

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTATitle: **Tuesday, May 3, 1983 2:30 p.m.**

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

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS****Bill 203****Alberta Development Fund Act**

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill No. 203, the Alberta Development Fund Act.

The basic principle in Bill 203 is to restructure the heritage trust fund into an Alberta development fund and place the primary goal as the diversification of the Alberta economy.

[Leave granted; Bill 203 read a first time]

Bill 205**Alberta Economic Council Act**

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce a companion Bill, Bill No. 205, the Alberta Economic Council Act.

The principle in Bill 205 is the establishment of an Alberta economic council, the principle mandate of which would be to undertake the preparation of an economic inventory for the province of Alberta.

[Leave granted; Bill 205 read a first time]

Bill 35**Hail and Crop Insurance
Amendment Act, 1983**

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill No. 35, the Hail and Crop Insurance Amendment Act, 1983. This being a money Bill, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the contents of the Bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

The purpose of the Bill is to permit the government to guarantee the payment of money borrowed by the corporation or advance money to the corporation for the purpose of meeting any of its obligations. Other amendments are primarily to delete some provisions that are no longer applicable and to make some changes of a minor nature.

[Leave granted; Bill 35 read a first time]

Bill 51**Occupational Health and Safety
Amendment Act, 1983**

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill 51, the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, 1983.

This Bill includes a number of new provisions based on our experience with the Occupational Health and Safety Act since it came into force in 1976; also to implement certain recommendations of the Task Force on Construction Safety. Important new provisions include a clearer definition of employer, the notification of new projects, the preparation of occupational health and safety policies and code of practices, clarification of procedures for work, refusal and discriminatory practices related to safety issues, and important clarification of regulation-making authority, especially with respect to mine safety.

[Leave granted; Bill 51 read a first time]

head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file with the Assembly a copy of a telex sent yesterday jointly by myself and the Minister of Economic Development to the Minister of Transport for Canada, the Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin, regarding the western rail transportation initiative.

head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to hon. members of the Assembly, 50 students who are in the public gallery, I believe. They are exchange students from the city of Laval, near Montreal, Quebec.

Monsieur le Président, je pense que c'est important d'avoir les échanges entre les deux provinces, parce qu'ils donnent aux étudiants et à nous aussi un autre point de vue du Canada, et c'est important d'avoir un Canada dans lequel c'est possible d'être un bon Canadien du Québec ou un bon Canadien de l'Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say it's important to have these kinds of exchanges, because this way it's possible to be a good Canadian from Alberta or a good Canadian from Quebec. I ask them to rise and receive a warm welcome from the Assembly.

MR. JONSON: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce to you, and through you to members of the Assembly, 29 grade 10 students from Ponoka composite high school. They are accompanied by their teacher Mr. Anderson and bus driver Mr. Evans. On Thursday this class, along with others in the school, will be inviting parents and community members into their classes to listen and participate as part of the school's Education Week activities.

A bit of a commercial: in addition to their academic endeavors, all members of this class will be participating in the track and field season, as Ponoka composite pursues its 15th consecutive central Alberta high school championship. They are seated in the members gallery, and I now ask that the class stand and receive the traditional welcome of the House.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to hon. members of the Assembly some 27 enthusiastic grade 6 students from the Brookwood school in Spruce Grove. They are accompanied by their teachers Mr. Shapka and Ms Oldershaw and by parents Mr. Lehman, Mrs. Platt, and Mrs. Jacobsen. They are in the public gallery, and I ask them to rise and receive the cordial welcome of the House.

MR. HIEBERT: Mr. Speaker, we have a special guest seated in your gallery today. David MacLennan is the assistant head of the North American department in the foreign office in London. He's accompanied by Julia King, the British Vice-Consul in Edmonton. I ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

Social Allowance

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health. On March 25, 1983, when the government announced the changes with respect to the shelter allowances, did the minister have in his possession any documentation which warns that as many as 2,670 Alberta families risk losing their homes as a result of the reduction in their shelter allowances?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to start off by saying that my voice is a little different today than it has been. I hope nobody will mistake me for the hon. Member for Edmonton Strathcona. [laughter]

In response to the question, in preparing for the changes to social allowance and, more specifically, the shelter changes, certainly the department did a very thorough analysis of the number of people who would be affected, and I had that information at the time. Just so there is no misunderstanding, the statement that some 2,669 people could lose their homes is not the information I received. The information I received is that under the old system of shelter allowances, there were 2,669 cases where they were receiving benefits above the ceilings, so they would be affected. But it certainly doesn't follow that they will be losing their homes.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Did the minister share this information with his cabinet colleagues, and was this information made available to members of the government in total? Or was it in fact simply used by the minister in making the recommendations which led to the announcement of March 25, 1983?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, prior to the decision being made, my colleagues and I had the information.

MR. NOTLEY: I see. Okay. So much for free enterprise that cares. [interjections]

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the hon. minister whether or not the government in total reviewed the concerns that the majority of those people affected — and I say affected — would be single parents, senior citizens, and the physically disabled: people in those categories?

DR. WEBBER: First of all, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has listed just about all the groups that are on social allowance. There's the 60s age group, single parents, physically ill, mentally ill, and employables. In terms of the number of the people that would be affected, certainly single parents and employables were the largest groups — about 40 per cent apiece. However, when you look at the total number of people on social allowance, that's not surprising, in view of the fact that the large majority of people on social allowance fall into those categories.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Has the minister undertaken any discussions with his cabinet colleague the Minister of Housing, in view of the savings in the mortgage reduction program — a program that by and large helps high-income people, and there's a saving as a result of lower interest rates — about shifting some of the savings over so that low-income Albertans do not risk the loss of their homes as a result of these shelter reductions?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, before making the decision on shelter ceilings, we looked at information related to vacancy rates across the province and what the market was doing in terms of house price increases as well as rental increases. Certainly we shared that information. Possibly the hon. minister would like to supplement.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, one of the important aspects of the decisions when the changes were made to the shelter allowance and when the mortgage interest reduction program was developed, was that recipients of social assistance would be eligible for both the benefits of the mortgage interest reduction program and the shelter allowance; in other words, one would not affect the eligibility of the other in order for the recipients to receive both. Although it's difficult, because there are about 140,000 recipients of the mortgage interest reduction program, we believe a number of those are undoubtedly individuals who are also receiving social assistance.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Could the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health advise the House why the government did not include in the March 25 release — as well as in the communication that was sent to all the rural newspapers in the province, I might add — the risk to those Albertans who will be affected by the shelter changes? In view of the fact that documentation was prepared by the department, why only the glowing aspects of the program, especially in the rural papers, as opposed to the risk that Albertans will face?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, in terms of making social allowance recipients aware of the changes, I believe I indicated previously that all social allowance recipients in the province received a letter indicating the changes that would take place, including the change in the shelter ceilings, which reflects the economic circumstances we find ourselves in; the 5 per cent increase in basic allowance on July 1, as I mentioned previously; and in addition, the increase in the earnings exemption for those who are on social allowance. So the whole package was made known to all social allowance recipients in the province, as well as a news release being given.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the minister's statement that people could avoid by refinancing, would the minister explain how people in welfare positions could go about refinancing their homes?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, a number of alternatives, which I am sure we could all think of, are available to people affected by these changes.

MR. NOTLEY: Just name them.

DR. BUCK: Have you ever seen anybody on welfare?

DR. WEBBER: In terms of the effects, I might indicate some statistics, since the hon. members seem to want statistics. Of the mortgage cases that are above the ceilings, about 11 per cent of the numbers indicated would be impacted by less than \$100 a month, 31 per cent between \$100 and \$150, 20 per cent between \$150 and \$200, 15 per cent between \$200 and \$250, and 3 per cent by more than \$400 a month.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Followed by a supplementary by the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway, then the hon. Member for Clover Bar.

MR. MARTIN: The supplementary question is the same one I asked before. How do welfare people go about refinancing their homes, as the minister suggested?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. An hon. member who very candidly acknowledges that he's asking the same question twice poses difficulties for the Chair.

MR. NOTLEY: It's noted that the minister didn't answer it before.

MR. MARTIN: Yes. The minister is a very helpful person. I wonder if he would help us out and explain how they would refinance their homes if they're on welfare.

MR. SPEAKER: The same question.

MR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Has the minister or his department undertaken any actual cost comparisons, studies, or evaluations to determine the availability of alternate rental accommodation to individuals under the new welfare shelter allowances?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, certainly there has been work done with regard to that. I might add that one of the things done recently was to go through the advertisements in newspapers to find out how much accommodation fell below the new ceilings. Results were that there certainly is a lot of accommodation available well below the ceilings. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I might add that on his own, the hon. Member for Edmonton Belmont did a survey in his area. He came up with some statistics that demonstrate that the shelter ceilings very realistically reflect the economic situation today.

MR. PAPROSKI: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Given these results, could the minister indicate whether any welfare recipients would in fact become homeless, as suggested by the hon. members of the opposition?

MR. NOTLEY: Look at your own report, Neil.

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I think it's going a long way to suggest that people are going to become homeless. Certainly there are some people who are going to be required to sell their homes.

DR. BUCK: That's the same thing.

DR. WEBBER: As I indicated previously, however, some 2,600 to 2,700 people were above the ceilings. Through

the adjustments we made, we have brought our ceilings in line with what other provinces are doing. We still have the highest ceilings in the country.

MR. NOTLEY: The housing prices are the highest too.

DR. WEBBER: So in terms of one of the snide comments made earlier about a government that cares, I think we certainly are a government that cares. The adjustments that have taken place reflect the concern we have.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, while we all get ill. In light of the fact that the shelter allowance has been decreased, can the minister indicate if his department has looked at any adjustment to what people on welfare can earn outside the allowance they're receiving from the government? Has that upper limit been raised so that people can work a little more on their own to try to keep body and soul together?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, if I interpret the hon. member's question properly, certainly adjustments were made in the overall package, which will allow individuals to earn more money without having their social allowances reduced.

Water Quality — Wapiti River

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the second question to the hon. Minister of the Environment. It concerns the complaints of residents near the Wapiti River. Is the minister prepared to reassess the environmental guidelines, to reduce the effluent that Procter & Gamble is allowed to dump into the Wapiti?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, there's certainly been a great deal of concern in that particular part of the province with regard to effluent released by Procter & Gamble. We're currently reviewing the new licence conditions with regard to that company, recognizing the concerns of downstream users of the water and the current economic mood in which we operate in the province.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. What is the emphasis of that economic review? Is it to upgrade the effluent control system so that when the Wapiti is low, it's capable of absorbing the material that's put into it, or is it to reflect the concerns of P & G?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, to bring this question into focus, I think one has to look back at the original terms and conditions, as to when the original licence was granted and the original development was approved. Certainly technology has improved considerably over a period of time. We have to consider the original terms and conditions and today's requirements. Certainly it would be desirable to have improved effluent discharging into the river, and we are attempting to move toward that objective.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. Specifically, what assessment has the department given to complaints by ranchers in the area? For example, has the minister sought a meeting with the Peace River Stock Growers' Association, concerning the views of some of the members that the Wapiti is in fact

polluted and that some of the deficiencies that have been noted among livestock in the area are related to the effluent P & G is putting into the Wapiti River?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I haven't received a request from that group.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. minister. In its evaluation, has the government considered the relative cost options of P & G upgrading its effluent control system, compared to the cost of a town like Peace River having to completely alter its intake for water as a result of these various problems with the Wapiti River?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, we received input from a number of different sources with regard to the reviews that have been undertaken. We do have a program with the town of Peace River to improve their water supply. We've had input from various sources, including MLAs in the area and citizens.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Can the minister give the House some definitive timetable as to when this review will be completed and when concerns of people along the Wapiti will be addressed?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, we're taking into consideration the views of a number of different organizations and concerns with regard to the review of the licence, which is coming up for renewal. We will be addressing those in the licence renewal.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER: Followed by a supplementary by the hon. Member for Clover Bar.

MR. NOTLEY: Given the fact that these concerns have been present for some time and the minister's indication that the licence is coming up for renewal, is the minister able to be a little more specific in pinpointing the time the review will be complete and the minister will be able to make a public announcement on the weighing of the balance, which he outlined in response to my first question, between the concerns of people in the area and the interests of P & G?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm not able to give a firm commitment as to a date and when the licence will be completed, in terms of its next period of time. But I must stress that when we look at a situation like this, given the historic licence approval to the company to proceed, the economic benefits in terms of employment in the area, and the concerns with regard to the actual effects of effluent discharge into the river, we must take those various components into consideration and come forward with a solution which is acceptable to the majority of those concerned.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Can the minister indicate to the Assembly the type of monitoring that's taking place on the river? Is the monitoring being done by the company, the department, or both?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd have to check specifically with regard to that. I believe the department is

involved with monitoring. There would also be monitoring of the effluent of the company on a continuous basis, I believe, by the company.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. While he's having a look at the question I asked before, can the minister indicate if the samples being taken — if they are being taken by the department — are done at random or with the company being notified that the samples will be taken?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, the question the hon. member asked is one which is often asked with regard to the department. I'm not aware of the department advising corporations that they will be involved in sampling any discharges, whether they be air or water.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, the minister had better check and find out for sure.

MR. NOTLEY: One final supplementary question, if I may. The minister indicated the historic position re P & G. Given that answer, can the minister assure the House that there will be no public funding to P & G — a large international company — for upgrading its pollution equipment and that it should in fact be the polluter pay, a position taken by this party that's now the government of Alberta when they were in opposition?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd have to check the historic approvals which were given, and I haven't undertaken that at this time. But I am led to believe, or understand, that certain parts of the clauses with regard to the historic licence given to Procter & Gamble obligate the province in some way.

Education — Exceptional Children

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question to the hon. Minister of Education has to do with the task force on gifted and talented children. Can the minister indicate if he has anything in place at this time to start implementation of the task force report on gifted and special children?

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, no decisions have been made in that regard because, with the release of the report of the task force, we invited public response to the recommendations. We believe that the gifted and talented in the province will be best served if the decisions of the Department of Education reflect the response of the public to the task force report. For that reason, I think it's reasonable that we should provide two or three months for the public to consider the report and make their response to the provincial government. We will then be in a position to make decisions in the department, and the decisions will have the benefit of that public input.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Can the minister indicate to the Assembly if his department has given any consideration to what type of screening process the department, or someone, will use to indicate which children will be allowed to be involved in the program and which will not?

MR. KING: I don't think we would make a decision at the provincial level about a screening process by which children would be allowed to participate in these pro-

grams or be excluded from these programs. We might give advice or suggestions to local school boards about what should be the nature of such a screening process, but my preference would be to leave that responsibility with the local school jurisdiction. In my experience, they are better judges of these things at the school or jurisdictional level than we are at the provincial level. Having said that, I remind the hon. member that I previously reported to the Assembly that the Department of Education is engaged in developing screening tests, diagnostic tests, and introductory assessment tests.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Can the minister indicate what recommendations or liaison there will be with the school boards and what financing would be available to see if the school boards can accommodate these special and gifted children?

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat that it would be the easiest thing in the world for us to make those decisions right now. I think they'll be decisions better made if they have the benefit of public response — and, I might add, the response of school boards — to the report of the task force. For that reason, we have not made the kinds of decisions the hon. member wishes we would have made. I adhere to the position that they'll be better made when they have the benefit of public input.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Can the Minister of Advanced Education indicate if there's been any discussion with the minister or his department and the universities, to provide people who will be able to assist in teaching gifted and special children?

MR. JOHNSTON: Presumably you're talking about teaching at the university level?

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, would any specialized training be available at the university level to provide instruction for the gifted youngsters who'll be in the program of gifted and special children?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I don't know that at the university level there is such a thing as is sometimes referred to as streaming. But I can say that it's been my experience and my understanding that university does adapt to provide extra excitement and challenge to those students who want to work on an accelerated program, in terms of course selection and special laboratory work and the way the degree program is in fact structured to suit the work progress that is in fact taking place.

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, if I could elaborate on the comments made by my colleague. Teacher training is somewhat unique in the province, in that its structure and content is the result of an agreement between the Department of Education and the three faculties of education. While it is true that their funding comes from the university, and therefore from the Department of Advanced Education, what they do with that funding is, as I said, the result of an agreement between the Department of Education and the three faculties of education. We will be pursuing the matter suggested by the hon. member.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Advanced Education. I'd like to compliment him. He didn't know the question and he didn't know the answer, but he did speak.

Day Care Centre

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. Following charges of assault laid against the Woodcroft Day Care Centre today, in reference to the assault of three children, all under the age of two, is the minister prepared to ask the regional director of social services to immediately suspend the licence of the Woodcroft Centre until the matter is settled in court?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, certainly charges relative to the home the hon. member refers to were laid yesterday. Officials in the department, particularly in the day care area, have been involved in the situation and will be trying to contact the director of the particular home to make sure that the safety of the children is uppermost. In addition, all parents who have children in the day care centre are being notified relative to what has happened. In terms of any further action being taken, however, we're awaiting further information.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. Was the minister's department made aware of any assaults or related offences committed at Woodcroft before?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, there were no reported problems in that particular centre until a short time ago. So it was only after some complaints were laid that it was brought to our attention.

MR. MARTIN: Supplementary question to the minister. What kind of investigations did the regional director undertake to assess the character of the owner/director of the Woodcroft Day Care Centre before it was granted its licence?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, the character of a director of a day care is not one of the items that's part of the regulatory process for licensing a day care centre.

