hospital Association — to my office. They agreed with me that they share the responsibility for leadership in their associations and, therefore, the greatest responsibility to settle the dispute.

They also asked that apart from mediation attempts, I should not personally intervene at the bargaining table. I've respected that request but in so doing exhorted them, if I may use that expression, to seize vigorously the need to bring this very difficult and exasperating dispute to a quick conclusion. I indicated to them that that would require a great deal of ingenuity, because a work stoppage is a very difficult thing to conclude.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, in light of the minister's answer, I'd like to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Following that meeting with the minister, I understand the two parties met and negotiations have broken down again. I understand the nurses gave a reasonable offer, but AHA was not able to respond, and negotiations have broken down.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. If the hon. leader wishes to come directly to the question without launching a debate, which he may perfectly properly introduce by way of a motion on the Order Paper, would he kindly proceed to the question.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. What orders or what involvement is the minister taking to bring these two parties together, to give direction to the AHA, so the matter can be settled? Is the minister taking any action at all to bring this strike to a settlement point?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I think my colleague the Minister of Labour outlined very well his legislative responsibility insofar as it involves labor negotiations, mediation, or those other kinds of things.

I believe my responsibility lies in seeing that the hospital system continues to operate in a way that gives the very necessary services to Albertans requiring them while the strike is in process. Through the College of Physicians and Surgeons, we're also very carefully monitoring the status of people who require hospital services but haven't been able to enter the hospital system because of the strike. So I think it's been proper for me not to get involved in the bargaining process itself.

I was present for part of the meeting yesterday that my colleague referred to, and certainly endorsed his actions in outlining very clearly — the way he did — to the presidents of the two autonomous bodies that they'd better get back to the bargaining table and settle this.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, in light of the answer. In light of the fact that the government picks up 100 per cent, or the last-dollar cost, of hospital operations, how can the minister tell this Assembly or Albertans that he does not want to get involved or is opting out of that responsibility? When will the minister become involved? The Hospital Association cannot make the decision because the ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I suppose the more important the topic, the more necessary it is to abide by the ordinary principles of the question period. It seems that a great deal of what is sometimes included in questions is a matter of debate, a question of whether what's done is adequate or, on the other side, inadequate. If the hon. leader has a question which seeks information, may I very respectfully suggest that he come directly to the point and ask for the information he wants, without embellishing the question with information which is already well known and which the hon. leader may be including for the sake of emphasis.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, the health care system of this province is deteriorating, and people are ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the minister when he's going to get involved and solve the problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Perfectly proper.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I've tried to make it very clear that we will get involved. We will have to get involved if the advice I receive on either of those two aspects is such that some action is necessary; that is, one, either the hospital system as it is presently partially operating is unable to maintain a level of services required or, secondly, that people who are at home in a sick condition, trying to get into the hospitals, have their health seriously jeopardized. I get advice on that from two sources. If the advice from either source is such that, in our judgment, action is necessary, then we would take it. I think past history records that that has been done. In the meantime, I have not yet received such advice.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Has the minister given any indication to the Alberta Hospital Association that because of the last-dollar funding aspect, should a negotiated settlement be reached, the government of Alberta would in fact pick up the costs of that ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Would the hon. member please come directly to the question. So far there is no indication as to what he wants to ask.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, you're too quick to shoot in this case, I think. The question, very directly ...

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, I missed that remark.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, with great respect to you, the question to the hon. minister was very direct. Have any discussions taken place between the minister, the

government of Alberta, and the Alberta Hospital Association with respect to financing any settlement reached at the bargaining table? Just so there's no misunderstanding, on page 597 of *Hansard* . . .

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect, the question is complete.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, are you going to limit the questions to 10 words? Are you going to set those kinds of rules?

MR. SPEAKER: As I mentioned a moment ago, we're dealing with an extremely important topic which is of concern throughout the province. I don't know of any Albertans who are not concerned. Undoubtedly a great deal of debate could be offered by a number of members in the Assembly on this topic. However, they have not had the usual notice to which they're entitled before a matter is debated. Therefore, as I mentioned, the more important the topic, the more important that we respect the rules under which a proper question period — not debate period, but question period — should operate. Therefore, I would respectfully suggest again that we come directly to the questions seeking information and that the answers, of course, should also be directly to the topic.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, then I pose that question to the hon. minister and ask specifically whether or not he or anyone in the government has conveyed to the Alberta Hospital Association that the last-dollar funding cost of a settlement, even if that settlement goes beyond the DIB report, will be assumed by the government?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, certainly not. I'm surprised to receive that question. That would be tantamount to saying to one side of the bargaining table: it doesn't matter where you settle; here's a blank cheque to cover the cost of that settlement. I believe that would dilute the meaning of the negotiations. Mr. Speaker, again I must refer to the past record, and that is to require the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect to the hon. minister, I believe the question was quite direct as to discussions relating to the financing of it. Perhaps we could leave it at that.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Perhaps the minister could advise the Assembly whether there has been a change in policy. The reason I ask that question is that on April 28, 1980, I put a very similar question to the hon. minister. The Department of Hospitals . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hon. member isn't obliged to justify his reasons for asking a question. Could he come directly to the topic of inquiry.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I want to be fair to the hon. minister. You know that. With that in mind, the question I put two years ago was the very question . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member . . .

MR. NOTLEY: My question to the minister . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Surely we don't have to recite what we asked two, three, five, or one year ago. Let's go to the question. If there's information the hon. member wants, may he please come directly to ask for it.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I put to you, sir, that in my judgment if a change in policy is discovered as a result of questions in the question period, it is only appropriate and courteous that one would provide that information in asking the question. In view of the problems we had last fall, I would not want to be considered uncourteous.

That being the case, Mr. Speaker, I put the question to the minister. On what basis has there been a change of policy, in view of the fact that the minister made it very clear that it is a traditional practice of this government to assume the last-dollar funding of any settlement? Why is that not conveyed to the Alberta Hospital Association . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I really apologize to the Assembly. It's a matter of considerable reluctance on my part — I know that some members will question that — to intervene, but I am in a house full of my colleagues. I ring doorbells the same as everybody else. I would like to refrain from intervening. Could we please come directly to the questions and, when they're complete, not embellish them with debate.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, with regard to his earlier answer. The Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care and the AHA are partners in these negotiations. The minister has indicated that he is getting advice as to when to get involved. Could the minister indicate the terms of reference of that advice and when it will be accepted? Will the minister wait until one person dies because he can't get health services, two people . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. R. SPEAKER: When will the minister become directly involved in those negotiations?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, to answer the last part first. We will become involved at such time that we get advice from the people responsible for running hospitals that their hospital system is becoming fatigued or is unable to cope with the patient load. Or there may be other kinds of reasons. I emphasized earlier that it is a judgment decision we'll have to make, based on advice from the people running the hospitals. The other kind of advice we will get will be medical advice from the doctors concerned about sick people who can't get into the hospitals. Again, it will be a judgment decision we will have to make, based on the very best professional advice we can get.