MR. MARTIN: I'll ask a supplementary question. How do we check out who is looking after our children? Is there no check at all?

DR. WEBBER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member should know that there's a system in place whereby day cares are visited frequently in this province. In addition, the Social Care Facilities Review Committee is doing a tremendous job, in my view, visiting day care centres across the province, and certainly has visited a number of day care centres over the last two years. In fact, since the Social Care Facilities Review Committee began, it has visited some 339 day care centres across this province.

MR. MARTIN: Supplementary question. Would the minister investigate the previous firings of Woodcroft day care workers to see if their firings were linked to their complaints to the police?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, we're getting into some details regarding the situation. This afternoon I'm getting further information relative to what is happening. Our primary concern at the moment is the safety of the children, and we feel that's in hand.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. I wasn't asking for detail. I said clearly, would the minister investigate the allegations?

DR. WEBBER: I'm sorry. Would the hon. member repeat the question, please?

MR. MARTIN: Again, I was asking: would the minister investigate the previous firings to see if they are because of complaints to the police? I'm not asking for details; I'm asking if he'll investigate.

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I'll be looking into all the details regarding this particular case. As I mentioned earlier, the parents of all the children in the day care centre are being notified. Certainly I think we have to leave some judgment relative to the parents as well in this particular case.

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

MR. MARTIN: Is the minister prepared to enter those corporal punishment guidelines which were issued by his department, I believe in November 1982, into the social care facilities Act regulations so that disciplinary actions will be standardized once and for all?

DR. WEBBER: First of all, Mr. Speaker, the so-called regulations were not put into place; they were recommendations made to the minister by the Day Care Advisory Committee. We are holding those recommendations until the Cavanagh Board of Review has finished its particular inquiry. This opens up the whole question of child abuse versus discipline, Mr. Speaker, and we well know that that could be an area of debate for some time.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary Foot-hills, followed by the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, who wishes to supplement with regard to a previous question period matter.

Calgary Olympics — Ski Site

MRS. KOPER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Recreation and Parks, regarding the possible use of Lake Louise during the 1988 Olympics. Could you please clarify the changes that will be needed to the hill and the infrastructure of the village in order to stage the men's downhill at Lake Louise in 1988?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Speaker, to date Lake Louise has hosted two successful World Cup events. I mention that because it's my understanding that the World Cup events and the men's downhill are similar. It's my further understanding that very little or no alteration or development is necessary to host the 1988 events.

MRS. KOPER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Do you feel that any development at Lake Louise will have an impact on the development at Mount Allan?

MR. TRYNCHY: I don't think so, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if I got the full impact of the question. I don't see how any development at Lake Louise would deter or defer any development at Mount Allan. Maybe the member would clarify the question.

MRS. KOPER: I believe that to accommodate it at Lake Louise would necessitate the extension — perhaps twinning — of the Trans-Canada, plus extra accommodations at Lake Louise. I wonder if this would have any impact in the future of Mount Allan.

MR. TRYNCHY: I'm not aware of having to twin highways or develop additional new accommodation. The World Cup was held there, and the events are somewhat similar. So that has never reached me. I don't think that's accurate, but I'd have to check it.

MRS. EMBURY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Tourism and Small Business. I wonder if the minister would comment on the effect of wind velocity at Mount Allan. Is this going to affect the ski events that are going to occur on that mountain?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, the short answer is no.

DR. BUCK: It's the same answer.

MR. ADAIR: It's the same answer, Walter.

Mr. Speaker, I think the concern that was expressed in one interview I had this morning was relative to the wind velocity at Fortress Mountain. I think it should be pointed out fairly clearly that the wind starts in that southwest corner, comes up that valley toward that junction where Fortress is, splits and goes up the Smith-Dorrien, and then up the Evan-Thomas. The report we have from the consultants — and I'll just reiterate them, as I did yesterday — was that there is no significant weather-vaning at the tree line on Mount Allan. Therefore, the best information we have is that wind is not a significant or major factor relative to the development of Mount Allan as a recreation ski area or as a recreation ski area including the alpine venues.

MRS. EMBURY: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. There certainly have been some comments by people that there will be a concern, and I wonder if those people have made representation to the minister. Are their concerns based on any actual studies?

DR. BUCK: The government doesn't listen; why make representation? Right, Allen?

MR. ADAIR: Would you tilt your head? I can't see for the sun. [laughter]

AN HON. MEMBER: Or hear for the wind.

MR. ADAIR: Yes, or hear for the wind.

Mr. Speaker, if I can get away from the snow on the top of my head and the rocks on the top of the hon. member's, I might be able to try to get back to that particular concern.

DR. BUCK: We just want snow, Al, just snow for the downhill.

MR. ADAIR: Would you like to make the speech?

DR. BUCK: You guys made the decision, then you want representation. Big deal.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ADAIR: I'm prepared to listen, if you want to keep mumbling.

MR. MARTIN: You're one of the few.

MR. ADAIR: If I may start with the snow . . .

DR. BUCK: The lack of it.

MR. ADAIR: There's obviously a difference of opinion between some members relative to the amount of snow anywhere in the Eastern Slopes. Even in some of the World Cup events that were held this year above the Arctic Circle, they had to use snow-making equipment. So across the world, we've had some difficulties this year and for the last couple of years. On average, the snowfall on the Mount Allan site is anywhere from 105 inches at the 5,000-foot level to roughly 180 inches at the tree line. That, complemented and supplemented with machine snow, will provide us with the best possible recreation ski site, not only for recreation skiing but for Olympic alpine events as well.

Now getting back to the concern that was expressed about wind . . .

MR. MARTIN: You don't really believe that, do you?

MR. ADAIR: You're starting to create some. [interjections] Mr. Speaker, it's amazing the number of experts you get in a moment or two.

When it comes to the wind problems that were created — and there were concerns about Mount Allan as a factor, relative to the peak and the area at the top of the mountain. The consultants — and I might again express the point that the particular consultant we have been using was a three-time Olympic competitor and is aware of what wind can do, either here or there. When it comes right down to it, as related to us by the consultants, wind factors were not considered to be a major factor as far as the recreation ski area or the alpine events for the Mount Allan site.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could supplement my answer to the hon. Member for Calgary Foothills with regard to twinning Highway No. 1. It's my understanding that twinning is taking place into Banff and that it will continue towards Lake Louise whether or not we have the Olympics.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Tourism and Small Business. The minister indicated that the consultant who is a three-time Olympic person is the one responsible for overseeing making snow or making sure there's snow available. Did the minister indicate that this consultant will also be involved in acquiring equipment to make artificial snow?

MR. ADAIR: Are you asking if I indicated whether he would be involved in acquiring that? No, Mr. Speaker, I didn't indicate that. In response to a question yesterday, I said I wasn't aware that he was involved in any snow-making equipment.

Physicians' Earnings

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, some time ago the hon.

Member for Edmonton Belmont directed questions to me regarding billing by certain doctors in the province. I was unable to answer all the questions and had to undertake some research. That's now done. I asked the department to eliminate any doctors who billed on behalf of a clinic or an incorporated practice that involved more than one doctor and to break it down by specialty group and by number of services.

In the case of the two doctors who had billed in excess of \$500,000 and who were listed in the annual report of the department, one is a general practitioner and the other a specialist. In the case of the general practitioner, he was able to earn that amount by providing 36,500 services through the year. The specialist was able to earn his income by providing 18,500 services through the year. I also compared those lists with the top 20 designated on the same basis vis-a-vis extra billing. The same specialist who was at the top of the gross income list was also the top extra biller in the province, in the amount of \$330,000 for 6,500 services.

In view of the number of services involved and the hours those would require throughout the year, I've asked the College of Physicians and Surgeons to do a professional profile on both those doctors.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous leave to revert to Introduction of Special Guests.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS (reversion)

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it's not very often that I have the privilege of introducing students from Spirit River-Fairview, but today we have 28 students from St. Thomas More school. They're accompanied by teachers Ben and Judy Fuglesteit and bus driver Vern Tremblay. They're seated in the public gallery, and I ask that they stand and be warmly welcomed to the House by the members.

head: MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

208. Moved by Mr. Anderson:

Be it resolved that the Assembly urge the government to assess efficiencies that might be realized by creating smaller public school jurisdictions within the city of Calgary.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, in my opinion it is particularly important that Education Week be a time when we talk about educational issues on private members' afternoon. The Order Paper has served us well by having this motion come up, followed immediately by Motion 209, sponsored by the hon. Member for Calgary Foothills.

Before I proceed with the meat of my remarks, I would like to have a few initial understandings underlined with respect to this motion. First of all, this motion may appear to be limited in scope to the Calgary area. Indeed,

because that's the part of this province that I represent and where I have concerns, it is primarily of concern to that part of the province. But I do believe that the precedents established with Calgary, the largest jurisdiction in Alberta in terms of schools, will serve Edmonton and possibly other communities in this province.

The other thing I'd like to underline is that I mean this motion to be interpreted in the broadest of ways; that is to say, terms such as "assess efficiencies" mean that should this Assembly approve the motion, the minister might undertake that in any way he feels is most effective, be that through departmental officials or an independent study. That judgment would be left to his evaluation of the concerns and the incidents. The phrase that follows, "creating smaller public school jurisdictions", should also be taken in the broadest sense. Anything from two entirely separate school divisions in the city of Calgary to school divisions co-ordinated by a central body or sharing certain responsibilities for aspects such as special education, should be considered as well. The motion is meant to facilitate the broadest investigation of what possibilities exist in the city of Calgary for improving that system and, in particular, its efficiency.

The other point I'd like to make very clearly at the outset is that this motion is not in any way meant to be a criticism of trustees currently serving or those who served in the past. Rather, it is an attempt to evaluate a system to see how best it can serve both trustees, and parents and students within the system we speak of.

The last initial remark I make to the House is that the motion talks about an assessment; it doesn't advocate a position. In my remarks this afternoon, I would like to put in front of hon. members the case for having these possibilities assessed, rather than for or against changing the entire system. With respect to that, I know many members must ask — and certainly many citizens would ask — why would one want to suggest breaking down a jurisdiction? When we use terms like "splitting" or "breaking apart", there's a natural connotation of divisiveness, of something that will break what we've understood in the past, what we've felt secure about, and that in most respects has served us well. Indeed, I think there's little doubt that if tomorrow someone were to propose that the province of Alberta be split in two, we'd all quickly say, why? Our first response, emotionally, would be that that would be something we would not want to proceed with.

Some excellent questions arise from the suggestion that we might consider splitting a school jurisdiction or rearranging it in some fashion. Would it increase costs by duplicating administrative costs or other aspects of a system? What kinds of boundaries would be established for the new divisions? Would smaller school jurisdictions be able to provide as excellent special education and other educational services as a larger one? I believe all those questions would have to be assessed within the study. But my short answer to those questions is that in my opinion, the question must be asked simply because the system in the Calgary school jurisdiction is not working as effectively as it should. That isn't to say that it doesn't achieve excellent results in many cases or that the trustees, parents, teachers, and administrators are not sensitive people who want to do the best for students in that particular jurisdiction. But it does indicate my feeling that improvements have to be made to that system.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to outline the reasons for that conclusion. The first one is somewhat subjective. Ten years ago I ran for the Board of Education in the city of

Calgary, with over 30 fellow candidates, and I have to admit to this House that that was one of the most frustrating experiences of my life. I attended many forums where there were more candidates on stage than individuals in the audience. With what was then close to 500,000 people, we tried to communicate educational issues and our belief in how those could best be resolved to serve the citizens of the province. In the one and a half minute speeches which were allotted because of that number of candidates, it was almost impossible to get across the point I wanted to make to the people in the city at large. It was certainly impossible for the voters of the city of Calgary to understand my position in any depth, as well as any other candidate's. We competed with mayoralty and aldermanic candidates across the city for any time in the busy lives of Calgarians, to press home educational issues. I was also encumbered by being forced to try to comprehend the difficulties in all parts of the Calgary system. I felt I had a fair handle on those in my part of the city. But it was a great difficulty to try to deal with those at the other end, where situations were different and schools were unique.

I followed that with some experience as a member of the Board of Education's educational priorities committee. I would say that all members of that committee shared a similar frustration in just trying to communicate with parents, administrators, and staff, trying to get the information they required to deal with those issues and, more than anything else, understand the difficulties that system faced.

I've served on a number of other committees as well, and over the last five years have either represented or been preparing to represent the Calgary Currie riding and, to some degree, the educational concerns in that part of the city. They have been very significant concerns, Mr. Speaker. The school closures issue, which reared its head heavily in the 1979 election and caused a great deal of concern on the part of almost all the citizens of Calgary Currie, and which we as a government stepped in to change temporarily, is still there. The difficulty I encountered then in the lack of communication or understanding among trustees, administrators, and parents, is still there.

I don't believe it is for lack of trying on the part of any one of those three groups. Indeed I think parents specifically in the Clinton Ford and Clem Gardner areas in my constituency have spent more hours on that activity than many of them have spent at their own jobs or life styles. Trustees as well, I believe, have spent long hours trying to communicate, trying to evolve answers for the system as a whole. But in my opinion they've been unable to fully appreciate and evaluate, on a city-wide basis, individual circumstances in the school which they represent.

Those are some of the feelings of frustration that the large system that exists in Calgary have given me and indeed many parents, and, by way of letter, concerns that have reached my desk over the past number of years. The Kratzmann report, which followed from the teachers' strike, which caused a great deal of controversy in the city of Calgary, identified well the concern I'm speaking of.

The report indicated that the size and complexity of the jurisdiction can quite often encumber communication and hinder top-level action, with the result that the sensitivity of administration to local needs and the transfer of those expressions of need to the system's policy-setting forums will be frustrated. That particular study went on to say that the Calgary public school system is large, multi-layered, and complex in its structure and organization.

The two main concerns expressed to that study done very recently by school-based personnel are: one, the existence of slow, difficult communication channels and; two, the virtual impossibility of having opinions, information, and proposals readily transmitted to decision-makers.

Mr. Speaker, more evidence of that dissatisfaction, that fear that parents can't communicate with the trustees, that trustees can't communicate properly through the administration, is shown in the survey that the Calgary Board of Education carried out among its taxpayers, a survey which indicated that fully 40 per cent of the citizens of Calgary did not feel they were getting the kind of education they wanted for their children. This compares with only 5 per cent in the city of Edmonton, on the same question. The survey also asked the question, are you satisfied with the amount of say the public has in how the Calgary public schools are run? Only 34.7 per cent of all parents answered that they were, with 54.7 answering, no, they did not have the input to the system they required.

When we look at what possibilities exist for changing a system to be more adaptable to the needs it has in terms of communication, efficiencies, and other matters, we naturally look to other jurisdictions. If we look across Canada, we'll see that in most cases where a city is as large as the city of Calgary and has an enrolment of some 83,000 students, which exists in the Calgary system, they have changed the system or it has evolved differently. In Toronto and Montreal we have two-tiered systems, where there are several boards that look after almost all issues dealing with education but that also have a central co-ordinating body that looks after those items which would otherwise cause a duplication of resources and responsibilities which are common to all the jurisdictions.

The situation in Winnipeg is that they have 11 different school jurisdictions. Of course Edmonton is somewhat different from Calgary in that Edmonton has 60,000 pupils in its public school system, mostly because they also have boards in the suburbs, the St. Albert and Sherwood Park areas surrounding the city of Edmonton. So while it too is a very large school jurisdiction, it does not quite reach the size of Calgary's.

One point that I think needs to be underlined is that studies on optimum size have been done — I counted 12 in the last three years across the United States and one in Canada that touched on that issue. In every one of those studies, there was not a suggestion that optimum size could be anything greater than 30,000 students. Some of them said 10,000; the majority were in the 20,000 mark. But all those studies indicated that optimum size was 20,000 students or thereabouts.

With Calgary having 83,000 students, I think that fact alone, without even considering the other issues I've raised, is enough to merit an investigation as to how best we could serve the Calgary public school system. With 83,000 students, we are at least four times the size that is suggested by experts in the field. Perhaps it's a unique situation, and a study might indicate that it's best left the way it is. But I suggest that the evidence is clear that a study is required.

The other question we should ask is, are there other alternatives? Are there other alternatives to looking at changing the whole system? Yes, I think there are. For example, I think Calgary, and possibly Edmonton, should move toward the ward system for the election of trustees, where parents can have better communication ability with the trustees and the trustees can know and understand the ward. Possibly too we should consider having the election for school boards take place on a

different day than elections for city council and mayor. In my opinion, there is no doubt that educational issues get totally lost, in the city of Calgary at least, because of the interest in the mayoralty and aldermanic races and the inability of trustee candidates to effectively communicate with such a large number of people.

Indeed those are alternatives we should consider, but I don't think that takes away from the fact that we have a very large school jurisdiction that has faced a good number of problems in recent years. In my opinion, we must move toward investigating what way we can make that system more efficient. There is some suggestion as well that in the dollar end — certainly the dollar figures I've received do not indicate that the larger jurisdictions save money over the smaller. For example, in the 1981 statistics, the highest spending per pupil took place in the Edmonton public, Edmonton Catholic, and Calgary public school districts. Interestingly, the Calgary Catholic district was significantly below, though again its size and number are much lower than the public system.

Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks I commend this motion to hon. members, outlining again that I am speaking not in favor of splitting a system in half or developing a multiboard system, but definitely in favor of investigating what alternatives there are to a current situation that has caused grave concern among many parents in the city of Calgary, particularly in the Calgary Currie constituency.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise to make a few comments about the motion. This may seem rather strange from the Edmonton Norwood M.L.A., but I do know the Calgary system very well, having been a counsellor and teacher in that system for some 10 years. Hopefully I can add something to the debate, even in terms of the Calgary situation. I understand the purpose of the motion. I can understand the frustration that goes with dealing with the big system. I think parents feel it, and I agree with the member when he talked about what led up to a fair amount of frustration and eventually to the Kratzmann report. I can assure him that a number of teachers who I still know and stay in touch with feel some of that same frustration in dealing with the bigger system.

I think we have to do everything we can to look at alternate schools and many different types of educational delivery, if I can put it that way. I certainly agree with the hon. member about the elections. Having been involved not in running for election but in some of the campaigns for the Calgary school board, I agree with people: it's a matter of looking at about 40 names and then guessing with name recognition where to put your X, which is not a very good way to run a democratic process. So his idea of having elections at different times might make good sense and be something the government might want to look at.

The main worry I have — and I say this honestly to the hon. member — is the idea of inequality of opportunity within the same city. I think we all agree that one of the goals of education is equality of opportunity across the province. That's hard to do all the time because sometimes in rural areas, especially poorer rural areas with a lot of money being put on the supplementary requisition, there is not equality of opportunity.

The concern I have with the hon. member's proposal — and perhaps he can fill me in later if this is not the intent — is that different school jurisdictions would be taxing. For instance, I could see that in southern Calgary, where there is a fair amount of money and they know the value

of education, they'd be prepared to pay much more in terms of their property tax. Some of the inner cities — if we're breaking it down and they have taxing — wouldn't have the same amount of money and would not want to spend it on education. It could create that inequality of opportunity within the school system, if we're talking about having different taxation systems involved.

Coming from an inner-city riding — and I know there are inner-city ridings in Calgary — the point I would like to make in terms of a couple of key points is that I think we almost have to go to affirmative action. One of the things I see in my riding and further down is that a lot of kids come to the school with what we call a cumulative deficit. They don't understand the purpose of education; their home life is in disarray. If the school doesn't do anything to help them become functioning citizens at least, if I can put it that way, then probably we're going to end up, down the road, paying for welfare, jails, or whatever the consequences of social disorganization.

One of the worries we see in both major cities, Calgary and Edmonton, is that the inner cities do not have the numbers, and a lot of the kids are going to be bused out of the inner cities into big schools — and I might add big, impersonal schools, having been part of it. I think we have to make some commitment to preservation of inner-city schools, because I believe we'll end up paying the cost in a financial and social sense down the way. One of the other problems, which is perhaps slightly off the motion but part of it, has to do with the size of our institutions, and I use that term loosely. I've been involved in the high school system in very big schools. I think there's a tendency for it to become impersonal. Kids go through a lot of teachers; a teacher will see 200 or 300 kids a day. There is a tendency not to have time to be able to help each kid individually.

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

I think many kids suffer under that, Mr. Speaker. The thing we could do to get away from some of the frustration that you're talking about, at least at the high school level, is to go back to schools that are not so large, where there is more of a personal [interchange] between student and teacher. I think this is extremely important. I see a number of kids in my own school who are sort of lost by the wayside. There is a huge number of people — 2,000 kids in the school — and they get lost. Again, we end up paying the price for this.

If I understand the purpose of the motion, it's to try to bring things back to a more personal level, to where people do not feel alienated. I'm not sure that breaking it into a number of subdivisions would do this. The experience in some of the bigger cities in the United States is that it really didn't have much bearing on it, because it had to do with the amount of tax dollars people had. I think that was the key thing. But if the hon. member could prove to me that this would in fact bring things back to a more personal level, I'd certainly be willing to look at the motion. But as it now stands, because I'm not sure about the property tax or supplementary requisition — whether the different jurisdictions within the city could collect their own taxes — then I would see that leading to some inequality of opportunity that would go against what, to me, is an especially important thing; that is, preservation of inner-city schools.

I compliment the member for bringing up the motion. In terms of education, I think it's one we haven't discussed much, and a give and take of ideas is valuable. I

would be interested, Mr. Speaker, in talking to the member a little more about exactly what he does mean in terms of creating smaller public school jurisdictions within the city of Calgary.

Thank you.

MR. JONSON: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to address this motion on the second day of Education Week. It's certainly an appropriate one, and I'd like to commend the Member for Calgary Currie for introducing it.

One of the first questions that comes up in considering this particular request for an assessment of the governing structure in Calgary, with application to the rest of the province, is the question of whether there exists some ideal forum or size of school jurisdiction. As the hon. Member for Calgary Currie indicated, the research is variable. I jotted down a couple of items in that regard myself, and I note that at one time it was thought that 5,000 pupils were the ideal unit, with somewhere between 200 and 300 teachers. That was the going educational literature at one time. Perhaps I predate the work of the hon. member by age and by research. There have also been a number of studies, Mr. Speaker, having to do with ideal school size. At one particular point in the program of educational research at the University of Alberta, I can recall that 800 was thought to be ideal for a high school, 300 for a junior high, and 200 for an elementary.

I think the important thing with respect to looking for the ideal, Mr. Speaker, is to keep in mind that we're living in changing times with changing objectives and capabilities as far as the delivery of education is concerned. Some people still refer to the one-room school district and its virtues. There was a time when going to larger systems with their greater capability of offering varied services was the way to go. Now, with the advent of advances in technology and the ability to bring educational services into the home and more directly to the individual, we might in a sense be going full circle, back to a more individualized type of education and perhaps a much more viable, small school unit.

Another matter I'd like to refer to in talking about the pursuit of an ideal, Mr. Speaker, is that it also revolves around the objectives that a particular community has and is trying to fulfil. The objective might be to provide the greatest variety of services, and that certainly would seem to point in the direction of large school jurisdictions. It might be academic excellence in a narrow area of study. It might be recreation and socialization, remediation or, as was referred to in question period today, an emphasis on programs for the gifted. The important thing is that there has to be a government structure that provides, in the most efficient way possible, the addressing of those objectives in keeping with the views of the community that the system is supposed to serve.

Another question that can be posed in relation to this particular motion is: is it possible to break down the largest school system in the province into some other possibly more manageable and more efficient school unit? There have been various examples of this already referred to, and certainly the answer has to be yes. But I would just like to add a couple of alternatives that I think prove the point that this type of move can take place.

Within the province of Alberta, we have had changes in the size and nature of jurisdictions. The most recent is probably the establishment of an additional public school district to serve the town of Whitecourt. We have had the establishment of separate school districts year by year.

We have had another type of school district and school organization established in Northland to serve the communities in that area. Perhaps there are some virtues in that particular model, Mr. Speaker, which puts emphasis on community committees and the decentralization of a certain amount of government responsibility for education to the actual school level. Then we have had moves in the opposite direction. The one that comes to mind is the establishment of the Lakeland school division a few years ago in response to developments in that area.

However, another type of school system and school governance we should keep in mind when we're looking at this possibility of assessment is that of France and Australia as two examples. We have to keep in mind that certain nations in this world find a highly centralized school system very acceptable with respect to certain aspects of education, although I think you would find in those instances that there is a trend to more community involvement on certain matters of concern to the community, even within those highly controlled systems.

What it boils down to is that it depends on the style of school organization and educational delivery you want. One extreme is the highly centralized one I just referred to: the department of education assesses the needs and goals, and delivers, establishes, and governs the system. It has some virtues, particularly if you have a very narrow objective to serve and certain easily measurable criteria to meet. The other end of the spectrum, Mr. Speaker, is the decentralized, rather pluralistic approach to education, with an emphasis on local input and on the process of discussing objectives being part of the educational process. I think it is this second direction that is more akin to the Canadian and North American objectives for education.

Now to focus a moment on the Calgary situation. I would like to support or I guess repeat, Mr. Speaker, the comments of the hon. Member for Calgary Currie in saying that we have to be careful here to point out that we're not trying to deride in any way individuals involved in the Calgary system, be they central office administrators, school board members, teachers, parents, or students. But there have been a number of events over the past number of years that seem to make Calgary a good possibility for this first assessment, if it were to occur, although there certainly is the basis for transfer of this evidence or these results to other jurisdictions should they prove favorable.

Some of the situations have already been referred to: the great debate surrounding school closures, the concern over administrative efficiency, and the reference to the Kratzmann report and the teachers' strike. I would like to dwell for just a moment though on the strike situation. The recommendations in the Kratzmann report that have gained most of the publicity and most of the consequent attention of the educational community across the province were those dealing with the famous 20/20 and also those with respect to certain other finite things such as salary grids. Although all and sundry agreed with the first seven recommendations, which have to do with the process that should be addressed in making educational decisions, very little concrete action has been taken, in my opinion, to put into effect the essence of those seven recommendations.

As I understand those recommendations, the emphasis was on a participatory process of decision-making being put in place in the Calgary system, in which all people felt that they were important and involved, and that their views were being considered. That stretches all the way

from the grade 1 to the grade 12 parent, to the senior students, to the teachers, to the central office administration, to the board, and also to the Department of Education.

It has been my experience, Mr. Speaker, that in the various, serious labor disputes — if you want to call them that — that have taken place in school systems across this province and this nation, the apparent issues are quite often not the real issues. The real issues have to do with a long build-up over a period of years of hard feelings, lack of communication, and lack of consideration of others and their viewpoints, which culminates in a dispute over some particular issue, be it class size or wages. Contributing factors to this kind of situation might well be the size of a school jurisdiction, the various layers that develop in the hierarchy governing that particular system, and the consequent alienation, not just of the teachers and perhaps the pupils and the parents but also from the vantage point of the school board, the governors of the situation.

You cannot maintain an effective school delivery system when you have a barrier created by the size of the system, which involves situations where people working in some of the most important positions in the school jurisdiction, by title, are in fact never in contact with teachers, pupils, or parents but are only in contact with other people in the hierarchy. Pretty soon the emphasis becomes one of pulling strings and manipulating the system. The real feel for the system is lost in the whole process. On that basis alone, Mr. Speaker, I would very much like to see some discussion, at least, of the assessment referred to in the motion.

I think another reason for looking at the Calgary situation might very well be the sheer size and complexity of the system. This is an era when we're looking for efficiencies in education, and certainly the information we have that seems to indicate that delivering education there is quite costly, is something to be analysed. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, there are virtues and benefits in that particular system that these studies haven't properly recognized. Once again, it's well worth looking at.

I'd like to refer to a few of the obvious pros and cons of moving in the direction implied in the motion. I am not going to try to conduct the assessment here, but I'd just like to point out that there is at least a basis for debate on this particular question. First of all, some of the possible advantages, or pros, of moving in the direction of smaller school jurisdictions. The sheer size of the Calgary system has already been referred to and that seems to be at odds with what the research, as varied as it is, seems to indicate. Secondly, there is the response, that has already been quoted, to various surveys. Certainly in that response there is a basis for doubt as to whether the present, large delivery system is the best.

There's also a 1972 report on non-instructional positions, functions, and costs which might have already been referred to. I didn't gather whether that was the specific study referred to. The hierarchical set-up, or that part of the Calgary system, in that report is indicated to be very costly and hard to assess as to its efficiency. I think that study is a basis for pursuing this whole matter. There are the recommendations of the Kratzmann report. There are the difficulties that people have in running for office and adequately presenting their platforms, which have already been referred to. Certainly, once you're elected — and this is where, in my observation, there is the real difficulty — it is an extremely difficult job to adequately respond to your various publics in a system as large as Calgary.

Another part to this, Mr. Speaker, is that I think when

you have 30 people running for seven positions on the Calgary board, you often lose some very qualified and interested people that education certainly needs in its governance these days. If there was the possibility of being elected to govern a smaller school jurisdiction, one which you were more familiar with, I think you might have 100 or 200 people running for office in Calgary. I think the overall system of education would benefit from that.

Mr. Speaker, the motion certainly has the advantage of providing an issue for debate which I think could bring out many, many important factors in the delivery of education in the cities of this province, and the rural areas as well, for that matter. I appreciate some of the remarks of the hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood, but I do not feel we should worry too much about this being a barrier to equality of opportunity.

I think there's some basis to feel that if you had a more efficient governing structure, with the board and the central office administrators concentrating on a particular area of the city, you might very well have a better system of delivery of education to that particular community than when you have a large one with the board and the central office administration, of necessity, quite far removed from the situation. The whole matter of financing — and I think this is an important point — would have to be carefully looked at, because that is an area in which various inequalities could evolve, which in turn could lead to inequality of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have to acknowledge that there are certain disadvantages, or cons, to this argument. They will be raised as reasons for not pursuing the particular motion. Certainly there would be difficulties over arranging taxation. Perhaps there would be some confusion over varying school jurisdiction policies, if this was taken to its ultimate and Calgary was divided into, say, one jurisdiction for each of its major high schools. There would be possible conflict or difficulty in administration with the unitary city government that you now have in Calgary. I think all of those should be addressed and acknowledged but, to me, none of them are particularly prohibitive.

Another argument against going in this direction is that in places in North America — and Europe, for that matter — the multiboards that you have in urban jurisdictions have some historical division behind them, perhaps on the basis of religion, the geography of the particular city, or something to do with the way the city developed. That might well be. Also I think we have to recognize that during the past couple of decades, we have gone through an era in which it was acknowledged that school jurisdictions that were too small had difficulty providing adequate services.

However, I think anything that might be envisaged here, Mr. Speaker, would not be that small that it would cut down that dramatically on the services our complex society needs. Further, you would hear that there's no conclusive research that there will be duplication of services. Once again, all of these difficulties have to be acknowledged, but I do not think they are sufficient to condemn this particular motion right off the top and prevent us from putting it forward and having it pursued.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to conclude my remarks with a couple of comments. We certainly have various alternatives available. It isn't as if there aren't some possible solutions already on the books that could be the basis for discussion. Perhaps after this assessment, the status quo will be deemed to be the best. Perhaps some type of

internal reorganization will be recommended without division of the system; perhaps a two-tier system; perhaps, as I suggested, division into elementary/junior high feeder schools to a particular major high school, and that would become the division for the new jurisdictions.

Or perhaps — hard to imagine — the direction would be to go to a more provincially dominated system with certain items, in turn, being left strictly for the school situation and a community school concept for a limited number of responsibilities evolving around it. The point I'm trying to make is that there are already a number of alternatives that could obviously be put in place. It isn't as if there's not a possibility of moving in some direction.

The final point I would like to make is that I think the real key in all of this, and the main thing we have to consider in this particular motion, is the process that passing this motion would put in place. The process that might be recommended by the Department of Education or developed by Calgary itself would be the key item. It would have to be a process in which there was extensive public involvement and all the groups involved would be listened to and have plenty of opportunity for input. Then, I think, you would address one of the issues that perhaps gave rise to this motion in the first place; that is, the issue of how and in what manner you provide satisfactory public and professional input to establish educational objectives and to deliver the best possible education for children.

Mr. Speaker, I would finally conclude by saying that I commend this particular motion to the Assembly. In doing so, I in no way want to infer that the individuals working within the large Calgary system are not doing their best and have not been thinking of the welfare of students. But this is certainly an issue and a challenge which we have not addressed in this particular direction in the province for some time. It should be well supported.

Thank you.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be able to discuss a few comments relative to the motion before us. I have mixed feelings about the motion. However, it is only intended to seek to assess the efficiencies that might be created by differing the present system that's prevalent in the city of Calgary. This morning while I was in Calgary, I had the opportunity to talk to a principal of one of the junior high schools in my constituency. Of course, she had certain views relevant to this issue also, as I'm sure other members of the teaching faculty in Calgary have. In addressing the issue and asking the government to examine the efficiencies that could be created, I think we should also address the deficiencies that may be there.

In 1978 there was a report that suggested we close something in the order of 31 schools in the city of Calgary, due to what was perceived as inefficiency in their operation by the lack of students, by placing many of these students into other schools in their neighborhoods to create what was perceived as a more efficient schooling system, as well as a better educational facility for our young people. Of course this created a political furor that is still being heard throughout the province. Unfortunately much of this furor is created by emotionalism rather than facts. However, that's the political game, and we have to deal with this. The unfortunate thing is that the taxpayer bears the brunt of the cost of some of this emotionalism.

The size and complexity of a system can quite often encumber communications and hinder top-level action,

with the result that the sensitivity of administrations to local needs may be harmful to those of the children. Mr. Speaker, in the Calgary system at present, there is a tier. In fact, it is split into five area offices with an assistant superintendent or a superintendent in charge of those areas. I know that on the east side of Calgary, which is the largest area of the Calgary Board of Education system, the area superintendent, Mr. Gordon Elhardt, is not only sensitive to the issues in the area but is sensitive to the needs of his principals, the teachers, and the students. He is an individual who delivers quality, works extremely hard — is there early in the morning and does not leave till late in the afternoon — and deals with his schools in a manner that is commendable.

Because this is Education Week, as was previously mentioned, before discussing some of the issues before us, I think we should give some praise to some of those educators in our system. Too often we do a lot of bashing rather than giving praise. In many cases, we do the bashing where we should not and neglect the area that possibly we should get after.

I can speak about those schools in the area that I represent, Calgary McCall, reasonably well because I make a point of visiting many of them on a reasonably regular basis; of course, with some it's not too often and, unfortunately, while we're up here it's not at all. Mr. Speaker, the teachers in those schools are sensitive not only to the needs of those students they have under their control but to the needs of the community. These teachers, the principals included, work extremely hard, not only with the students but with the parents of those children.