I'd like to make a correction to the hon. leader's lead-in to his question, in that I am somehow a partner of these hospital boards . . .

MR. R. SPEAKER: You pay the bills.

MR. RUSSELL: . . . and that is incorrect, Mr. Speaker. [interjections] Mr. Speaker, I'd very much like to give the answers, if the hon. members would give me an opportunity.

We are not the partners of the hospital boards.

MR. NOTLEY: That is debatable.

MR. RUSSELL: The Alberta hospitals Act sets out very clearly . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. With great respect to the hon. minister, I think we're getting beyond the scope of the question, which was relatively narrow.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower. Two years ago, when we had the nurses strike, I believe the minister gave us a figure as to how many nurses the province was short. Can the minister indicate if he has any studies to indicate the number of nurses we are short of at the present time?

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of estimates of nursing requirements, and an implementation committee has been established. The information I expect to be receiving from that group very soon as to how the government's policy of improving the number of nursing training positions in the province can take place, the transfer of the responsibility for hospital nursing schools to my department from Hospitals and Medical Care, and other steps being taken, should be available very shortly. I hope to share that with the House during the course of the spring sittings. But I cannot answer in specific terms the question the hon. member has posed today as to the actual shortage in the province at the present time.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. In light of the fact that the shortage is one of the points of contention at this time, can the minister indicate what programs are in place and his projections as to when we will overcome a shortage of nurses in this province?

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, that question would require some considerable time to answer, because a number of programs have been introduced, including a number of refresher courses which have been launched over the last several months and which have attracted back into the profession a number of nurses who had not been practising — several hundred. I can get the exact number very quickly, but it's in the neighbourhood of 900.

Furthermore, as the hon. member is aware, the University of Alberta has doubled the spaces available in its nursing program, the University of Lethbridge program is now under way, and two new nursing schools are being planned at Grande Prairie college and Keyano college. Hon. members will be aware that a special warrant of \$456,000 was passed to permit the commencement of the Grande Prairie school a year earlier than anticipated. So those programs are under way now.

Mr. Speaker, we must keep in mind the fact that over the last five years Alberta's growth rate was based upon approximately 40 per cent of natural increase and 60 per cent of in-migration to the province. A part of the question of obtaining new nurses will have to come from outside the province, because natural increase and training of Albertans within the province will not meet all the nursing manpower requirements. I spoke to the Hospital Association yesterday morning and pointed that out to them clearly. I offered the assistance of my department, through our manpower mobility offices, to help them attract new nurses to this province.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Has the Department of Hospitals and Medical Care undertaken any evaluation and cost estimate of the non-wage items left on the bargaining table with respect to better working conditions for nurses in Alberta hospitals? In particular, has any review been made as to the cost of implementing the nursing study conducted by the Alberta Hospital Association two years ago, which deals quite extensively with the issues of working conditions left on the bargaining table?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the most recent figure I have is a global amount, based on putting into place all the recommendations contained in the report of the disputes inquiry board.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. Have there been any discussions between the department and the Alberta Hospital Association, setting out general parameters as to the bargaining flexibility of the Hospital Association as far as the last-dollar funding commitment of the government is concerned? And are those general parameters related to the disputes inquiry board report?

MR. RUSSELL: No, Mr. Speaker. The only guidance, control, or direction with respect to the cost of settlement comes afterwards, when we ask the hospitals for an audited statement reflecting the costs of whatever changes they have made.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Can the minister indicate to the Assembly if he or the government is giving any consideration to looking at the return to local requisition, so people in local areas can decide what level of hospital and nursing care they would like in their communities?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, many times in this Assembly I've said that that is certainly one of the alternatives being looked at. It's not the kind of thing the government would wish to impose on the hospital system with very short notice, and I'm committed to consultation with the municipal governments before such a move would be taken. But it's certainly one of the options under consideration for these autonomous hospital boards.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. The minister indicated that there were global estimates of the costs of the Alberta Hospital Association's study of better working conditions. Could the minister table that information in the House over the next several days?

I'll put the question directly to the minister. Would the government be prepared to table that information in the House?

MR. RUSSELL: Yes, it's a global figure, Mr. Speaker.

DR. BUCK: *Hansard* doesn't record nods.

Oil Sands Development

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my second question is to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, with regard to the meeting the minister had yesterday. Albertans want to know what happened in that meeting yester-

day. Has any hidden agreement been made with the Liberal Trudeau government or PetroCan, with regard to the future of Alsands?

MR. LEITCH: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary question to the minister. What concessions, if any, is the provincial government making to establish conditions by which Alsands can proceed?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should draw to the attention of the hon. Leader of the Opposition the very significant changes that the province of Alberta made, particularly in the royalty arrangements, compared with the royalty regime that was applicable to the Syncrude project, in the interests of ensuring that this project and others similar to it proceed. Mr. Speaker, certainly we are very interested in seeing the project proceed and are examining alternatives and possible ways of bringing that about.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Could the minister indicate whether other private companies or investors are looking at becoming partners in this Alsands development? Since five have left, have any new parties been approached, and have any of those parties consented to become involved?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I can't answer whether any new parties have agreed to become involved, because I wouldn't be party to all the discussions that have gone on between the participants now in the consortium and potential new partners. Of course I am aware that a number of potential new participants have been approached and that discussions have been held with them.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Could the minister indicate what other new items or issues were introduced to the discussions of yesterday's meeting to make an attempt to bring about the go-ahead or demise of Alsands?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I don't know that I can add to what I said earlier. We are in the course of examining alternatives. Until that examination has been completed — incidentally, in that respect I anticipate a further meeting with the federal minister sometime during the week of March 14 — I don't know that I can usefully go into any of the details.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Could the minister indicate in specific terms whether the government of Alberta intends to take a large equity position in the Alsands development? If so, how much has the Alberta government put on the table with regard to an equity position, if any?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, the position with respect to Alberta taking an equity interest in the project hasn't changed over what it was when that question was raised in the Assembly last Monday, I believe. At that time, I indicated that this had always been a possibility and a matter that was under consideration by the Alberta government. It still is, but no final decision has been made.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray has been attempting to ask a supplementary, followed by the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury.

MR. WEISS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. He indicated they are having discussions with other participants. I wonder if the government of Alberta is taking an active role in discussions with the remaining partners of the consortium. Are they working with them to attract or encourage participants from the private sector?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, the answer to that is yes. I have had and I am sure I will have a number of additional meetings with companies that are now in the consortium. I have also had meetings, and I anticipate a number of additional meetings, with potential new partners.

MR. KESLER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. You spoke of alternatives to the problem. I wonder if one of those alternatives concerning the tar sands project might be a revision to the tax structure, both federally and provincially, and reducing those taxes so that private enterprise can exist in the environment that is created there.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to what the hon. member refers when he is referring to the provincial tax structure with respect to these projects, because provincial taxes would play a very nominal or minimal role in the financial aspects of the project. If the hon. member is referring to a provincial royalty, which is not a tax but a payment to the people of Alberta for the sale of their resource, I would simply repeat part of the response I gave earlier to the Leader of the Opposition, pointing out the reduction that the province of Alberta had made in the royalty applicable to the Alsands project, as compared to the Syncrude project.

If the hon. member is talking about federal taxation, that of course plays a large role in the fiscal terms applicable to these projects. I am not free to comment on what the federal government may do. Obviously, from the nature of the project and the nature of the fiscal terms, that would be an item under discussion.

Finally, in response to the question, I would simply say that our approach has been to have as large a private-sector involvement in this project as is possible.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question, if I may, to the hon. minister. Last Monday the minister indicated that an independent firm had been engaged to evaluate the construction costs. Could the minister advise the Assembly of the name of the firm? Would the government be prepared to table the report, or at least a summary of the report, as they did in the instance of the Loram report on the Syncrude project in 1975?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, on the tabling of the report, I think the short answer is yes, we will make it available.

I may be anticipating the hon. member's next question, but I think the more difficult part of the answer is when. One of the difficulties with this kind of report is that when the plant is under construction and tenders are called for, it might jeopardize the bidding in response to those tenders if it were made public, because it is some indication of what an independent consulting firm thinks the price should be for various components. I am sure the members of the Assembly would agree that if there were

any risk of the publication of that report impeding or handicapping the builders in getting appropriate, competitive bids, they would not want us to make it public.

Mr. Speaker, I will take the hon. member's question under consideration and try to respond more specifically at a later date.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister, in light of the answer that the government is considering an equity position. Since the energy agreement signed by the Alberta government, which Albertans feel was a sell-out — the people of Alberta don't trust the government in their ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. With great respect to the hon. leader, he surely knows that this is not only debate but very partisan and very strong debate. If he wants to get to a question, let's go to the question. If he wants to talk about responsibility or irresponsibility, may I respectfully suggest that he save that for a time when that kind of topic might be under debate.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, this government must hear how Albertans feel and think. The only way I can ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. They can hear equally well when we are debating as when we are in question period.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is very direct then. Would the minister make a commitment to this Legislature that any agreement made by this government is subject to the approval of this Legislature and subject to the approval of the people of Alberta? Would the minister make that kind of commitment to us in this Legislature? Because we do not trust the kind of agreements this government ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. R. SPEAKER: They must be discussed in this Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. leader persists, I will have to refuse to recognize him. I regret that very much.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Go ahead.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I must say that I am no more impressed by the theatrics of the hon. Leader of the Opposition than I am by his personal insults.

MR. R. SPEAKER: That's the type of attitude that creates ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. R. SPEAKER: The minister has no respect for his responsibility ...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Would the hon. leader simply resume his chair while we hear the answer?

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, is the minister going to answer the question?

MR. SPEAKER: I thought he was in the course of it, although there was a side issue flung at him which he did refer to.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition asked whether this matter would be ratified by the people of Alberta. I can assure him that would be the case.

MR. NOTLEY: Once it is signed, will the agreement be formally brought to the House, placed before the House and a motion put on the Order Paper by the government?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, the answer to that is no. The position of the government will be that if an agreement is signed, as was the case in the Syncrude agreement and other agreements, we will make the decision as a government elected to do so. We will answer any questions and be accountable to it to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, and in due course will welcome the opportunity to be accountable to the people of Alberta.

MR. KESLER: Mr. Speaker, supplementary question to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. In this agreement, will the terminology read as the second paragraph in the national energy program reads, that that agreement will impinge upon the lives of all Canadians, with the reference to impinge: the encroachment or gradual force upon another's property rights? I wonder if he would make sure the word "impinge" is left out of that agreement.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, I don't know that I can answer as to what might occur in the future. I must say I wasn't able to clearly follow the hon. member's question, but I will look at the transcript in *Hansard* and endeavor to make a more detailed response to him later on.

MR. KESLER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I'll reword the question. Would the hon. minister make sure the word "impinge" as it now appears in the national energy program is left out of any agreement, the word "impinge" meaning to force oneself gradually upon another's property rights?

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has referred to the agreement in the national energy program, and I think I can only adequately respond to his question after I've had the opportunity of reviewing the questions in *Hansard* and reviewing the documents to which he refers. I will do that and respond at a later time.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Would he confirm a report that there is a deadline or a date at approximately the end of March ...

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect to the hon. member, if he wishes to come directly to the question, that would be fine. But there are very, very plain strictures about asking ministers to confirm or deny reports. If he'd like to look at the fifth edition of *Beauchesne*, I think he'll find that tradition carried forward in that book.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the lesson today. [laughter]

A supplementary to the Minister of Energy and Natur-

al Resources. Would he please advise the Assembly if any forthcoming dates might be anticipated as to a deadline decision on the Alsands project.

MR. LEITCH: Mr. Speaker, we're not party to the agreements various participants or potential participants in the project may have entered into. I'm aware that there is an agreement between the parties that has a time limitation at the end of this month, I believe. But I'm not a party to the precise terms of that agreement, because it is an agreement between the participants, one that I understand was entered into just recently. Of course they're free to enter into new arrangements which might change that agreement or a new agreement. Mr. Speaker, I don't know that I can be more specific than that in response to the hon. member's question.

MR. SPEAKER: Before recognizing the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, I should thank the hon. Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray for being so apt.