They endeavor to keep the parents informed as to the students' progress and the concerns they may have. They develop programs during the noon hour to keep them out of some of the billiard halls and arcades that are so detrimental to the health and welfare of many communities. Unfortunately the prime activity of many of these places is drug use and, of course, the best way to keep the young people away from that usage is to keep them away from there or create some activity that will interest them in things other than drug abuse and what have you.

Many schools in our neighborhoods are giving their attention to the students and giving them some attractive incentives to stay there during their lunch periods, encouraging them in such a fashion that I think we should be proud to be part of the community. All I can say additionally, Mr. Speaker, is that I'm proud to have these schools, their principals, and their teachers in my communities because they do perform an excellent job and are an excellent training ground for our young people.

I think the crux of our problem is not in the teaching area, and may not even necessarily be in the size of the school district, but possibly in the manner in which it is run through the large bureaucracy that is created by approving more and more people in that area. Bureaucracy in Calgary is growing something in the area, I believe, of 10 to 15 per cent a year, and again has done the same or similar in the last year. Yet the schools don't increase by 10 or 15 per cent. We don't have 10 or 15 per cent more teachers and so on.

Why does the bureaucracy continue to grow? Unfortunately, many of our bureaucrats are really out of touch with what goes on in a school. It's possible that we should examine the administrative arm and, in particular, the general offices of our administrative function, and reduce those in size. Instead of having three or four people working in an area office where they're on the front line,

place some of the people in the general office out in some of these offices in the communities, developing a closer liaison with the schools themselves.

The cost of administration increases at a greater rate than the cost of teaching our young people. What is more important: a whole bunch of bureaucrats sitting on their fat duffs trying to tell the people what to do in the teaching profession, when they themselves don't know what to do in the teaching profession, or placing the funding and giving the teachers some incentive to pursue their occupation and give our children the much-needed education they're trying to pursue?

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if we go ahead and try to examine some of the activities in the school district, we should examine giving the principals of these schools somewhat more autonomy. In general terms, the principals have been in the education field many more years than many of the bureaucrats who are trying to tell them how to educate children. I have not had a great deal to do with the education field. However, approaching the issue of education from the point of view of an interested layperson, I think it can be said that it is certainly not in a definitive sense that I'm biased. However, I'd like to examine it from all points of view.

Let's reflect on the situation of giving the principal of a school a little more autonomy in the operation of that school. For example, we talk about the programs to facilitate the gifted and possibly even the slower learning students. Why not give the principal of that school the flexibility to offer classes, possibly even reduced in size, to give those students the attention they need?

In other words, in a school, there may be an average class size of 25 to 30 students. You can probably increase one of those classes from 25 to 30, and reduce another class where you have slower learners to the 20 or 15 mark. Not only would you give them a better opportunity, the opportunity for the students on the average level is not going to be depreciated. In addition, those that are gifted can also get some spare classroom time with teachers willing to participate, either a little extra or what have you. Teachers are certainly a breed among themselves. [interjections] I've been taken off track by a snide comment over here.

Mr. Speaker, give the teachers some credit for having some intelligence. The teachers I know not only have a lot of intelligence, they have common sense. They have the interests of their students at heart. [interjections] I should just ignore all these folks around here, but unfortunately there are so many of them speaking that it's very difficult.

I guess when we're looking at some of the issues in Calgary, another one you could go to is the direction being given by the administration and/or the trustees. The unfortunate thing about the Calgary system — from a layperson on the outside looking in — is that it is going in too many directions. Those directions are taking the educational needs of the majority of students away from the reality of their needs. When you're talking about Logos, bilingual schools, the school system in general, and you have school trustees that have possibly self-interests involved in their own children's needs in a separate school, I think maybe we need to examine that.

I believe that we need to examine how school trustees are elected in the city of Calgary. Instead of electing them from the city at large, we need to somehow force them into placing each individual into an accountability situation by having ward boundaries similar to the aldermen. As there are only seven trustees, let's take two ward

boundaries of aldermen and put a school trustee in those boundaries. The trustees don't want that, because they're all from the south of the city. Some of them wouldn't be elected, but that might not be such a bad idea either.

As has already been mentioned, according to statistics that were published recently, 60 per cent of the people in Calgary seem to be satisfied with the delivery of service. Well, when you're talking about the education of the children of the city, including my kids, and 60 per cent say they're satisfied, that's just not good enough. The other 40 per cent are probably confused, uninformed, or just downright mad that their kids aren't getting proper direction from — I would suggest — the board, or the bureaucratic area. They're concerned about busing and a lack of schools in newer areas. They're concerned about efficiency; they question the use of underutilized schools.

I understand that there is available an analysis called the Sage analysis, which I haven't seen myself, but it may be relevant and should also be examined. If we were to determine on splitting a school system, that also may be counterproductive because of busing. What do you do? Ship a number of schools from one system into another? Sending someone from the philosophy of one system to the philosophy of another may be totally counterproductive to his real educational needs.

Mr. Speaker, I find it very interesting that the opposition members of this House tend to jump up and down every few minutes about the educational and social needs of the community. Yet with a very important issue of education before us, they haven't got the gall even to sit in and listen to it or at least spend some time debating it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame.

MR. NELSON: That just shows you how much interest they have in the issues. As far as I'm concerned, they haven't got any interest; they don't care about education. Well, I'll tell you what: there are a lot of government members here that sure do, and I'm sure proud of the fact that they're here listening — whether it be good listening or whatever.

MRS. CRIPPS: Or heckling.

MR. NELSON: Or a little bit of heckling on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, many times I compare the public system to the separate system in Calgary. The separate system is a third of the size of the Calgary Board of Education. Strangely enough, I find that getting along with the people in the separate system is just phenomenal, just super. I attribute that — and I'm speaking of administration, not the teaching staff or the schools, because I put them all basically on a par. I get along with the schools just super. And I would never ever comment negatively on those people delivering education in the schools, because I sincerely believe that they do a great job and the best job that's made available for them.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

It seems that the separate system, and many of our independent religious systems, do offer a little more discipline, possibly from the home to the school, and maybe even in the school itself. I believe this is affiliated through the church and the religious training and beliefs that are offered through the school system. This is one of the reasons that the Kratzmann report offered the suggestion

that 20 students per classroom in a school is the ultimate. In talking to some teachers, the reason they agree with this is due to the fact that the lack of discipline in the home creates difficulties in the classroom. They have difficulty disciplining those undisciplined in the home.

There was some discussion relevant to elections and not enough interest. Well, I would suggest that in 1980 the school board created more interest in Calgary than the election of the city council. When three people are returned by acclamation, there has to be an interest elsewhere and, believe me, there was certainly an interest in the school board in 1980.

Mr. Speaker, there tends to be some difficulties in communication, not necessarily the fault of anyone. Certainly because of size, proper communication doesn't always get where it should. In the Kratzmann report, they suggest that the school superintendent has a potent, residual power.

... the spotlight on this office and appealed for administrative redirection in establishing more representative, flexible, considerate and democratic approaches to policy formation and policy execution.

I'm reading a little part of the Kratzmann report:

The Commission supports this point of view, not only with respect to Calgary, but as it applies to all school systems in Alberta. Clearly, a superintendent should be an individual who will both advise a board on all aspects of the question of working conditions and assist the trustees in securing a full knowledge of the teachers' concerns and requests.

Teachers' concerns and requests — extremely important, Mr. Speaker.

The other point I wish to make is that there seems to be a lack of expression asked for by many school boards from the parents of children. In Calgary, many times you feel the trustees aren't accessible to the public because they tend to call their aldermen. I'm sure that former aldermen of the city of Calgary — Mr. Lee, Mr. Shrake, Mr. Russell, Mr. Musgreave, Mr. Oman, and myself — certainly appreciate that people tend to call their aldermen on a lot of issues, including those of the province, but we won't talk about that at this point. But aldermen are certainly given the opportunity to participate in the educational system.

Mr. Speaker, I see it's nearly time, and I think Mr. Szwender is happy. In closing, the educational system certainly has to be reviewed in a constant manner. I firmly believe that we should not be examining it from the point of view of criticism, especially criticizing those who are teaching our young people. Criticism should be leveled at the bureaucrats. As you can gather from my comments, I really like bureaucrats, but I have some difficulty with some of their approaches and attitudes not only to politicians but to the public at large. We give them a policy to deal with, and they're the only ball game in town, so to hell with the public. As far as I'm concerned, the bureaucratic administrative wing of not only boards of education but maybe other areas needs to be examined so people that are elected have a little more say in what's happening.

As far as the educational system is concerned, let's give those people teaching our children the opportunity to do so; give the principals the option to run their schools in the best interests of the community they represent. Let's give the bureaucrats that message.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SZWENDER: Mr. Speaker, I also rise to participate in Motion 208, although after the loquacious lament from the hon. Member for Calgary McCall, I wonder if there's anything left to say. In the event of a vacancy in the Education portfolio, I think the hon. Member for Calgary McCall will be ready, if the call comes out.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the late time and comments I wanted to add to the debate, I beg leave to adjourn debate at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Assembly agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: It is so ordered.

209. Moved by Mrs. Koper:

Be it resolved that the Assembly urge the government to revise its policy on early childhood services programs so that a contract can be issued to local boards wishing to institute such programs, and thereby delegating the responsibility to safeguard the present intent of the programs to the local boards.

MRS. KOPER: Mr. Speaker and honored members, the hon. Member for Calgary Currie and I did not really plan to introduce our motions on educational matters to this House on the same day, nor did we dream we would be able to introduce them in Education Week. I guess that's an indication of good planning in the business of the government. As a new member, I'm appreciating this more and more every day.

I bring this motion forward for two main reasons: first of all, to urge a more efficient utilization of resources; and secondly, I feel it's the first step in attempting to have the program accepted as an integral part of our educational system rather than a semidiscretionary program. This program was first discussed in the House in 1972 by a former Member for Calgary McKnight. He talked about the availability of programs for preschool children at that time. It became obvious that they were available mainly for those who could pay for them or could manage to get their children to centres in operation, and they were particularly helpful to children with problems starting their school career. At this time, preschool programs were offered by community centres — you didn't always need a qualified instructor — and were operated by private persons interested in preschool care.

In 1973 this House introduced legislation — strangely enough, Bill 44 — that amended the Department of Education Act so the early childhood services program could be developed. The minister at that time described the program as a comprehensive and co-ordinated effort to provide opportunities for individuals, families, and communities to identify needs as they relate to young children and then work together co-operatively to try to meet those needs. As well as focusing on the intellectual, creative, physical, social, and emotional development of children in the four and a half to five and a half year age group, embedded deeply in this program was the belief in the development of a positive self-concept through active experiences planned mainly to provide successful learning. It also brought back, in a forceful way, parent involvement in education, so that parent, teacher, and child were working together to achieve their common objectives.

During that year proposals came to this government, and 500 centres, serving 15,983 children, were established.

Presently the number of centres serviced has doubled, and the number of children they serve has more than doubled. At that time there was great emphasis on combining and co-ordinating health, culture, and recreational services, as provided in our community by our government, with the educational process. I remember the year well. I was working at University elementary school as the administrator responsible for co-ordinating the program already operating at the school with the new program offered by the government.

At that time the proposal review process took the parent group many, many months of preparation; it took the administrative team and the teacher involved many hours and many evenings of working. I would venture to say, every night for two months. The proposal was submitted at the end of June. We had absolutely no word on whether we were a kindergarten. We knew we were, but we had no word at all until almost December. However, that was the first year of operation of the program.

There were difficulties in trying to achieve parental involvement, because at that time some of the strictures placed on providing funds for the program were that a parent had to contribute hours to the program. The child-hours and parent-hours were added together and, at the end of the year, you should have had a record of all parent- and child-hours that had to be submitted in the evaluation of the program. That was part of the complications in the initial proposal approval stages.

Another problem was in the intergovernmental co-operation aspect. We found it was very difficult. The University elementary school decided they were going to build a playground. We found that at that time there was lip-service to the agreement that Recreation and Parks were partners in this program. We had very little help for that. We worked very strongly with the city and used our own resources to develop that program.

Since that time I've had the privilege of working with many schools in developing their programs, and over the years I have noticed many important changes and efficiencies that have already been established by the government. For instance, equal grants are now given to community operations, as well as to school boards, for each child they serve. Also, there is an increasing number of special grants awarded to centres serving disabled students, or for students living in disadvantaged areas. In the 1981 school year this has risen to about 1,700 children, about 600 of them severely disabled children, the hearing handicapped and those needing visual aids.

Another efficiency that has been achieved is the development by ACCESS of some outstanding programs that provide support and information to parents and others who work with young children, as well the priorities developed by ACCESS for the programming of children's TV. In addition, as far as the professional development of teachers, the Alberta Teachers' Association has recognized early childhood as an important phase by organizing the early childhood education council that stages conferences, brings speakers and people from all over the world, and has developed a network of information that no longer needs to be done by the department. Another change since the program was initiated is that the university has a well-established early childhood services program. This certification is now a requirement in order to provide the program, and certainly has been part of the reason for its success.

Something else has changed over this 10-year span and, I feel, has made a dramatic difference in teaching strate-

gies. It is directly related to the early childhood program, and to the motion and the impact I hope it may have. That is the vast extension of our knowledge and the research being done on the brain and how children learn. I believe that the work done here and the contact we have with other areas of the world, particularly the British influence that is present in the primary schools in Alberta, is well portrayed in our ECS program.

In Britain the focus is on the child learning how to learn, not the vaccination theory of learning that Postman and Weingartner described, where a subject is something you take and, once you've taken it, you don't need to take it again because you've developed an immunity to it. I believe that the British integrated day that the minister mentioned in his discussion of estimates, and the Calgary efforts to implement a facsimile of the integrated day, perhaps have a great deal to do with the influences that have been brought to bear by the introduction of our program and some of the things that have happened.

I was fortunate enough to work in Britain for two summers, looking at early childhood education. There are some very important differences in their delivery of the program. Children come to school on their fourth birthday. They don't wait for a special day or time. This proves an impossible scene in any of our schools today, as any of you who have tried to register a child in the middle of the school year have found. In British schools, learning revolves around the child, the interests and motivation. Speaking, writing, reading, listening, the importance of language are all related very directly to their program and serve as its basis. I feel that these changes in the acknowledgement of how children learn are happening in Alberta because of the efforts in these early childhood services.

There's another efficiency that I must note as well in the approval process, and that is about the application and renewal forms. As principal of Ranchlands school, it was much easier to accomplish this than when I worked in the program earlier. I was only faced with a pile of documents similar to this in the proposal and renewal, and at this point it was so much easier to get parents involved and interested in helping to write the initial proposal.

When starting a new centre, these proposals must come from the parents, and that is not as easily done as said. Parents were eager to get involved in planning and working in their program. They came to work bees, took the children on field trips, worked in classrooms, painted, hammered, sewed, made banners — they did everything.

But operating the program was difficult because it was isolated from the rest of the school. It operated as an entity, or would have if I had let it. They had their own consultants, guidelines, and learning advisory council. As school principal, I looked after their learning advisory council, their budgets, their banking and purchasing. I also had a set of guidelines, an evaluation process, a program, a budget, and an advisory council for the rest of the school. The duplicated man-hours in operating the two phases of this program, through no fault of the program or its success, really served to isolate the program from the school. Finally, because as a principal I had a commitment, I insisted on a total school approach, which perhaps does not fit with the objectives of ECS as established in the booklets, handbooks, and guide books.

I believe these principles of ECS are really well established in Alberta. The program has been in operation for 10 years and, while it's not universal or mandatory, it must be available to nearly everyone who wishes to take

advantage of it at this time. I believe it's time we quit treating it as a separate entity and capitalized on the commitment of our school boards throughout the province and their wish to provide this type of education as a matter of course and not just on application or at a whim. I think it's time we expanded the focus to at least the first three years of schooling, not just the four and a half [year old] student, and I consider this motion a very important part of doing that.

If you think about a child on the first day of school or kindergarten — and going to school for the first day is the second trauma a child faces after being born. When you walk into the room, no one is sure what to do. Every one of us as an adult has been afflicted that way, not being sure how to act. The teacher must make the environment productive by providing centres throughout the room where the child can interact directly with people and things around him and, in the process, learn and achieve the objectives we're setting through our provincial curriculums. We must learn to utilize play, because that is the work of the child.

Another commitment in our program is to develop self-concept. A parents' workshop was interesting. I asked them to write about a school incident that they as adults remembered. Every single adult in that school wrote about something negative and traumatic, rather than something really exciting and enjoyable. I think that's an important lesson to us.

Everything I've talked about has said how great our kindergartens are, and I really believe that. But with all our care with this program, there is still a gap that must be bridged between this program and year one. Schools that voice this strong commitment to the principles of early childhood education sometimes ignore the basic principle of learning, that human development is continuous, sequential, and an interactive process. It's a continuous process, starting with skills that are gradually built and incorporated into more complex skills.

For instance, a child walks before he runs, babbles before he talks, and plays alone before he plays with others. Every child has his own rate of development, and at any given time each child is developing physically, emotionally, socially, and creatively. He is an active, feeling, thinking, and creative person who associates with others. All these areas of development are related to and dependent on one another as a child interacts with his environment, physical and social.