Crowsnest Pass Freight Rates

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the hon. Premier. It concerns the Crow rate issue and the decision of the federal government to review that and carry on discussions with farm groups and, it would appear, not undertake formal consultation with the provincial governments that will be affected. What position is the government of Alberta taking with respect to formal consultation before any changes are made in the Crow rate structure?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I believe the situation with regard to that issue was very effectively answered last Monday by the Minister of Agriculture, except for the precise point raised by the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview. Our approach to that matter is one of a watching brief at this stage, as we see the issue develop and evolve.

There's no question that the issue will come before the western premiers' conference when we meet in late April, hosted by the Premier of Saskatchewan. At that time, I'm sure there will be some discussion about the point raised by the hon. member. I prefer to wait until we've had the opportunity to see the reaction and have some discussion with the other western premiers who are affected on that point before specifically responding to the question raised.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. What assessment has been made by either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Economic Development with respect to the Snavelly report, on the difference between the Crow rate and the compensatory rate? Directly to the Minister of Agriculture: has the department reviewed the rather incredible figure in the Snavelly report that would give the railroads an after-tax return of 25.4 per cent in order to compute a compensatory rate?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, a certain amount of review has been done. With regard to the actual rate the hon. member is relating to, there are a number of differences of opinion on what that rate is. I believe that's part of the job of Dr. Gilson in establishing, through the opportunity of discussing with the various commodity groups, whether that is a correct figure or whether the

total figures that would be compiled from those hearings would perhaps either create them correct or wrong.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the Department of Agriculture, in the interest of Alberta farmers, done an independent evaluation? The government of Saskatchewan estimates a difference of \$121 million; M. Pepin and his colleagues \$323 million, but they use an after-tax return of 25.4 per cent in order to get that \$323 million. My question is: through either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Economic Development, has this government undertaken an independent evaluation, so we actually know the difference between the Crow rate and the compensatory rates?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, we have a joint committee that has been ongoing in studying the total transportation package, including the relationship the Crow plays on it. It's a joint committee that entails both Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development. When that figure is available to us, I'd be pleased to make it available to the hon. member and see what comparisons actually exist in the review we have in regard to the province's position.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is the minister saying that a review is just now being undertaken, that in light of widespread speculation a discussion of this matter has not in fact been completed, and that at this stage the Alberta government does not have in hand an independent evaluation which can be shared with the members of the Assembly?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, the study has been ongoing, and the question is no. We have been and will continue to be. I'm saying that I don't have that figure at my fingertips and will be pleased to present it to the hon. member as soon as I have it, but it is there and available to us.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, in light of the importance of this question to Alberta farmers and the minister's responsibilities. As Minister of Agriculture of this government, has the minister had an opportunity to review the Snavelly figures? Is it the position of this government that those figures in fact are accurate?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, we've reviewed the overall report and would have to come to the decision that some questions have been raised about the figures themselves. On that assumption, the review is taking place as to how they relate to the production within the province.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question to the hon. minister. What steps has the government of Alberta taken with respect to two very key aspects of the Crow rate agreement? One is the equal rate for equal distance proposal. Secondly, if there are going to be performance guarantees as a consequence of the change proposed by M. Pepin, there does not appear to be any guarantee in the Pepin proposal that those performance guarantees will be put in statute form. What position is the government taking on those items?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, the province has always been of the opinion that to safeguard the producers

within the province, any change in either a rate or a guaranteed performance should be done by statute. We haven't changed that approach, so that will continue. There's no indication, collectively, of a move otherwise than to establish the future by some form of statute.

With regard to the other question, we feel that it's perhaps one of the points that may be taken as a firm stand with regard to the equal rate for equal distance — perhaps one of the areas of which some flexibility might take place from the province's point of view.

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

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Is the minister advising the House that in fact the government of Alberta would be prepared to entertain the possibility of abandoning the equal rate for equal distance concept?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, basically the position that has been taken and no change. One has to recognize that some of the basic positions that have been established over the last couple of years, and certainly before, were taken on the assumption that some change would appear in transportation which would affect the Crow rate. We have to be faced with the announcement that some changes have already been announced and will be followed by legislation — changes and moves made by the federal government itself. The areas of discussion with regard to those thoughts that made up some of the stands taken in the past, hopefully for some change to be initiated, now take on a totally different perspective.

The submissions before Dr. Gilson will be assessed, collectively reported. Hopefully, after that submission, provinces will have the opportunity to make submissions direct to the federal government. On that assumption and on that basis, we will then have the opportunity to make some presentations. Hopefully, if at that time there are some negotiations as to a total collective agreement, then the province will be in a position to take its stand.

Decentralization of Social Services

DR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. With respect, I'd like to have a clarification from him whether it's the minister of social affairs and community health. On the seating plan it is "social affairs and community health".

Whichever it is, the question on decentralization of social services and community health regards social rehabilitative and mental services to the community announced by the minister on April 1, '81, which I advocated for a number of years and which I think is very important. The question is: would the minister briefly indicate what progress has been made in implementing this particular plan across this province?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, contained in the Speech from the Throne delivered yesterday by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was reference to the fact that on February 1, 1982, the regional directors assumed their full responsibility within the various regions of the province. Obviously there is going to be a phase-in as to the transfer of certain line functions from central office to the regions. But the regional directors are in place and working very actively with the district offices and the other delivery mechanisms of the department.

I believe the first part of the question refers to the visitors' guide for the Legislative Assembly. Apparently there is an error in the title of this particular ministry. I'm certain that the office of our good Speaker will see that that's corrected.

DR. PAPROSKI: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister would indicate to the House whether there will be an opportunity for citizen input regarding alteration of the plan or the provision of community services, at the community level of course.

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, we're putting ever-increasing emphasis on working with volunteer agencies and organizations in terms of delivering services in this province. In my view, that process will be accelerated.

MR. SPEAKER: May I assure the hon. minister that the regrettable printer's error in the visitors' guide will be changed to something which will have a less entertaining connotation.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: While I'm referring to printer's errors, I should like to extend my regrets to the hon. Leader of the Opposition for the report of the notice he gave yesterday in the Assembly. The notice wasn't essential, but it was certainly properly given. It is not properly recorded in Votes and Proceedings. It's clear from the unofficial text of *Hansard* [Blues] that the hon. leader's notice was of a motion to amend the address in reply rather than to amend the Speech from the Throne. I'd like to assure him that that correction will be made.

head: CONSIDERATION OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Moved by Dr. Carter:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Frank Lynch-Staunton.
Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

DR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I compliment the Lieutenant-Governor on the fact that he is well able to maintain his individuality and his sense of humor in spite of all the other accoutrements of his office. I would also like to thank the Premier for the very special privilege of moving this motion. It brings honor to the constituency of Calgary Millican, which I am pleased to represent. In particular, I take it as a vote of thanks to a number of special people within that constituency: the senior citizens who are very much to be seen as the founders of this great province of ours. Later in the morning, I look forward to the comments of my colleague the Member for Bonnyville, with respect to seconding this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to compliment you on your impartiality, because all members of the House stand in their places with a certain amount of trepidation

for fear that they will be given another lesson with respect to parliamentary procedure. But we do extend our thanks for your impartiality toward all portions of the Legislative Assembly.

I realize the following two sets of comments are somewhat of a departure from form. But I do want to make a few comments — and they're comments of appreciation — with respect to the role and function of Members of the Legislative Assembly, also to members of the cabinet. I really believe that only close members of one's family have a full realization of the demands made upon all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

It is almost three years since the last election. That's been more than sufficient time for a number of us who were new to the Assembly with that election to realize all the nuances and responsibilities which have been presented to us by virtue of being elected to this Assembly, the great privilege of being elected to serve in this Assembly. According to my judgment, there is no way that a Member of the Legislative Assembly can be judged by the amount of ink space in any of the print media. There is no way the effectiveness of a Member of the Legislative Assembly can be judged by the amount of time he or she is gracing the electronic media of this province. But there is indeed a very great amount of work which is done with great diligence within this Assembly with respect to legislative committees, caucus committees and, of course, our work with our constituents, that very interesting and very demanding aspect of our roles as MLAs. There is no way anyone can properly measure the number of letters and telephone calls and the personal meetings which take place on behalf of all the Members of the Legislative Assembly with their constituents. On top of all that, there's that ever growing mountain of information on one's desk which requires extensive reading and analysis. So I for one would like to say a thank you to all the members of the Assembly for the work they perform on behalf of the people of the province of Alberta.

I also am very cognizant of the pressure in terms of all our colleagues who are called to represent us in the cabinet. I think one of the greatest pressures on them is the lack of privacy. They are inundated in terms of their job responsibility and challenges, but the greatest price they pay is the lack of privacy and the fact that they often are subject to misinterpretation and often are not only called into question but are called a variety of names. But above all, the pressure is there in terms of their families. They pay a great price. I have seen it in my friends. You pay a great price in terms of your personal commitment and in terms of your relationship with your family. Again, a sincere thank you from your colleagues in terms of the dedication which all of you, led by the Premier, put forth on behalf of the people of this province.

There's another group of unsung people out there. They're the public servants, the public employees. All too often I think we say it quietly and on a one-to-one basis within various departments, but it needs to be said within the walls of this Legislative Assembly how much all members of the Assembly appreciate the diligent work carried on by all the employees of this provincial government.

Next Wednesday afternoon, in the rotunda of the Legislature, there will be a special ceremony to unveil two statues. One statue is of Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, after whom the province takes its name. The other is of Chief Crowfoot. From some research I undertook in the last while, I

understand that Princess Louise Caroline Alberta was a gifted person, a painter, a sculptor. She was also known as a lovely person, having great beauty, charm, self-assurance, and independence. Taking note of those virtues, I think indeed they also apply to this province of Alberta.

Chief Crowfoot, whose father was Blackfoot and mother was Blood, was noted for being quite a warrior in terms of the number of battles he led his people into. He was also known to be courageous because he rescued Father Lacombe from a band of hostile Cree Indians. Later in his life he was known as a peacemaker. I believe that these attributes — being a warrior, being courageous and in other aspects a peacemaker — also apply to this province of Alberta. Both those statues being unveiled next Wednesday afternoon really are representative of two of the founding peoples of this great province of Alberta. They are an appropriate commemoration as symbols of the many peoples from all parts of Canada and the world who have come to help build this province.

The Speech from the Throne, as read by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, really represented an important catalogue of the efforts of this government in response to the many challenges of governmental responsibility in this province. The list of topics is most impressive, especially in the midst of difficult world economic times. Throughout the speech, time and time again there is evidence of the wise use of Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund dollars invested in people today, with long-term positive effects. I urge members of the Assembly to take a felt marking pen, go through their copy of the Speech from the Throne, and underline the sections that show money is coming from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund now for people programs in this province.

With respect to the area of hospitals, it is quite true that unprecedented hospital construction has been undertaken by this particular government. In 1981 four hospitals were completed and two of those hospitals — the southern Alberta children's hospital in Calgary and the cancer hospital in Calgary, adjacent to the Foothills hospital — were built using funds from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund for people in this province. As you read through the summary, you see that six more hospitals were commenced in 1981 in terms of construction, and it's really quite staggering to realize that 16 new starts will take place in 1982 to serve both present and future Albertans.

I was interested in the comment in the Speech from the Throne that the Nursing Home Review Panel will soon be making its report available to the minister. I know a number of people on that committee. I know them to be sensitive and knowledgeable in their areas, in particular my former colleague Sister Jean Golden of the Sisters of Loretto. Having been a member of the Health Care Facilities Review Committee, I know there are a number of concerns with respect to operational, physical, and program aspects of nursing homes throughout the province. I know this review panel has addressed those issues and, I'm certain, has some very positive recommendations with respect to how we might better serve our aged within this particular province.

In particular, in the fine programs initiated under the Minister of Housing and Public Works, which have been carried out to completion with independent type living styles for senior citizens, I know we are now starting to see quite a severe onslaught of the aging process in some of the facilities that have been open for three, four, and five years. We look forward to the report of the home

review panel and implementation of a number of its positive recommendations.

In the matter of Housing and Public Works, obviously here is a very positive example again of Heritage Savings Trust Fund dollars being invested in Alberta and Albertans. It's unprecedented — that is the correct word — to realize that \$1.5 billion out of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund is being used for long-time and new Albertans. In the face of tremendous provincial population growth and in the wake of catastrophic federal fiscal decisions, Alberta is still in the forefront of construction starts: 24,000 homes being built under programs by Alberta Housing Corporation, which represent 54 per cent of the housing starts within the province of Alberta; or again, within the context of the Speech from the Throne, over 3,400 housing units for senior citizens came on stream, and more are on the way. Most often we're being held up by land availability in some of the larger urban centres such as Calgary. Almost 3,400 pioneer assistance grants, again of great use in terms of the independence of our senior Albertans — to be able to maintain their own life styles, stay in their own surroundings — and keeping them reinforced in terms of their very valid feelings of independence and self worth.