We can't ignore the differences between children. So often a child, after a year in our ECS program, is faced with moving into a program in year one where they instantly have to sit down, listen instead of talk, respond instead of initiate. I believe we can bridge this gap only if the school accepts more responsibility for the program. This can be done only if there is a commitment from each person who accepts an early childhood services program that it is extended upward into the first, second, and third years. I believe that if we accepted this, things like this could be eliminated.

See this file? This file is one child's frustration, anger, disappointment. He's now in high school, but it goes right back to year one. It relates to a disability discovered in the early years, but because of a lack of commitment to meet each individual — at that time it was impossible to meet as he went through school. I'm glad he's through school now, because that frustration is nearly over.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that you can have a new society only if you change the education of the younger generation. It's difficult to change, but many people here

know our curriculum is in fact built on what we want of our society. This is where we have to start. I firmly believe in this motion. I hope the program can be supported, and even extended, as the minister suggested, upward into the second and third years of school.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MUSGROVE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Member for Calgary Foothills for presenting such an important [motion]. Although she said it was quite by accident, I think it's appropriate that it be debated during Education Week.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some comments on this [motion] relating to my experience as a county school board member for a number of years. When I first became a school board member in 1965, what was then known as kindergarten was generally for students with social, personal, or emotional problems, or those who lived within easy access of an operating kindergarten. In other words, rural students were assessed by the health unit, and if it was discovered that they had some social or emotional problems and they should be sent to kindergarten, then every effort was made to get them there. Otherwise, students generally didn't attend kindergarten.

Things have changed a lot since those days. Now kindergarten is known as early childhood services. As before, the students are assessed by the local health unit, and any personal or social problems are noted. For instance, if they need speech therapy or have any hearing problems or learning disabilities, those are noted and they are then looked after during the ECS program. I would like to say that the county school board I was on at that time found this particularly important. We were able to get them into their proper program at that early age, so they could be carried through in a school program they were capable of handling. Also, the difference now is that all students attend ECS. It's socially accepted that it's part of their preschool training.

There are two kinds of ECS programs in rural Alberta. One is the board-operated program, where the superintendent hires the teacher, applies for all grants, and manages the finances. Generally a parent advisory group takes part in policies and programs. The advantage is that they have the experience of the superintendent of schools, and their administration is done by the school board office, though they have to operate within their own financial restraints.

The other kind of program is the privately operated program. They generally operate as a parent group, with the president or secretary doing the administration. They hire their own teacher, apply for their own grants, and manage their finances. This group is not bound by the grid program, so they are able to negotiate a salary with their teacher other than what is set by the salary grid. Generally the board-operated group recognizes the grid when hiring teachers, so their teacher is generally paid on a half-time basis at the equivalent of a grade 1 or 2 teacher. It is considered unethical if they don't follow the salary grid.

Privately operated ECS programs generally have to assess the parents a student fee. In some areas this is done on a salary scale of the parent or parents involved. An example is that they have a minimum of \$5 per month per student and a maximum of \$60 per month per student, according to the salary of the parent or combined salary of both parents.

Classroom space is generally provided in both cases if there is room available in the school; otherwise they have

to rent space somewhere else. I can give examples of ECS classes being carried out in church basements, community halls and, in some cases, the basements of parents' houses. If there is space available in the school, whether private or board-operated, most school districts donate it to ECS. There are a few cases, however, where school boards have charged for space in a school.

In a couple of recent cases where a building program was being carried out, the school building branch recognized the need for an ECS classroom in the new part of the building. It is being funded the same as the rest of the classroom space in the school. Public schools are funded by a per student grant called the school foundation grant and are also accessed to the supplementary requisition. ECS is funded by a per student grant plus a charge to the parents, if necessary.

As a school board trustee, Mr. Speaker, some concerns we had were the transportation needs of ECS students. Of course in order to understand how these problems come about, we almost have to explain the grants for transportation of students. The Department of Education, in granting transportation for all students in rural Alberta, has a formula that takes into consideration the size of the bus, the number of students that ride on that bus, and the miles travelled in picking them up without any backtracking. To get the maximum grant for any bus, it has to be loaded to 85 per cent of its rated capacity. For example, if it is a 30-passenger bus, it would have to carry 26 students in order to get the maximum grant.

There is a weighting factor of 1 to 1.25 if these students are junior or senior high school students. In other words, if they are all junior or senior high school students in a 30-passenger bus, you can get the maximum grant with 23 or 22 students. The reasoning for the weighting factor is that all school bus seats are 39 inches wide. To expect three junior or senior high school students to sit in that area would be almost impossible. Buses were designed for a cross-section of students from grades 1 to 12. Considering that some will be grade 1 students and some will be senior high school, a person can get the maximum grant out of the busing formula without too much hardship.

However, the Department of Education has also said that if you've got room on the bus and don't have to drive off a normal bus route, you can pick up ECS students. There will be no funding for it, but there will be no penalty. In most cases, if your 85 per cent capacity is being adhered to and you've got quite a number of junior and senior high school students, this causes a bit of a problem on the bus. It also causes a problem for school board members.

It is pretty hard to explain to a parent that if the neighbor's kindergarten or ECS student down the road meets the bus at the gate along with his brothers and sisters, he will be picked up and there's no problem, but if new parents without any other students going to school happen to live a mile off the bus route or if at that point the bus is loaded, their student can't ride the bus and they have to drive him to school or meet the bus. That creates some political and community problems for the school board. Incidentally, it's very seldom that a school board charges for transportation of ECS students on a bus, even though that option is available to them.

Busing also creates some problems with the return trip, because ECS students generally attend classes in the forenoon and then have to return to their homes at noon. In most cases in rural Alberta, ECS operates for two or three full days a week. That way the students can ride to

school and return on the bus, although in some cases parents do pick them up at the school at noon, even to the point where some of them have arranged for a small fund to pay mileage to those parents picking up the students.

Another problem with ECS is the insurance on school buses. Even though boards generally don't charge for it, they have to make insurance arrangements to have the students ride on the bus, particularly where they have field trips. Every field trip has to be planned far in advance, because insurance arrangements have to be made for them to be able to use the school bus. That's considered different from other students.

Mr. Speaker, in 1981 the Department of Education set up a task force to study school financing from kindergarten to grade 12. Part of the mandate of that task force was to try to define a basic education. After a lot of agonizing, it was finally agreed that it was impossible to define a basic education. I am sure that if it were possible right now to define a basic education, by today's standards and according to today's society, it would certainly include kindergarten.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we should support this [motion].

MR. JONSON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to speak in support of Motion 209. As I understand it, the primary message of the motion is to try to get consideration given to allowing school boards in the province to be able to enter into agreements with early childhood groups in a contract relationship which is not going to involve quite the direct control and involvement they would have if they were running it themselves, but would give the early childhood services committees a much more realistic basis on which to operate. One reason I would like to address this motion is that it gives me a chance to speak to an educational issue from the point of view of a parent rather than someone working in the school system.

First of all, I'd like to say that I think the original objective of early childhood services and the early childhood program was a good one. Certainly it should not be condemned and criticized, because it is not that old and has to go through a process of development and improvement. Certain things have to be modified. That happens with any new program. But, Mr. Speaker, my observations are that there are some very, very real problems with the way the so-called private, or autonomous, early childhood services units have to operate.

I recall the experience I had as an observer of one functioning in our area. I'm not going to say that my remarks can be generalized to the entire province, but I know that at least a certain number have shared this same experience and series of difficulties.

The first part of this whole process, if you're operating it as an autonomous group, is to go through all the regulations, guidelines, and various other directions provided to you by the Department of Education. One of the first things you have to do is set up your governing structure, your early childhood executive. Inevitably, Mr. Speaker, as happens so often with other voluntary organizations, those people who actually get the privilege of being on the executive are small in number.

I can sympathize with a certain number of people, but they automatically eliminate themselves from the list of those people eligible. Quite often the largest group is those people who just do not want to participate and devote the necessary hours, even though they are quite prepared to avail themselves of the service. Then there are those people, such as single parents, who are extremely

interested in having the program and support it as taxpayers, so to speak, but through no fault of their own just cannot find the time to be an active member of the executive. Then there's another group where both spouses work, and they cannot find the time to serve on the executive.

So my experience is that it comes down to a core of volunteers. Perhaps they're housepersons; I don't know what label you want to give them. But a small core of volunteers has to run this particular effort. The point is that it's difficult to achieve and maintain the mass help and participation envisaged for local committees by the Department of Education in the guidelines they set down for this program, if it has to be operated as an independent, small unit.

The second challenge that faced the committee I'm familiar with was recruiting. You have to have a certain number of pupils to launch an early childhood program. That was a rather exhausting process, because in the case I'm mentioning they were one or two short of the required number. You had to go out and sort of sell the program. To some degree, that's a good thing to do as far as education is concerned. But to have to go to the extent necessary spending time on it, I think, is rather unrealistic. It would have been better if a school board could have made a decision as to whether or not they saw the program as viable and got on with it.

Then there were the administrative problems, Mr. Speaker. All of these were frustrating, but some were funny and some were not. First of all, there was the problem of busing. As the hon. member just mentioned, school boards have generally been as helpful as they can to early childhood services groups in terms of the regular busing. In most cases this is offered without any charge. But try to arrange a bus for a field trip. That was quite an experience. There was no mechanism for bringing this about. Certainly you could not purchase your own bus. If you had private cars, there was an insurance problem, and on and on it went.

Then, Mr. Speaker, there was the overall administrative problem of obtaining insurance, not just for transportation but for the facility they rented and the equipment they owned. That is not an easy process to go through, nor should a few volunteers have to go through the lengthy process of obtaining the whole range of insurance coverages which seem to be necessary these days for an operation of this type.

Another administrative issue was the matter of sharing facilities. It happened that the early childhood classes were accepted by the schools of this particular jurisdiction because they couldn't very well say no. They had vacant classrooms in some places, and certainly early childhood students should be able to use those. However, there was difficulty in accommodating these students. They were not really welcome within some of the schools. That is another issue that caused consternation to the volunteers running the system.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, that there is provision for charging a fee. But I think we would find that across the province there is a reluctance to do that, above and beyond the grant. What you very often find is that the private early childhood group is out raising money. That can be very interesting — popcorn sales, bottle drives, et cetera — once again, an added burden as far as the operators of the service are concerned.

Then, given that this particular early childhood group occupied a school, there was a wonderful exercise of sorting out the cost, particularly when you start charging

for utilities and there's only one meter. There can be all kinds of debates and arguments over that. It went on to difficulties over the selection of materials and so forth.

Another misunderstanding that occurred in the initial establishment of this program, Mr. Speaker, was just what the duties and responsibilities of the early childhood parent committee were. In our particular case, we had a very enterprising teacher. This person — a very good person — saw the advantages of having a committee and, boy, did she get a lot of work out of those parents. It worked very well. But once again, should parents have to devote that tremendous amount of time in their day for this type of service? Surely there's a more efficient way of providing it, such as through the contract with the school board where busing, insurance, and some of these things could be ironed out. That should be pursued.

Another area in which the present situation presents considerable difficulty is staffing and the process of hiring and firing staff. I am not inferring by any means that a committee cannot deal with those things, but I think the advice, background, and so on is not provided in sufficient quality and quantity so that, as school boards have to, these early childhood committees can handle problems if they arise in this particular area.

One of the areas that I think worked well in this local instance, and is certainly the core of the whole program and one that should not be lost if it goes to a contract arrangement with the school board or comes directly under a school board, is the involvement provided for the parents in planning the program and in better understanding the program which is suggested for the early childhood student. In my observation, that was certainly a success. In the future, whatever format these services are provided in, I think this aspect should certainly not be lost. In fact, it should be emphasized.

Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, many problems could have been much better addressed if the ECS program had been under the jurisdiction of a local board. On this particular point, I'm going beyond what is mentioned in the motion. But in support of the motion, the second best thing in my view is that there be provision for an early childhood group, to enter into a contract, or for a school board to offer a contract to an early childhood group, to offer this service.

In that contractual relationship, some of the administrative, financing, and transportation difficulties could be addressed. Then once those were provided for in the structure of the contract, the parents, the teacher, the aide, and others involved could get at the essential business, one of educating and providing the early childhood program to students.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, there's one caution in all this that I would like to express. As I've said, the early childhood program has virtues — certainly it is needed, by some segments of our society more than others — but what we really should be emphasizing as a government is services which provide for the assessment of learning difficulties, be that the services of a speech therapist or other aspects of the learning difficulty area. We should be providing more emphasis on diagnostic services and follow-up treatment services, if you please.

Perhaps we have to face the issue that we do not need to provide all the socialization and so forth that is also part of the program. I have a reluctance to go any further in the institutionalization of child care at earlier levels. I think in many cases the involved family can provide just as well as early childhood services with respect to many aspects of child growth. But I come back once again, Mr.

Speaker, to what I think is the critical area and one in which — despite the fact that we have the early childhood program — we're perhaps not providing enough in the way of funding and professional help. That is the assessment of learning difficulties and provision for them.

I'd like to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by stating that I think the mover of the motion has offered a very worthwhile additional provision for providing for early childhood services. I've entered my cautions about the whole program, but certainly the motion itself provides a very, very good direction.

Thank you.

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member has brought before us a very worth-while motion. I support it, but would like more time to get more information. So with that, in view of the hour, I move that we adjourn for the day.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, it's the intention of the House to sit tonight as Committee of Supply to consider estimates. I move that when the House convenes at eight o'clock it be in Committee of Supply.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed that when the members reconvene at eight o'clock, they be in Committee of Supply?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[The House recessed at 5:21 p.m.]

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

head: COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the committee please come to order.

Department of Culture

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the minister wish to make some comments?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, there is a saying that everything comes to he who waits. After six starts, I believe that tonight I'm finally on. To my colleagues who are here tonight, I really appreciate it, because I know there are other things that are quite exciting. But I think my portfolio is also exciting.

Mr. Chairman, the 1983-84 Alberta Culture budget reflects both the government's policy toward Alberta's current economic situation and our ongoing commitment to the enhancement of the quality of life for all Albertans. Last year I announced the development of a number of projects. Some of these have been completed and have already proven to be valuable to our economy and cultural life. Others are near completion and will be continued in the year 1983-84. One project, though, with an estimated cost of \$16 million, has been deferred. The deferral of the archives building, as well as the other proposed expenditures, is based upon our economic and

social realities.

Mr. Chairman, it is noticeable that the 1983-84 expenditures are generally being directed toward those areas of the province where the local economy is particularly vulnerable in the current economic slump and whose economics are in need of a more diversified economic base. For instance, the projects in the Crowsnest Pass, Drumheller, and Wetaskiwin will all provide immediate as well as long-term diversification in these areas.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I am ready to receive any questions that my colleagues would like to ask.

MR. NOTLEY: At the outset of our discussions tonight, Mr. Chairman, may I say that by and large I intend to be laudatory during my remarks. [interjections] However, I don't want any of the ministers to presume that that will necessarily follow when we get to Labour, back to Hospitals and Medical Care, or some of the other departments. Of course, I'm waiting and ready with some degree of anticipation for the estimates of the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care, if we ever get back to them. There's a nasty rumor going around that we may not get back to them. I presume that that's just a nasty rumor and not part of a well laid out strategy by this government. I would not think that this government would attempt to sweep the minister's estimates past, using closure as a basis. But let me turn from those rather unkind comments to discuss the estimates of the hon. Minister of Culture.

Mr. Chairman, there are two or three items I'd like to raise with respect to library grants and the Cultural Heritage Council. Then I'd like to deal with issues that are of concern to the Peace River country in general.

May I begin by raising questions to the minister with respect to indexing library grants. I have here a copy of a letter from the Edmonton Public Library Board to my colleague, concerning some consternation on their part regarding dropping indexing from per capita library grants this year. Perhaps in the course of her comments, the minister could bring us up to date on where things stand on funding libraries in the province of Alberta. I might just quote for the information of the members. The Edmonton Public Library Board makes the point, and I think it's probably correct: Because of the recession, the use of public libraries throughout the province has increased dramatically over last year, many over 30 per cent.

I'm not sure whether it's one of the pluses or minuses of our economic outlook. Probably one of the pluses is that more people are going to the library. Of course, as more people go to the library, fewer are going to vote Conservative — and that is certainly a plus. That's just an aside. I really wouldn't want to unnecessarily provoke the members opposite.

Perhaps I could leave the question of where things stand on library grants and the government's intentions with respect to library grants over the next several years. The minister has indicated that her estimates today are qualified by the restraint program of this government, but what is not qualified is the long-term outlook in the province. Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that it might be useful tonight to have some discussion on where this government sees library operating costs funding, plus expansion of library facilities — the role of regional libraries. I think this is very important if we are to recognize the importance of one of the really vital services for a truly more mature kind of society.

Members of this committee will recall that several years

ago, we had continued representation from the Library Association in the province. Members on both sides of the House were contacted. I think it's fair to say that we were very effectively lobbied by our local library boards in our respective constituencies. The provincial association met many of us as individual MLAs. I'm sure they made the case to government members as well. Certainly they met the opposition members on more than one occasion. While we slightly improved the funding for libraries on that particular occasion, it seems to me we have some distance to go. So I would welcome from the minister, not so much a case of why we're where we are today but her philosophy as to the development and expansion of the library system in the province of Alberta. I think that's the key thing we should underline at this point.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, my colleague in Edmonton Norwood has received representation from a number of the inner-city groups concerned with multiculturalism. This is an issue that should be important to all of us. As we've noted over the last couple of weeks, certain misunderstandings — even tonight I note in the press that one of the political parties in this province is still besieged by obvious misunderstandings about the contribution of one important group in the Alberta mosaic. One way of overcoming that is to recognize the distinctive contribution of the various ethnic groups that have contributed to what I think is a stronger Alberta, and to the mosaic that comes not from everybody being shuffled into one melting pot so that we come out as one hundred per cent Canadians in the same one hundred per cent American way, and lose the cultural identity of whatever ethnic group we come from, but the stronger society that develops from recognizing the contribution of people of Ukrainian descent — even of the Anglo Saxons; I think we could even go that far. I suppose there's some contribution from time to time, especially from those of us who are Scottish, whether people like to admit it or not, to the mosaic of Alberta culture.