Within Calgary Millican in the course of the next few months the number one branch of the Canadian Legion will be opening a new 16-story senior citizens high rise in the east belt line, built under the Heritage Savings Trust Fund with funds flowing through Alberta Housing Corporation. In another part of the constituency, in Ramsay, 22 units will be opened very shortly at Hamilton Manor. Just recently two more buildings were torn down in Chinatown in Calgary to make way for the new housing facility which will be built by the Dart Coon Club. We hope another project which has been approved will soon be under way, whereby the sponsors are the Chinese Lions Club. Again it's a matter of a crucial problem in Calgary of the availability of land supply.

As you make reference to the Speech from the Throne, the \$209 million in financing to municipalities to help land bank in an effort to restrain the cost of land is another good example of the use of Heritage Savings Trust Fund money being invested in people now.

With respect to Advanced Education and Manpower, I know the projections for the province are really quite astronomical, and I'm sure it causes the minister all sorts of concern to try to meet the manpower or personpower requirements for the province over the next number of years. But in spite of economic slowdown, with Alberta still the most dynamic of the provinces in terms of growth, manpower or personpower requirements are almost insatiable. There are impressive statistics that well over 4,000 journeymen apprentices graduated in 1981 and well over 9,500 new apprentices entered their programs, for a total of 28,000 registered in Alberta, 25 per cent of the Canadian total. This might also be seen as a facet of provincial government efforts to retrain, to upgrade people in terms of their skills.

All of this is part of equipping Alberta for today and tomorrow in terms of the diversification of the province's economic base. In a similar fashion, under the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower many of us recently delivered awards to our constituents, persons who have been recipients under the awards and scholarships given out in the past number of months. Here again, an incredible amount of money: \$100 million from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund in place for Albertans today and tomorrow in terms of their training.

In view of recent telexes from the federal government, it now appears that our federal government is well on course with respect to intrusion into a provincial rights area of education, and it's certain that a good number of us view with alarm — not just concern, but alarm — the whole matter of established program finance funding and the manoeuvring taking place at the moment which indeed will affect education, advanced education, medical services, and social service dollars.

With respect to Social Services and Community Health, the extended delivery of preventive social programs into sparsely populated areas, especially with respect to Indian reserves, is to be applauded. Many of us are keeping an eye on the whole matter of the decentralization process within the department. We wish the minister, his regional directors, and the department well in that respect. We look forward to great implementation of programs closer to the point of origin.

I look in the eye of my colleague from Lethbridge West and applaud him for his work with the Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission, especially the efforts with respect to the advertising campaign. I know that is having great effect, because I'm certainly hearing positive comments in that regard from my daughter, her boyfriend, and all their friends.

Last week I was privileged to drop in on a new facility in the constituency of Calgary Millican, the Calgary Alpha House Society, which is probably going to be known as the drop-in centre and detox unit under AADAC. I toured that facility, and the drop-in centre is now in operation. After the beginning of the fiscal year, we will be able to have the detoxification unit well under way. That in itself should make for a very interesting shift with respect to some of the inhabitants of the downtown core of Calgary. We hope it will make for better traffic use of the remand centre and better use of some of the facilities with respect to the single men's hostel as well as the front door of Carter Place senior citizens and other spots.

The Social Care Facilities Review Committee is a very interesting group of people. I'm pleased that my colleague from Highwood is a member of that committee. I think this is a very good example of a quiet M.L.A. going about doing his job with great diligence. He brings to his office on the Social Care Facilities Review Committee his own training as a mental health nurse, also his experience from over the years as well as his great sense of humor and great sensitivity. I really find him to be a good example of what it means to be a quiet but very diligent and hard-working M.L.A., one who's concerned not only for his constituents but for the people of this province.

During the first six months of operation of the Social Care Facilities Review Committee in 1980, the committee made 160 visits. During 1981 this volunteer committee made 452 visits. Since its inception this committee has made 437 visits. Then when we add the special visits dealing with complaints and other special matters, we come to a grand total of 700 in the little over 18 months this committee has been working. We have been to other provinces to compare other facilities in all areas with respect to juvenile delinquents, group homes for the mentally handicapped, single men's hostels, day care centres, and such, and we know we have first-hand information that the facilities in Alberta are as good as, but in most cases better than, all the rest of Canada.

I want to say thank you to the Premier and others who have seen fit to place me as chairman of that committee. It may seem strange to some of you for me to say thank

you for some of the situations I find myself in when I visit, for example, Cormack Centre, Alberta Hospital Ponoka, Alberta Hospital Edmonton, Rosehaven, or Michener Centre. For just a moment I want to reflect on a visit a week ago when I was in Michener Centre with my vice-chairman Jim Falconer. After we had met with the director for an hour to discuss some of our concerns which had arisen through other visits by the committee, I made special requests that we be taken to two wards with very severely mentally handicapped persons. Then we went to another ward which had profoundly mentally handicapped persons. In that particular ward there are about 18 profoundly handicapped individuals. A good number of them will only sit on the floor and quietly bob back and forth, or others will run around the room because they are so hyperactive. One in particular must have one-on-one care, because he is likely to bang his chin on a window sill or hit his head against the window. He will immediately rush up to you because you're a stranger in the room, throw his arms around you, and attempt to bite you, and not because you're a politician. It's from the impact of that kind of ward that I am brought back face to face with the reality of my own existence. I'm also brought back to how much all Albertans owe a great vote of thanks to the ward nurses and the staff who deal with persons such as that on a day-to-day, hour-by-hour basis.

For a moment, I would like to refer to native affairs. The Speech from the Throne mentions the Business Assistance for Native Albertans Corporation, otherwise known as BANAC. A letter I received this morning lets us know that in the first nine months of operation, as of the end of January, the group has

worked with ... 84 clients, approximately 44 of which are still receiving assistance from BANAC. One result of this work is that [their] clients have received in excess of \$300,000.00 exclusively from private sector sources.

This means that we now have a positive response from native businessmen and private sector business persons as well. This is really a great indication of a successful program, one from which I look for even greater things in assisting native Albertans to reach their goal of economic self-sufficiency. I am pleased that the Department of Native Affairs filled the vacuum left after the federal government withdrew some of its funding and then, together with Advanced Education and Manpower, stepped in to help fund Native Outreach, which is very successful in terms of helping some of our native people find employment.

I also find very encouraging the emphasis in various departments with respect to education, training, and employment of our native people, and that especially within the Department of the Solicitor General, greater emphasis on education opportunities for inmates in our institutions is taking place, because a greater percentage of the inmates are native Indian people or Metis.

I'd just like to comment briefly on recreation and parks. Heritage Savings Trust Fund dollars are again being used for Albertans with respect to five additional urban parks. Of course we all have offered our congratulations to the city of Calgary with respect to their hosting the 1988 Olympic bid. Construction on the coliseum is going along well. I toured it just last Friday. The forms are now 30 feet above the grade level. In terms of the new Saddleback Coliseum, this week they are going to bring in a large crane to put up some additional supports, so that very soon it will be a much more noticeable feature

on the Calgary landscape. It should be ready in the summer of '83 so the Flames can win the Stanley Cup the following winter. If they want to win it in the Corral this year, that's fine.

The Western Canada Games will be hosted in Calgary July 31 to August 6, 1983. Again the provincial government is involved in helping with the facilities. The directors expect they will have 2,500 athletes and over 5,000 volunteers. They see this as a prelude to the summer Olympics to be held in Los Angeles in 1984. Considerable provincial dollars are being used with respect to the aquatic centre, upgraded track facilities, and canoe facilities. Again provincial dollars are being used for Albertans now.

One other trip in terms of the constituency: I visited one of the pet projects of the Minister of Culture, the Calgary centre for the performing arts. Construction is well under way, and most of the footings for that building have been poured. We look forward to that becoming a realization.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to speak for just a few minutes with respect to a conference I attended recently in Ottawa. The Minister of Social Services and Community Health sent me as his designate to represent this province at a meeting with the federal minister and provincial ministers. I went with a certain amount of naivete, I guess, because I like to believe that Canada is a place where there is negotiation and consultation, but I came away appalled at the attitude of the federal minister.

At one part of the day the minister said, we will have consultation in terms of a telex with all ministers of social services. Two hours later she said, no, we will not have consultation with the ministers of social services. Before lunch no communique was to be issued. After lunch a communique, drafted by her department officials, was to be issued. The communique was sort of bounced around for a while. Finally the communique was read when eight provinces were no longer represented by their ministers at the table because of other commitments. Then the federal minister took her own communique, went off and held her own private press conference, and wouldn't allow anyone else in as an observer. I believe this country has been built on such words as self-reliance, co-operation, consultation, teamwork, trust, and striving for the common good. I found precious little of those attributes in Ottawa last week.

There is a board fence around the Parliament buildings. There are no windows in that board fence and the enclosure, the hoarding, has been put up because they're repairing the Peace Tower of our federal Parliament buildings. As I came out of that building, I couldn't help but believe that perhaps there was an analogy here. The federal government needs to realize that in many respects it has built a fence not just around the Peace Tower but around Parliament Hill. In many respects, I think the federal government has built itself into an isolated position. In addition to making repairs to the Peace Tower, I pray to God that the federal government is prepared to make necessary repairs to the peace of this great country of ours. Mr. Speaker, in this very special year, as our Canadian constitution comes home, I pray that all levels of government and all political parties will reach out in a renewed spirit of co-operation and mutual trust so that together we can build renewed confidence in this great nation of ours.

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I consider it an honor to have the opportunity to second the motion proposed by my hon. colleague from Calgary Millican, thanking His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for the Speech from the Throne. First, may I thank the Premier for honoring the Bonnyville constituency and me as its representative by inviting me to second this motion. I would also like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the other officers of the Assembly for the help, advice, assistance, and even discipline that you have provided us over the past three years.

While I'm issuing thanks, I will have to thank my hon. colleague from Drayton Valley, who was concerned about my appearance and sent me a flower, since I didn't have one. Unfortunately she forgot to send a pin. My hon. colleague from Calgary Forest Lawn suggested it was probably deliberate; I was meant to hold it in my teeth so I didn't talk so long.

Mr. Speaker, the 1982 Speech from the Throne is an impressive document. It summarizes a year of significant achievements and sets new directions for the coming year. What I would like to do is take the liberty to describe briefly the Bonnyville constituency, which I am proud to represent at this point in history, and then attempt to relate the Speech from the Throne to the constituency from a people viewpoint.

Known to many people as the Cold Lake study area, the Bonnyville constituency covers 5,000 square miles in northeastern Alberta. Bordered on the east by the Saskatchewan boundary, the land varies from good agricultural in the southeast to some of the prettiest lakeland area of Alberta in the central and northern portions. Underlying much of this land are the rich resources of the Cold Lake heavy oil sands and abundant supplies of natural gas. The economy of the area — and I think it's impacted rather dramatically in many parts of the throne speech — was initially based upon agriculture.

I recently completed a series of constituency meetings — very well attended, particularly in the farming communities. On behalf of the farmers in my constituency, and I believe this is transferable to most rural constituencies, I think I can say they'll be very appreciative of the fact that one of the four priorities in the speech this year is agriculture. I think it's fair to say that they're also very appreciative of the 1,000 hopper cars, purchased from Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund dollars, to assist in the movement of grain from the prairies; the high-efficiency grain terminal being put into Prince Rupert, again a contribution from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund; and other incentives mentioned in the throne speech: the farm fuel distribution allowance, the natural gas price protection plan. I know my hog producers, as many others, appreciated the Alberta stop-loss program for hogs, followed by the Alberta pork producers' marketing insurance program. Cattle producers received very well the beef and sheep subsidy program announced in December of this year. The revisions of the agricultural development financing programs, again funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, have had a significant impact on agriculture in this province.

Some of the concerns I detect from the agricultural community, and some are addressed as directions in the throne speech, are high input costs, particularly fuel and fertilizer, and the high interest rates and the impact they are having on the farming community. Again, I'm sure they will welcome the fact that the throne speech acknowledges those problems and attempts to put some effort in those directions.

Another strong concern out in rural Alberta is the

transportation and marketing of agricultural products, a direction mentioned in our throne speech this year. I think the feeling of the farmers in my area is that they will accept adjustments to the statutory or Crow rate, providing that brings about a resolution of those agriculture transportation problems. I believe there's also a high expectation building up in the rural communities with respect to what will happen to the recommendations of the select committee of the Legislature on surface rights. Again, I'm sure the rural community will be pleased to see that the throne speech indicates that report will be given consideration this year.