So I'd like to know where things stand on the proposal for a cultural heritage development agency, which I believe was made a year and a half ago. Mr. Chairman, it seems to me this is one area where we can all stand up and say that we're in favor of multiculturalism. But the question is, on what basis? Is it going to be as a result of decisions in the government caucus just before an election? Or is it going to be as a result — and I see that the hon. Member for Edmonton Glengarry is very enthusiastic, as well he should be; he's going to have to be a good deal more enthusiastic in the next six weeks, though, if he's going to save his federal leader from certain disaster. Nevertheless, I'll let him undertake that quest. I suspect that the Member for Edmonton Glengarry is as singular and alone in the quest for Joe Clark's cause as is the opposition in representing its case in this House. But we'll let all the closet Mulroney supporters and the other people across the way retain their neutrality and anonymity for the time being, and get back to the ...

MR. COOK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. If the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview would like to invest \$3, he too can become a Tory and a voting delegate for Joe Clark.

MR. NOTLEY: The Tories will accept anybody in an effort to — especially the Clark supporters.

I would like to bring the issue back to multiculturalism and urge my hon. friend to join with me in asking for the

most up-to-date statement on where this government stands on the question of multiculturalism in the province and, in particular, the cultural heritage development agency.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move from there to say that last year in the Spirit River-Fairview constituency, we had the pleasure — and we don't always have the pleasure of having ministers come to the constituency — of a very excellent day on which the hon. Minister of Culture came and met with a group of people who are concerned about preserving a church which is a landmark in the little community of Friedenstal, southeast of Fairview. I think one can remember that day with some fondness. We had the minister ringing the church bell. We had probably 300 or 400 local citizens assembled. We had an interlocking of community, government, and the department. As a result, I think some initiatives have been taken there which will not see the eventual restoration, because the building is still in a relatively good state, but will certainly stop it from falling into disrepair — fixing up the roof, improving it. It's the sort of thing that I think is important. If we're going to remember our heritage, one of the most important things is to preserve some of these buildings which represent a link with our beginning as a province.

When one compares the way we have developed in western Canada — a few years ago the complete disregard of buildings that represent some sort of link with the past. These buildings were simply bulldozed. In my own family, I remember with some degree of shame the first log house west of Olds, built in 1890 by my great, great grandfather. It was still standing. Yet 25 years ago, before people paid much attention to the preservation of buildings that had some kind of significance, the building was in disrepair and was allowed to be destroyed. That's unfortunate, Mr. Chairman.

I think of another example, south of Edson in the hon. Member for Edson's constituency. We had a really unique area of 7,000 or 8,000 people at one time, I suppose, in the Coal Branch. We had towns. One town, Mountain Park, was the highest town anywhere in North America. It was a beautiful area of the province. People lived and died, and they raised their families. There was a history to the Coal Branch. Yet because we didn't have any sense of value to preserving something after the mines closed down, we didn't even bother preserving one of those towns.

I remember going into Mercoal in 1962 — the town was still standing — and going into Luscar and visiting some of the houses that were deserted at that stage. You had beautiful homes, with magnificent fireplaces, hardwood floors, and everything else. They were owned by the mine management, I might say, not by the workers. But I remember one little cottage where the walls were papered with old papers that dated back to the Wobbly days, the IWW, 50 to 60 years ago. Because we had no sense of history, we allowed the army to use Luscar for artillery practice. And it certainly ended Luscar with a bang, I might say, Mr. Chairman.

But the tragedy is that here was a part of the province that had historical significance. I would guess it also might have had some considerable tourist potential. Members of this committee who've been in Barkerville, British Columbia, cannot help but be impressed with the way in which the British Columbia government has preserved the history. People come to that area, and it's a real tourist boon to the area.

Dawson City is another example. One of the initiatives

that was taken by Mr. Hamilton when he was Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources in the Diefenbaker government was to restore the Palace Grand Theatre in Dawson City. That began the process of refurbishing much of the gold rush milieu of Dawson City. The current government has continued a process which I think is important. Some would say: well, there's not a dime in history; who cares? I think the American tourist figures will show that that's nonsense, that there is in fact a good deal of immediate economic benefit in the short run by preserving our history, not to mention the long-term significance of preserving the past.

That being the case, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to make representation — and I hope that during the course of this discussion, members wouldn't see the Minister of Culture's estimates as something we ram through the House and get on to another minister's estimates. We've got lots of time. We're paid to do our job. It seems to me that a number of unique historical, cultural prospects could be developed in this province that would be beneficial from every point of view, including the tourist point of view.

Harkening back to that day last summer when she spent some time in the Spirit River-Fairview area, I'd like to suggest to the minister that one area that does deserve a great deal of consideration — and I'm glad to see that a committee has been appointed to look into it — is the Dunvegan area. It's not just because I live a couple of miles away, although it's very nice to have a beautiful tourist centre like this in one's back yard.

AN HON. MEMBER: Think of what the price of your house would be.

MR. NOTLEY: Well, we could use it as a tourist exhibit too. If the Conservatives think I'm famous enough to have people come to see my house, fine; fair enough. We could have the Minister of Tourism and Small Business come over, and maybe we could set up a popcorn stand or something outside the door. Could we get a loan from the Alberta Opportunity Company, Al? [interjections]

In a serious vein, could I underline the historical significance ... We'll set aside some of the comments at least for the moment; maybe I'll come back a little later on. But for the moment, to be deadly serious about this, one of the oldest areas in the province is Dunvegan. It was first sighted by Mackenzie as he went north. A fort was constructed in Dunvegan in the early 1800s. One of the proposals of the Department of Culture, which I think is laudatory, is the assessment of the historical significance of that particular site. For example, this last summer a good deal of work was undertaken to locate the original fort. When the minister was in the area last August, we had an opportunity to look at the excavation of the original site of Fort Dunvegan.

Mr. Chairman, I know it's always a little self-serving to promote a park in one's constituency, especially if it's just a couple of miles from where one lives. Nevertheless, those members who have been in the Peace River country and have travelled from Grande Prairie to Peace River through Dunvegan will know what a beautiful location it is. It has a good deal of scenic potential in the first place. But when you add to that the historical significance of a community that was settled almost 200 years ago, it seems to me you have one example of the kind of thing we should promote in the future. We should not allow the same thing to happen to it as has happened to other historical sites of significance in the province.

That being the case, I know the minister is interested in the development of the Dunvegan site. I would just ask, perhaps for the edification of some of our wisecracking members to the left, that she bring the caucus up to date on what is a useful proposal from an historical society that, I might say, is backed very strongly by local Conservatives as well as New Democrats in the Spirit River-Fairview constituency. It is a site that would be important not only for one part of the province but for the tourist potential of the entire northwest area of Alberta.

I remember meeting with Harold Nicolson who, probably more than anyone else, is one of the instigators of the Dunvegan Historical Society. I remember meeting with Al Adair when he was minister. At that time, we looked at the possibility of development of the Dunvegan project. Mr. Chairman, I think it makes as much sense now as it did six or seven years ago. Restraints do funny things to budget priorities, but I don't think a restraint program should bring to a grinding halt efforts to preserve our historical heritage in this province. So those are comments that I make in genuine earnestness.

There's no doubt that we have done some good things in Culture in the last 10 or 12 years. I think that has to be said in fairness. The minister and I have had disagreements over certain initiatives in the last four years. But by and large, the recognition of our past and the enhancement of our lives through the promotion of culture has been one of the areas in which, in my view, the government has done not only a tolerable job but in some cases a good job. At this juncture, Mr. Chairman, we should see the initiatives, especially in seizing upon and capturing for generations to come the historical significance of many parts of this province.

Let me just close by saying that one of the things I think has been excellent on the part of the government, and in particular the minister, has been the program, along with tremendous voluntary effort by communities, to preserve community histories. It's time to do it. We've had a sort of hit-and-miss approach over the last 50 or 60 years. One can look in the libraries and see histories written 25, 30, and 40 years ago. We had a number of them in 1955, when we had our 50th anniversary as a province. But in the last five or six years, we have seen scores of communities in the province compile histories. That is a very important thing to do while people are still there, while it's possible to track down family connections.

One of the most pleasant duties I had last year was to participate in the Bonanza community's festivities when they had their book launching. We had a homecoming, and people came back from literally all over the continent. Here is a little community — I suppose there are only 300 or 400 people in Bonanza-Bay Tree. But there must have been 700 or 800 people in that hall, because people came from all over Alberta and literally all over the continent. That community's project, which took a tremendous amount of effort on the part of a few hard-working individuals, has been magnified manyfold throughout the province by communities that have recognized the value of their past.

With those comments, Mr. Chairman, I certainly welcome responses to the specific questions. I just conclude my remarks by saying to the minister that I think some excellent work has been done, and I look forward to seeing continued efforts on her part in the years ahead.

MR. BATIUK: Mr. Chairman, a few days ago the member from the rose constituency made reference to the wildlife of the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife. I'm not going to make any reference to the minister's cultural life. [interjections]

There are a few areas I would like to speak about this evening, because over the last 10 years the portfolio responsible for culture has played a very important role in this province. It has by far enriched the life styles of people, whether in the cities or in rural Alberta.

One of the areas I find very fascinating is the support for libraries. I have three very important libraries in the constituency. The one in Vegreville, which could be expected because of the size of the community of over 5,000, is a good library. The accommodation is good, and they're happy with the support. Two Hills, which is considerably smaller, has the Alice Melnyk library, where the municipality and the school have a combined library. It is functioning very well. The chairman of that library board tried to tell me a while ago, when he knew that the government would be restraining its expenditures, that we should encourage our government not to make reductions in support for libraries. I made it quite clear that there may not be any escalation because of that, but I felt there would not be any cutbacks either.

One that really surprises me is the library in the small community of Ryley, where there are 570 people. In the last 10 years — a year ago was the second official opening of a new library. Back in 1972 they opened a library in conjunction with a senior citizens' drop-in centre. But because of its expansion, they were forced to build a new library. A year ago I was at the official opening of that library. Those people really appreciate it. It has been said many times that a book is a world of knowledge. I'm glad there are communities that take part.

Another area I am very happy with is support for the history of communities. I know the grants may not have been very big: \$5,000 for a community wishing to make a review of its history. However, it was a good incentive. There are a number of history books in the constituency. Ryley was the first one. About five years ago, they started and completed their history book. Then Mundare came with its history book. Vegreville had a book very recently. Actually there were two volumes for that area. Chipman, a small community, was not able to do it themselves, so they went jointly with the St. Michael area, which is in the Redwater-Andrew constituency. They have a very good history book. Two Hills and Holden are working on their books. Andrew has a good book, which serves part of the Vegreville constituency. I really feel that these books have added a lot to the lives of people. Whenever I want to know anything about anybody in the constituency, the history books really reveal it. I think I spend more time in the history books of those areas than in the statutes of Alberta, or other books.

A number of members of the Legislative Assembly are new and serving for the first time, so I might just mention a few things. The minister has given me the privilege of serving as the chairman of the advisory board of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, located about 35 kilometres east of Edmonton. It was initiated in 1969 by a group of people who were interested in preserving the Ukrainian heritage. The first chairman of that board was a former mayor of Edmonton, the late William Hawrelak. For six years they worked along with the people. There have been contributions, and I think they did well. But because of lack of funds, the time came when they could not expand. They felt it would be a detriment to

leave that, so they applied to the minister responsible for culture at that time. In 1975 the government purchased that Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. It has been moving along, with some support from the government.

I must say that in 1979, a Ukrainian commemorative society was formed so the Ukrainian people could participate in the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the province. Since Ukrainians form the third largest ethnic group in this province, a Ukrainian day was celebrated there. The minister, along with the Premier, came out. The Premier was really enthused. He said that was the largest group he had ever spoken to at one time; he may have spoken to that many on radio or television. There were approximately 14,000 people. He and the minister felt that day that something would have to be done to expand that. I'm glad there has been a sizable budget for that. It is expected that by 1986 or 1987, that village will be the biggest living museum on the North American continent.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned that it is regrettable that his grandparents' home was not restored. I must say that in this Ukrainian village there is a restored home, almost identical to what it was in the 1890s. That's the Slemko house. Historians and researchers have worked on it. That house was improved a few times, but they brought it back to its appearance as it was in the [1890s]. So I say there is provision, but it does take a bit of initiative from the local people. I think this has gone well.

I would like to see whether the minister still has the intention in one area. Some time ago, the minister indicated that she would like to take the entire members of the Legislature for a visit to the Ukrainian village. I know it is going to be very difficult to do, because if it is done after the session you won't get the members. The boss is away nowadays. If the minister could convince the House leader to take an afternoon off, it may be an appropriate time.

I must pay tribute to one of the fellows who put a lot into that Ukrainian village. He was the facility director from 1975, when the government took it over, until his recent passing. He made a great contribution to the village and the Ukrainian community as a whole. I know he will be missed by all of us, but things will go along. The intentions are there; the programs are good. I would like to say to the minister: it's a difficult task to be on an additional committee, but it's well worth it and it's going to pay off.

With those few remarks, I would like to say that I'm quite happy with the portfolio undertakings over the last few years.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the people of Cardston, I would like to thank the minister for the support she has given the Remington Carriage display. This is probably one of the three best collections in North America. It is really a highlight for the town of Cardston to be able to put that on display. It's a tourist attraction. The first year over 5,000 people came to see it. We in Cardston hope the department will continue to support the display.

Thank you.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Chairman, a few questions and a few comments. First, I wonder if the minister could bring us up to date on Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, how the development is progressing and how the development of lands around the jump site is continuing.

Secondly, the designation of the downtown area of Fort Macleod: is the whole downtown area an historic site? How is the department handling that situation? [interjections] Mr. Chairman, it seems I have a lot of help in my remarks. Somebody says I need it. Well, that could be too.

The third question is: will the mounted patrol in Fort Macleod receive funding this year? On behalf of the Member for Fort Macleod, I would like to compliment the minister on the work that has been done so far on obtaining international status for the buffalo jump and the work around it, and also for preserving downtown Fort Macleod and its designation as an historic site.

Mr. Chairman, it was good to hear the Member for Spirit River-Fairview suggest that we should be putting additional funding into preserving historic sites, art in the province, and our history. He made reference to some areas in British Columbia that are being preserved. If we look in *Hansard* for the spring sittings of this Legislature, I recall a program to spend X number of dollars on artwork for the pedway by Alberta artists. I'm glad to see the hon. member has seen the light, so to speak. He is now asking us to spend money on preservation . . .

MR. COOK: Conservation.

MR. HYLAND: . . . conservation, and looking after our history and art so we leave something living for the next generation. I'm glad he has seen through that, because I well remember his words in the spring sittings when we were talking about the purchase of artworks for the pedway. I think it's something that is done by the federal government. I would suggest that they don't do many things right, but they do purchase a certain amount of art to put in their buildings. That's one thing we could look at. Maybe that sounds strange from somebody with my background, but I think art is what one thinks is art, and to some extent we should be supporting Alberta artists in their work. I think the minister and I could have quite a debate on whether some of the art we have bought so far is art. I think she knows the particular piece I'm thinking of.

MR. NELSON: What's her name?

MR. HYLAND: One member says, what's her name? We won't get into that.

MR. SZWENDER: Art in Cypress is graffiti on an outhouse wall.

MR. HYLAND: I don't think I'll repeat that. I think the member said it loud enough; it might make *Hansard* on its own.

Mr. Chairman, I also ask the minister how the Oldman regional library board is progressing, at what stage the funding related to it is. Some interest has been expressed by library boards in the percentage of the culture component of major recreation grants. There is some suggestion by municipal councils that we should remove some of the conditions on some of our grants, and that one could be a start. But on the other side, there is a caution by library boards and other boards involved in culture that if we remove the components, they have a built-in fear that councils would use the moneys for civic centres, ice centres, streets, roads, et cetera, and culture wouldn't get its share. I wonder if the minister is doing some study into a possible extension of that MCR program and, if

that is the case, what percentage she would see on the MCR program for culture.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for Spirit River-Fairview has talked about the historic site at Dunvegan. Maybe we should look at another historic site a couple of miles downriver from Dunvegan. It could be the abode of the only elected living socialist north of the 55th parallel. I'm not sure how close that is to your house, hon. member. [interjection] The member says it's uphill.

MR. NOTLEY: My neighbor's going to take over from me. It will be socialist for a long time to come.

MR. HYLAND: Well, that could be. But, Mr. Chairman, that's one area we could look at.

Thank you.

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make several comments with respect to some areas that I think are rather important to this whole area of culture in the province of Alberta. The first area that I want to make a few brief peripheral comments on, or follow through: comments were made several weeks ago, dealing with the question of lotteries, when the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs had her estimates. The breakdown of allocation of funds in the province of Alberta, as we all know, has a certain percentage going to the Edmonton Exhibition Association, a certain percentage going to the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede association, a certain percentage going to recreation in the province of Alberta, and a certain percentage going to cultural activities in the province of Alberta. That 20 per cent, I guess, of lottery funds that are really allocated for cultural purposes are then broken down from this form of assistance to a number of province-wide organizations, including the Alberta Art Foundation, the Alberta Cultural Heritage foundation, the Alberta Foundation for the Performing Arts, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, the new western film and television foundation, the Canadian Band Directors association, and the Alberta Choral Federation.

Mr. Chairman, the reason I read those organizations into the record is that I have a difficult time in dealing with the responses to many of my constituents in attempting to assure them that the people of rural Alberta have, in essence, fair, equal, reasonable access to the funding provided by way of lottery funds to cultural activities in the province of Alberta. I would like the views of the minister, and her assessment — an analytical assessment in fact — in recognizing that the people of rural Alberta have fair access to the funding provided under those province-wide cultural organizations.

The second area I want to raise deals with library support. A number of members have already discussed library support this evening, not only at present but in the future in terms of policy and the like. I want to express a plaudit to the minister in terms of the flexibility that is shown by a number of people in her department with respect to the manner in which they have dealt with library-related problems in the constituency of Barrhead. I would like to mention two. One is the very unique situation that exists in the town of Barrhead, where a municipal library is run through the school system but participation comes from the town of Barrhead. That has necessitated a unique arrangement, as I said. I very much appreciate the flexibility of her department in dealing with funding for that particular library. As well, we have a situation that has developed in the town of Swan Hills

which is also going to necessitate some flexibility. I'm looking forward to a positive resolution of that problem in the ensuing days and weeks.

The third point I would like to raise deals with the whole question of multiculturalism, which has already been raised in the Assembly tonight by the Member for Spirit River-Fairview. Mr. Chairman, I can think of no more important cultural event anywhere in North America than that which is held in the city of Edmonton on that first long weekend in August of each year, known simply as Heritage Day. It is quite extraordinary to see several hundreds of thousands of people turn up at a park, not very many blocks away from where we are tonight, and to see members, groups, and organizations representing nearly every ethnic background in the province of Alberta come together for those two days per year in a great cultural activity, a great festival, a great renaissance of what Alberta is all about. I take my family there, and we spend at least one or two days every year visiting, meeting, socializing, and seeing what other ethnic people in this province so proudly display on an annual basis. That is really people doing their thing. While I appreciate there are some provincial government dollars involved, I think the great enthusiasm and initiative that comes to Heritage Day is best displayed by the people who so proudly display their ethnic heritage during those two days per year.

I would like the minister to comment on the program that has been initiated by Alberta Culture to assist local communities throughout the province in fostering and encouraging Heritage Day festivals in their own communities on that same weekend of the year. None will ever compare with what occurs here in the city of Edmonton. In all reality, because of the tremendous population base and the tremendous enthusiasm of the people of the city of Edmonton, none could ever hope to compare. But I am very encouraged by what is happening in a number of towns and villages throughout rural Alberta. I would like the minister to provide me with her assessment as to whether she thinks it's moving in the right direction and whether this Legislative Assembly should be taking more initiatives in that regard.

The next area I want to mention briefly has just been covered by my colleague from Cypress. It deals with the major cultural/recreation facility grants program. It is my understanding that we're now in the 10th and last year of funding under this particular program. For the most part, the percentage allocation of dollars has traditionally been on the basis of 75 per cent recreation and 25 per cent cultural. I think that's probably a very good percentage breakdown.

But I would like to point out to the minister that particularly in this last year, some communities I represent have had some difficulties in coming up with the kinds of projects that have met with the enthusiasm of all members in the community to really make use of that 25 per cent cultural allocation. I think this is one time we can show a greater degree of flexibility than we have in the past in perhaps moving away from that 25 per cent which has been designated for so-called cultural activities, and amalgamating it with other more broadly minded projects within the community.

I think it's important to note, Mr. Chairman, that what may be culture to an individual who lives in the city of Edmonton may not be culture to an individual who lives in the town of Swan Hills. We are not into ballet in Swan Hills. It's unfortunate, but we simply are not into ballet in Swan Hills. We have other forms of cultural activities,

and to others they may be viewed as recreational activities. I think one has to be very, very flexible and open-minded about the designation of an activity that might be cultural in all parts of Alberta, because Albertans in this great province are very different in their backgrounds and aspirations. Basically the point I'm raising on this issue, Mr. Chairman, is one dealing with flexibility, particularly at this very crucial point in time, the last year of the major cultural/recreation facility grant program.

The next point deals with historical preservation. I am extremely pleased with the program we have for assisting the writing of local history in all parts of Alberta. In 1982 I had the distinct good pleasure of being present when two new history books were unveiled, one in Fort Assiniboine. To members of this Assembly who may not be aware of where Fort Assiniboine is, it was created as a fur-trading post in 1832. It is the second oldest designated area of the province of Alberta. In 1982 the citizens compiled what I think is an extraordinary history of their area.

The second history was top quality, no less capably written. It dealt with the people living in the Hazel Bluff area. Hazel Bluff is a small community midway between the towns of Westlock and Barrhead. We have a number of other groups, including the people of the Linaria, Round-up, Dapp area who are working on a history book of their own. If we get all the roads built in the Linaria area, we'll be able to get everybody together to complete the history book. That's not a concern for the Minister of Culture, but it is a concern for one of her colleagues.

The next item deals with an assessment and update of the progress being made with the Canadian encyclopedia. I have been encouraging my constituents in the past two years to forsake a purchase of two other encyclopedias, the *Americana* and the *Brittanica*, suggesting they might wish to wait until 1985 so they can purchase the new Canadian encyclopedia. I certainly hope that encyclopedia will be published at that time so the encouragement I've been giving them will not have been erroneous.

I would like all members of the Assembly to note that the Minister of Culture is a part-time constituent of mine. It's not often that a member of this Assembly can look to a part-time constituent of his or hers and say things. Over the last several years, the minister has been a pain at times. She has approached her local representative of this Assembly on a number of occasions and brought to his attention certain things he might do to improve his lot in life. I would like to publicly thank her for bringing those matters to my attention, and say that while she is only part-time, I am very, very proud of her contributions and assistance to me in that regard. I think the Minister of Culture is a very empathetic person. She's a very sincere minister. In my view, she's a classy lady we can all be very proud of.

MR. WOO: Mr. Chairman, as a member of a majority group, I welcome this opportunity to make a few comments. I would like to begin by commending the minister and, through her, members of her staff. I could name quite a number of them, but I do wish to cite Jack O'Neill, her deputy minister; Ray Verge, director of the agency for international development; Les Graff, Bob Cook, and Dr. Byrne, at the historical resources division; and in particular, I would like to single out Beth Bryant. I would like to compliment her interest and sincere enjoyment in her work with the ethno-cultural communities in

our province. Certainly the interest and dedication of her staff and activities they have become involved in have enriched and enhanced the cultural activities within my constituency and, I am sure, throughout the entire province.

I would like to speak on two specific items. Number one, as a member of the CIA — that's Chinese in Alberta — and on behalf of all of the Chinese organizations in the province of Alberta and the Chinese national council of Canada, I would like to thank her for her generous support for a very significant event which occurs this year: 1983 marks the 125th anniversary commemorating the landing of the first Chinese immigrant on the shores of what is now Canada. In conjunction with that event, certain celebrations will be held throughout Canada, culminating in a national conference of the Chinese council in the city of Edmonton late this fall. In those 125 years, many changes have occurred within our ethno-cultural communities. As a result of that, there have been influences that have tended to change and shape the cultural policies of the governments within this province.

I recall back in 1971, when this government assumed office, there was a clear recognition on the part of the government then to recognize that, indeed, there were very significant contributions made to the entire provincial society through the diversity and make-up of our population. At that time, the Hon. Horst Schmid became the Minister of Culture. There began one of the milestones in terms of cultural enhancement in this province. Certainly, the former minister has left his mark on the pages of cultural history in this province. At the same time, I think there now arises an opportunity for our present minister to leave her own unique mark on the cultural history of our province.

My question to the minister relates specifically to a document that was developed through the cultural heritage policy development committee. I refer to the particular document entitled New Policy Directions on Cultural Diversity in Alberta. It is my judgment that perhaps a new cultural framework is now required in order for certain changes to be effected to further enhance and enrich the contributions of our many ethno-cultural associations. It is also my judgment that perhaps there is now a need to broaden the role of the Department of Culture, to look at the many facets required on the part of immigrants to this country to access and take advantage of those services and opportunities that are generally made available to all other citizens.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister to indicate to the committee when she might be in a position to implement some of the recommendations that have been suggested to her through this policy directive, with a view to perhaps looking at a new structuring of the Department of Culture to accommodate the many new concerns that have now come forward.

I would like to conclude my brief remarks by paying special tribute to the thousands of volunteers throughout our province who, in working in close co-operation with members of her ministry, have really made things happen in terms of programs and new directions. In this respect, I would like to cite as an example Mr. Krishan Joshee, a member of the Indo-Canadian community, who was recently awarded the city of Edmonton Parks and Recreation award for his very major contributions to the ethno-cultural activities of our province. I think what Mr. Joshee has really done in receiving this award is reflect in many ways the contributions of all other members of our Alberta society who come from countries other than

Canada.

I would like to personally extend my thanks to the minister for her assistance in many of the activities within my own constituency, in particular a very recent one, the amateur theatre grant assistance that enabled a very deserving group to carry on their activities. I hope the minister would address the question of this new policy directive and perhaps give some indication to the various ethnic groups, some assurance and hope that changes will be forthcoming.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of brief remarks and a couple of questions. First, I'd like to say that the minister has certainly left an impact on the cultural field in Alberta, especially in Calgary. There's no question about that, and I'd like to congratulate her. No matter what your belief in certain areas of culture, the hon. minister has certainly shown leadership and given the full value of her portfolio to the citizens of Alberta.

I'd like to make a couple of comments relevant to certain areas in the estimates and possibly some response from the minister, if she wouldn't mind, at the appropriate time. In the Calgary McCall constituency, we have a huge new library which is the largest branch library in the city of Calgary. There's a great deficiency of book titles in that library. We'd certainly like to see some support forthcoming to build that up to the level of 50,000 to 70,000 titles that are needed to assist that very large community of 80,000 people.

I would also like to comment on the area of cultural development. I'm somewhat disappointed that we've seen a necessity to cut the major cultural facility development area to \$33 million this year. When I see the areas of heritage and historic sites being increased, although we can't disagree that there are certain areas we need to preserve, I also think we need to continue the growth in our modern heritage, which is cultural development. I think that is somewhat as important, and maybe more so, than some of the historic areas, especially when I see the city of Calgary making an historic site out of the Burns building, which is a piece of garbage that should have been bombed. It's going to be a very difficult task to really have that thing preserved, especially in light of the beautiful new performing arts theatre across the way.

I would also show some concern towards the decrease in the cultural development area, especially when we see two of our major cultural communities, the Polish and Italian Canadian clubs, finding themselves in some great difficulties with their own facilities and what have you. They have a considerable amount to offer the community and the province of Alberta, as they do in many other parts of Canada, especially Toronto and Vancouver where they have large communities. I would certainly like to see if we can't assist them in getting out of some of their difficulties.

Other than the hon. Member for Barrhead talking about Swan Lake — I'm not sure whether Swan Lake or Swan Hills, but I'm sure they would appreciate Swan Lake in the text that it was given. At least the hon. minister caught on; I don't know about the hon. Member for Barrhead.

Mr. Chairman, those are basically the comments I wanted to make in two or three areas. The Polish and Italian Canadian clubs certainly need some help. I'm a little disappointed that the area of cultural development is not a little bit better, because there is new cultural development that needs to be proceeded with. Possibly we can rethink that area, along with heritage and historic sites

preservation, and transfer some money around there.

Thank you very much.

MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words on the estimates for Culture. First, I would like to congratulate the hon. minister on her reappointment. I'm sure that I'm joined by all my constituents in saying how glad we are to see her reappointed to that post. I know she'll do the same fine job as she's done the last four years.

We are also pleased with the progress being made on the Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller. It is my wish that all members take time out of their busy schedules this summer to take a trip to Drumheller. You can see that they are now constructing displays that will be displayed in the museum by 1985. They will let you tour through the place. I went on a short tour myself. You'll see them working on dinosaur bones and putting them into displays that will be shown when the museum is open. A lot of this work is being done, I might add, by local people from the area who are interested in that type of thing. Again, I would like to congratulate the minister and her staff. I realize they put in a tremendous amount of work, and I really appreciate all the work they've put into that large facility. Last year, we saw the start of construction, the water and sewer lines being laid. This year, actual construction of the facility will be under way. That will also be a great economic upturn for the valley.

On behalf of the people of the Drumheller constituency and valley, I would like to thank the minister and her staff for their co-operation, their help in hiring local people wherever they possibly can, and for recommending that this facility be built in the most appropriate spot in Alberta, the Drumheller valley. I believe the spinoff benefits alone will bring much-needed employment at a time when there is quite a downturn in that area. In fact, a new hotel of 110 rooms has already been built. It's operating very well now and seems to be doing well even before the museum is built. But if it hadn't been for the encouragement of the museum, this hotel would never have been built. It's the first time Drumheller has the capacity to host conventions of any size in surroundings that are very nice and very plush. It's a very nice hotel, and it's one of the spinoff benefits, I'm sure, that has already developed from the museum. On behalf of the Drumheller constituency, I again say thank you very much, Madam Minister.

There is one thing I sometimes think we lack in culture in our area. If you travel through the U.S.A., in the western states you come across their western culture. They really push their western culture. I don't believe we do that too much in this area in Canada, but I would like to say that it's still alive and well in our area. About June every year, we go back and bring in some of the old west again. We get on our horses, round up the calves, and start branding. We do it the old-fashioned way. I guess there are more modern ways of doing it, with chutes and people, but we still like to do it the old-fashioned way. I would like to invite the minister out to partake of one of these brandings and see what western culture is really like. We have a series of them around my constituency every spring.

MR. FISCHER: Do you have prairie oyster feeds, too?

MR. CLARK: Well, I was just going to say that you not only take part in the branding and maybe ride a horse, but you can take part in the hospitality and eat the pride

of the prairies, the prairie oyster. I know the minister likes them very well, because I've had her out to one branding already and she really enjoyed them. Anyway, we would very much welcome you back again this year. [interjections] It may be an unusual diet for urban people; I don't know. They seem to like them in our area.

While she's out there, I would like to take time to show her one of the finest private collections of Indian artifacts in Alberta today. It has been gradually collected by a young farm boy in my area, who is now as old as I am so he's no boy anymore. But over the years, he's collected a very fine collection of Indian artifacts. I believe it's through efforts of this type that we preserve our western heritage. We've seen the States, where they seem to push their western heritage very much. Here we seem to lag behind, and we seem to be ashamed of having that western heritage. I would like to show her this collection. It is a very fine collection and is gradually going to disappear if something isn't done with it in the near future.

I listened to the hon. Member for Barrhead. He brought up some of the things I think the Ministry of Culture has done very well. The history books is one. I have a collection of pretty well every history book that was put out in my constituency, and I'd like to compliment the minister and her department on that. As far as libraries are concerned, we have the Marigold Library in our area. I was quite impressed when I went to a meeting in Starland one time, about a month ago. People of the whole area were lobbying the MD of Starland to join the regional library system so rural people would not have to pay extra to get books. Although they put up a very good lobby, I believe in the end they lost the battle for this year. But I imagine they'll be back next year to ensure that the library system does expand. We really appreciate what the library system has done for rural Alberta.

Again, on behalf of my constituents, I certainly look forward to working with you again in the next term. Congratulations and thanks for everything you've done in the past.

MRS. FYFE: Mr. Chairman, as a representative of a constituency that has literally exploded with cultural development over the past decade, I would also like to add my voice of appreciation for the work done by the Minister of Culture and the people in the department who have been very responsive in trying to meet the many needs and demands.

Within the next few months, people in the city of St. Albert will be enjoying one of the finest new facilities anywhere within this country. There is a facility entitled St. Albert Place that will encompass, in addition to municipal functions, a new library, which will be a large, two-storey library incorporating a wide variety of programs; an arts and crafts facility, which will allow space for residents to partake and an area where they can sell their crafts; a new museum area; and a new performing arts theatre, with 500 seats. This total complex is designed by the now nationally renowned architect, Douglas Cardinal, and will certainly be a showpiece within the province of Alberta, if not within the country.

To follow up the comments by the Member for Drumheller, I think that in Canada we do not do enough to attract people to our cultural development. As the member said, the Americans — who in my opinion are probably the world's greatest entrepreneurs — do a terrific job of bringing tourists to look at a project or site, that is usually designed with some superlative: the highest, the

smallest, the largest, the greatest. I'm sure some of you have visited sites and when you got there, after seeing all the signs along the highway, found it didn't quite meet the expectation you had built up in your mind.

I think we go to the other extreme in Canada and don't go far enough to promote some of the very fine developments and restorations we have accomplished within this province. If we look at tourism as being the third industry within our province, it's important that we consider cultural development and investment in cultural facilities as an economic investment, an investment of tourism and in addition to the other benefits we receive from cultural development.