Probably the second economic base of northeastern Alberta is tourism. Again, I'd like to relate some of the constituency activities to directions in the Speech from the Throne. Tourism is important because of the lakeland area, the many attractive lakes that offer not only water sports but winter and summer fishing activities. The area residents plus the tourists in the area were very appreciative of the initiatives taken under the Department of Recreation and Parks with respect to the development of Cold Lake Provincial Park. I think a real plus for tourism and recreation in the area was the development of the Kinuso Ridge Ski Hill as a co-operative venture between this government and Canadian Forces Base, Medley.

At this point in time I would like to compliment, first of all, the Canadian Forces Base that last February came up with and submitted to the government a proposal under which with \$1 million from each side they would put together a ski hill in the area. Secondly, I would like to thank the Minister of Recreation and Parks and his cabinet colleagues for their very quick response to that proposal. As of February 10, 1982, we officially opened a very modern ski hill.

At this time I would like to express disappointment in the Official Opposition for the inconsistent role they've played with respect to this project. During the summer they went through the area and said, look, we would support the government doing special things for northeast Alberta in view of the economic downturn. Then, when the government proves that it is quick and responsive, they offer criticism for passing special warrants to fund special projects. Canadian Forces Base, Medley, is probably the third economic thrust in the area, the largest in Canada, currently going under a substantial expansion in preparation for the CF-18s, with a three-year, \$18 million expansion project and substantial increase in base personnel.

A fourth component of our economic base is the construction industry, which I believe really appreciated the initiative and, again, responsiveness of this government in speeding up public infrastructure projects throughout this province and in the northeast at the time of an economic downturn in the private sector. The residents of the village of Glendon, located in the constituency, certainly appreciate the 10-bed prototype hospital that is nearing completion in their community. I'm sure that along with the residents of many other small communities in this province, they appreciate the direction this government has taken in retaining the viable small hospital health care facilities in rural Alberta, a policy decision that is consistent with our emphasis on decentralization.

Senior citizens in the communities of Bonnyville and Cold Lake are waiting in anticipation of the senior citizens self-contained units under construction, which again is a very broad program in this province and, I think, probably one of our better programs showing respect for

our senior citizens, providing them with an independent way of life in their elderly years, without the responsibilities of sidewalk cleaning, lawn caring, et cetera. I know the seniors I visit in these homes are very, very appreciative of them.

I congratulate A A D A C and the good work it has done. Two weeks ago we turned the sod for the expansion of the Bonnyville Indian and Metis rehabilitation centre on the shores of Moose Lake, and I'm sure that group will be able to run an improved program as a result of the initiatives taken by A A D A C and the Minister responsible for Native Affairs. The residents of the Kehiwin Indian reserve, again particularly the seniors, in my constituency were delighted to be one of the two Indian reserves selected for senior citizen housing projects.

The fifth economic base of northeast Alberta — also referred to rather extensively and importantly in the Speech from the Throne — is the heavy oil industry. At present, heavy oil pilot projects in the area employ a substantial number of people. In 1978-79 the presentation of plans to the Energy Resources Conservation Board by Esso Resources Canada Limited to build a megaproject to produce 140,000 barrels of heavy oil per day started a flurry of activity in various communities of northeastern Alberta. Private sector investment flowed freely into the constituency, into land development, housing construction, construction of commercial space and, in some cases, simply wild land speculation. This came to a halt with the imposition of the national energy program in October 1980 and our government's decision — which I supported wholly at the time, and still do — to delay the megaprojects pending an overall energy agreement.

In spite of the economic downturn, most residents of the constituency supported our position and welcomed the September 1, 1981, energy agreement which, as the throne speech states, recognized and reinforced provincial ownership of natural resources. This support was not without cost to some individuals. Some retail outlets closed their doors. Some businesses went into receivership. Surplus housing and commercial space still sits empty. The problems did not disappear with the September 1 agreement. For various reasons, it now appears that the Esso megaproject as proposed to the ERCB in 1979 will not proceed, at least in the short term.

However, let me state that all is not bleak in the Cold Lake heavy oil sands. The first good news in some time from the private sector came this Wednesday with Suncor's announcement that they were proceeding with the Fort Kent thermal project, an \$88 million expansion of their pilot plant which will leave behind the equivalent of 50 permanent jobs on-site and off-site.

I would like to comment on the slant-hole drilling technique that Suncor is employing in the area. This winter a company known as North East Drilling built a very impressive slant-hole drilling rig for Suncor on a site near Ardmore. I think the impressive thing about it is the impact it will have between the energy and agricultural communities. They will be setting up a 10-acre site in the middle of a quarter section and drilling 32 holes at 5-acre spacings without doing anything but turning and tilting the rig. I think Suncor deserves a commendation from us and the agricultural community for taking steps in that

direction.

Other possible pilot plant expansions for the area are on the drawing board. I think the second positive thing developing as a result of the delay of the megaproject is the serious consideration many companies are giving to alternative ways of developing the Cold Lake heavy oil sands. As near as I can determine, some are looking at central upgrading facilities where a number of producers could get together. Some are even exploring the feasibility of small on-site upgraders. I remain confident that with a viable private sector and a responsive government, the energy resources in northeastern Alberta will be developed — maybe not in the way we initially anticipated, but certainly they will be developed.

The constituency's population of approximately 20,000 is distributed between Canadian Forces Base, Medley, two Indian reserves, one Metis colony, three towns, one village, a number of hamlets, and the rural agricultural area. There is a beautiful mixture of ethnic backgrounds in the constituency, a true Canadian mosaic. I often look at the Bonnyville constituency as a micro-organism of Canada which exemplifies our multicultural and multilingual nature. It is not uncommon to hear conversations on the streets or in the stores in the communities carried on in French, Ukrainian, Polish, or Cree.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of the Bonnyville constituency are loyal Canadians and are proud to be Albertans. They are firm believers that the problems facing this great country of ours can be resolved by emphasizing and building on our strengths rather than tearing at our weaknesses.

Thank you.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Assembly agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, with respect to Monday, we would anticipate continuation of the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I would indicate to hon. members that it is intended that we sit Monday night.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. House leader. Can the minister indicate if he contemplates sitting Tuesday evening as well, or does he know?

MR. CRAWFORD: I think that is most likely, Mr. Speaker. I didn't make mention of it because sometimes that seems a bit too far to reach ahead. But I think it most likely that we will be sitting Tuesday night as well.

Mr. Speaker, I move we call it 1:00.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Assembly agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[At 11:46 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 5, the House adjourned to Monday at 2:30 p.m.]