In response to the Speech from the Throne, I spoke of the contribution of the Grey Nuns and the tremendous mark they have made on the history of western Canada. I would like to express my appreciation to the minister for commemorating, with a framed picture that will hang in the new St. Albert Place museum, the contribution of the Grey Nuns and the tremendous work done by that order.

Another restoration project that was completed during this last year was the opening of Grandin House, or the bishop's palace, which was originally built in 1886. It served as the residence of the bishop for the St. Albert Diocese, which eventually became the Edmonton Diocese. The final restoration project was completed this past year with the grand opening. The Minister of Culture was able to attend and participate in the celebration and official ceremony. I think one of the benefits of a restoration project such as Grandin House is that it is not set up as a museum which is solely an expensive building to maintain and keep. It has a museum aspect, which is the original chapel and the office of Bishop Grandin. But it's an active building which will be used by the Oblate Fathers for their functions, and will be a very useful and important building in the years ahead. It is now nearly 100 years old. If it lasts as well in the next 100 years, not only will it serve as a building that shows the architectural development of the year it was started, it will also serve as a functional building in the years ahead. I think that's a very important part of historic restoration. Too often there's a thought that it should only be turned into a museum, which is an extremely costly venture. While I think that museums are important, many restorations can serve as functional buildings and also contribute to the historic aspect of the development.

The third area I would like to comment on is the work that has been carried out in the town of Morinville, which also has some interesting buildings that have received historic designation. One is the Morinville cultural centre. The residents of that community have put in a tremendous amount of volunteer work to restore this old building, that was originally used as a convent and residence and now serves as a very fine meeting place for the residents of Morinville and area.

I have probably said in the Assembly in other years that cultural development normally follows affluence. I think we can see it in the example of the North American Indians, those bands or tribes that had to spend all their time gathering food and did not have sufficient time to develop lasting cultural things such as structures or artistic works. But those that had easier access to food, bands such as those along the western coast of North America where fish and other foods were plentiful, were able to develop a culture that we see as lasting, as far as artistic development or development of carvings and other types of artifacts.

Similarities exist within our society. The pioneers that

came to the west had very little time other than to develop the very basic necessities of life. They had to develop shelter and the basics of their way of life. As we became more affluent and as our society prospered, culture followed and, compared to many other parts of Canada or other parts of the world, money for culture has really been very plentiful within this province. We've gone through a decade of tremendous development in cultural growth. We're nearing the end of the major cultural/recreation facilities grant, which was announced in 1974. There have been tremendous marks on nearly every community across this province as a result of this program and others initiated through the Department of Culture.

My feelings and concerns partly rest with the financial impact of cultural development within the communities. I think many municipalities have entered into projects that they are now finding very costly to maintain; recreational and other facilities that have a very expensive overhead cost to them. I feel that any future program we as a government develop or announce should have a matching grant component from organizations, citizens, or the business community — those people that are actively involved in putting forward dollars — so that we're not just looking at municipal dollars matched by provincial dollars, but are getting a commitment from people within the communities. I think that all in this Assembly recognize that economic times have forced us to look at priorities and set our sights at a different level than they have been over the last decade. I hope that any new program that would follow the major cultural/recreation facilities grant program, the MCR, would encompass some aspect of involvement from residents within the community, an incentive to have community organizations actually involved.

I think that same principle can apply to libraries. I commend the minister for the priorities she has set. When she was first elected and assumed her responsibilities as Minister of Culture, one of the first statements she made related to library development, and she has followed through. Libraries have been able to flourish and develop over the last term and now, as we're setting new priorities, I think the same factor, the same principles, could apply to library development. Communities and individuals that are interested in the development of libraries within their communities would be encouraged to participate by raising funds. Those funds could then be matched, rather than have a straight grant that goes to these facilities. In the long run, I think it will make the culture we have within this province more acceptable and probably more appreciated by all.

I conclude by congratulating the minister for the work she has done, and I sincerely thank her for the contribution she has made to cultural development within the constituency I represent, the St. Albert constituency. Thank you, Madam Culture.

MRS. EMBURY: Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to offer my congratulations to the minister. I speak on behalf of the many constituents in Calgary North West that have received benefits from the many cultural grants offered through the minister's department, and of associations I've presented cheques to, but also of the many individuals in my constituency that have benefited from the grants offered from her department. It has offered them an opportunity to go on to advanced education in their fields of endeavor. I know that I speak on behalf of many of them when I say thank you very much. It has

been a means for them to continue their education, not only in Calgary but also abroad.

I would also like to comment that I had the opportunity to represent the minister at one of the opening cultural displays at the Glenbow museum in Calgary. It was indeed an honor for me to participate in the evening's activities and, above all, to see the many, many Calgarians that came on a Monday night and were very kind in the time they took to be there and wait for the official opening of the art display in the Glenbow museum.

The reason I mention this before the Assembly is to point up the successful program that is offered and supported financially by our government to many Calgarians. The area where they were waiting for the opening was jam-packed with people. I found it most rewarding that so many Calgarians were interested in the display and would be there. I think it's a great credit to the minister and her department.

The third area I would also like to comment on very briefly — and it was indeed an honor for me to be present; thanks very much to many of my constituents who were there — is the evening of the Ismaeli community, when we were indeed honored to be in the presence of the Aga Khan. It was particularly delightful for me as a Calgarian to be there representing my constituents and to see so many members of Executive Council there. We had the Hon. Jim Horsman, Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister. The hon. Provincial Treasurer, Lou Hyndman, was there as deputy [Premier]. Of course, the natural person to be there was the Hon. Mary LeMessurier, Minister of Culture. It was indeed a pleasure for me to see three cabinet ministers sitting at the head table representing our government on this very auspicious occasion. I would just like to comment on behalf of my constituents who belong to the community of the Ismaelis that I really appreciate their very hard and sincere work and what they contribute to our community in Calgary and in Calgary North West.

The last issue I'd like to raise with the minister very briefly, and I hope the minister would deem it worthy of comment: I've had some representation from a constituent on behalf of the *Arts West* magazine. This magazine was started in 1975 by two Calgarians. As I understand it, the magazine is a quality-type arts magazine that has been recognized in western Canada. I understand they have had some financial difficulties and have made representation to the minister. While I realize that it would be very unique that the Minister of Culture would consider funding a local magazine such as this in Calgary, I would like her to comment on the endeavors of this magazine and its worthiness for funding. Is it widespread throughout the province? Has it had any Canadian recognition? I would appreciate it very much if the minister would make those comments in regard to her estimates.

On behalf of the members of Calgary North West, I would like to congratulate the minister and say thank you very much to her and her department on their endeavors.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I simply say to the minister that I realize, as others members do, that she travels to all parts of this province in carrying out the duties of her portfolio, many of them after dark. I believe she's becoming known at the government hangar when she arrives in the wee hours of the morning as "the lady of the night". I want to say to the minister and my colleagues that I've been very pleased with the Minister of Culture.

Thank you.

MR. BATIUK: Mr. Chairman, I had one other area that I wanted to mention before, but hon. members might think I wanted to boast so I thought one of my colleagues might mention it. Since they haven't, I'd like to say that it's Education Week. Fifteen Albertans are going to be honored on Thursday and Friday for their participation and the awards they received for paintings. Three of the 15 are from schools in Vegreville. I would ask all hon. members, when they walk through the pedway, to see those paintings. It'll really bring it out that heritage is being used in the areas from that particular town.

I think our government has gone a long way to bring that heritage. The Ukrainian Cultural Festival originated in 1974 with a comparable grant from the provincial and federal governments. That was the first and last grant from the federal government, but our government has been giving support to that festival. Every year there's a three-day festival at the beginning of July. I recommend that hon. members come and visit Vegreville during that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. minister wish to respond now?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to respond to some of the questions that have been put forward this evening. The Leader of the Opposition referred to indexing of grants. In this year's budget, any form of funding that was not actually a policy was looked on very carefully. Due to the economic situation in our province, it was decided that we would not continue. But I'd like to reassure this House that once this session is out, I am going to go after my colleagues to see what we can do about implementing a policy we will continue, and have the indexing of library grants.

Also at this time, I would like to stress the fact that in 1979, when I became the Minister of Culture, funding for libraries in this province was approximately \$2,842,000. This year, just for grants alone, the budget is \$9,810,000, which I think is a 245 per cent increase in four years. I do not think that is too dusty for libraries.

Mr. Chairman, a couple of members talked about multiculturalism. This time I'd like to refer to the paper on cultural diversity. I have the responsibility of the heritage council and, over the last few years, the heritage council has been very busy in presenting to me a paper on cultural diversity. This evening, I would like to assure the members that I made a statement this past Saturday evening that after some of the members of council had met with the Minister of Labour on matters concerning human rights, then the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Manpower, the Attorney General, the Minister of Education, the caucus chairmen for Edmonton and Calgary, and I will sit down with the members of council and discuss the paper. I am sure we can implement many of the concerns and ideas that have been presented to us through this paper.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke on Friedenstal. I must say that one of the delights of my four years in office was to visit this community. I had been told that I was going to see Dunvegan. As we were driving along, I thought it must be a family reunion in front of this church, not knowing that the cavalcade was going to make a slight detour to the church. I'm sure this was all done in advance. So we arrived at Friedenstal to see many, many citizens from the community who had been there for many years. In the front row were the grandchildren and great grandchildren of the citizens of that

community, all with sort of placards on their fronts saying who they were and what generation. It was a very moving ceremony, and I did ring the bells. I was absolutely amazed that the church could be preserved as it was. It has a roof that is absolutely terrible; it was leaking. And the people have such a devotion to that church. I'm happy to say that money has been given to the community to repair the roof. I have asked that when the church has been repaired to its original state, I be asked to take part in a service at that church. I understand that should be sometime this fall.

Last year, after my visit to Friedenstal, I went down to Dunvegan. After my visit there, I established an advisory board of eight members. It's a beautiful part of the province, and I urge people who have not been there to take the opportunity to go. It has an historical significance, as was mentioned, that is and should be very, very special to the people of Alberta. There is a factor's house there that needs attention, and we are certainly working towards acquiring the land and property in that area. I was also able to review and look at the digging that was taking place in trying to find the base of the fort. That is all in the 50 acres we are looking at to try to purchase. We will continue to do research this coming summer on the maples adjacent to the 50 acres.

Historical publications is another area that has been of great concern to all of us. Through the 50th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of our province, the history of our communities has become very special to the people of Alberta. I would like to assure you that in 1982 and 1983 we have 106 projects funded, at a total cost of \$171,000. To date this year, and we've only just started, we've had 37 applications. So I'd like members in this room to understand that this is a very important factor in the history of Alberta. I am very proud to think the citizens want to have history restored to their communities.

The Member for Vegreville mentioned libraries, and I think I addressed myself to libraries. There are no reductions in library grants unless the municipalities themselves do not come forward with the same amount of funding they did before. With the municipalities, we do a 3 to 2: three parts from the government and two parts from the municipalities. If they cut back, then the next year we cut back. I sincerely hope this will not happen, because I really think libraries are very, very important to the learning of all Albertans.

The Member for Vegreville also mentioned the Ukrainian village. At this time, I would like to say to the member that last year — restoration is right on schedule, and I think we're addressing ourselves to 33 buildings — five buildings were restored, and this year we're planning to have eight buildings restored. To promote the Ukrainian village throughout the province, we have taken models to the various shopping centres for people to view. Also, I am very happy to say that I do have an advisory board with, as the member said, John Batiuk as my chairman. They have been absolutely fantastic and very helpful to me.

Now that the Whip is in the House, I would also like to suggest that in June, before the House closes and we all go our ways, that we address ourselves to having a day at the Ukrainian village. I am sure the advisory board and the staff would be only too happy to put on a picnic or some kind of Ukrainian day for us. Mind you, I would like to say that the Ukrainian village is not just for Ukrainians; it's for all ethnic communities. That is something I think we sometimes forget.

The member also remarked on the passing of the direc-

tor. I must say he is a great loss not only to the village but to the cultural life in Alberta.

The Member for Cardston remarked on the Remington Carriage display, and I was only too happy that last year we were able to give a small donation towards the exhibition of these carriages. I would like to assure him that the same amount of funding will be available this year.

The Member for Cypress commented on Head-Smashed-In, and I would like to say that we've signed a contract with the family for the purchase of the land for Head-Smashed-In. It will be some time but we are certainly moving ahead, and we have plans for the interpretation centre of Head-Smashed-In.

Fort Macleod: the Attorney General has been working for some time on some of the papers concerning Fort Macleod. I will have those very shortly, and I will be addressing my colleagues on making the Fort Macleod main street an historic area, which will be the very first one in the province of Alberta.

The Member for Cypress also mentioned art in the pedway. I am sure members in this Legislative Assembly also think that when the economy changes, we should address ourselves to that issue. I do not think the time is apropos at the moment. The submissions made to us by artists throughout Alberta and Canada are in keeping. If the artists wished their materials returned, we certainly returned them.

Mr. Chairman, we were talking about the Oldman project. It is very sad for me to comment that less than 50 per cent of the community is committed to that project. We are continuing to work in that community. Hopefully within the next few years, more and more communities will join the Oldman project.

The MCR percentage: I will be very firm. I would really hate to see us abolish anything to do with a certain percentage pertaining to culture. But I also realize that rural communities are special and quite different from some of the larger urban communities. This an area we have to address. The MCR is not completed until 1984, and I think we do have time to address the concerns of my colleagues in the House.

The hon. Member for Barrhead was concerned about lotteries. I would like to assure the member that members who sit on my various foundations and boards are not just from urban communities; they are from rural and urban communities. Every single project is considered on the same basis, whether it is from the smaller or larger community.

The member also spoke on libraries. He addressed multiculturalism and heritage days. I think heritage days are very special. Last year we had 45 communities in the province of Alberta receive dollars from the heritage branch. This year our budget is \$100,000 and, to date, we have received applications from over 80 communities. I think that is something we are going to have to look at very carefully. The applications are growing, and the desire to share our heritage is being expressed throughout the entire province. At this time, I would also like to thank the volunteers, as did the member, recognizing the part volunteers play in our heritage days. The deadline for heritage days was May 1, so I am sure we will have to do some juggling of dollars when we review some of the applications.

Historical preservation: I was happy to hear the minister talk about the books about Fort Assiniboine and Hazel Bluff. I know he and many members in our Assembly have communities that have shared our historical grants for books on the histories of their communities.

Mr. Chairman, at the end of January, beginning of February, I had the pleasant opportunity of being in Montreal, where we signed the agreement with a French publisher for the Canadian encyclopedia. It is going to be three volumes, with approximately 700 pages to each volume. As far as our last communication, which was very recent, the encyclopedia is coming in on time. It's going to be of great excitement to people not only in western Canada but throughout Canada who are looking forward to it. As I said earlier, it should be ready for distribution in 1985.

The Member for Edmonton Sherwood Park addressed bouquets to a very special lady in our heritage branch by the name of Beth Bryant. I certainly will relay your comments. I think it's a pleasure for us to be part and parcel of the CIA to the national conference being held here this summer. I'm only too happy that I am able to partake of that conference with some of the delegates.

The Member for Calgary McCall was concerned about the cultural development drop, and I'd like to assure the member that we are not taking a drop. It looks as if we are, but in our estimates last year we had two one-time grants. That was a \$28 million grant to the Calgary Centre for the Performing Arts and a \$5 million grant to the Citadel Theatre. I really feel that we are keeping abreast of and pace with cultural development in our province. The Member for Calgary McCall also mentioned the Polish and Italian centres. I am very sad to say that I know we're all very upset to think there are communities and halls that are having problems, but they did receive some funding from the city of Calgary through the MCR. I would like to say how pleased I am that there are two members, Gordon Shrake and Brian Lee, who have taken the opportunity to meet with these centres to see what they can do to help them deal with their financial difficulties.

The hon. Member for Drumheller — I, too, am excited about the paleontology museum. It's coming along extremely well. The displays are being constructed right now so that when the museum opens, everything will be ready to go. I know the hotel will be very well used. The member said something about culture, but I'd like to assure the Assembly that the member does have a lot of culture. I will take his comments on western culture to heart. The member said "branding". I think I've already been to two. He said one, but there are two, Mickey. Perhaps the next time around, I'll just by-pass the prairie oysters.

I'm glad the member mentioned the Marigold Library. That was our third regional library concept, and I think it's done extremely well. I think libraries are a necessity in the life we live today. I only hope that the Oldman project and the library project in the northern part of our province are able to get under way.

The hon. Member for St. Albert spoke on St. Albert Place. Mr. Chairman, I've had the opportunity of viewing the facility. It is a very magnificent building. I must say I have some regrets on the size of the library. I feel it is going to be difficult to stock a library that size with books, and I know the member herself has concerns over the size. I'm sure that working together, we will be able to take care of the people in St. Albert.

The Member for Calgary North West spoke on grants to individuals and organizations, and I'm very happy to think that her constituency has received this type of attention. Glenbow is doing a fantastic job, not only in the city of Calgary but throughout Alberta, in showing displays of not only national but international stature. The mem-

ber also spoke about a magazine called *Arts West*, and I hate to tell everybody that *Arts West* is the last magazine in Alberta that relates to galleries. I have received anywhere from 300 to 400 letters from people not only in Alberta but from Quebec, right through Manitoba to British Columbia, and down into the States, asking me to please consider funding *Arts West* magazine and see what we can do to make sure that *Arts West* doesn't close its doors. I'd like to assure members in the Assembly that we made a special grant of \$7,500 in '82-83 and that in the current fiscal year they will receive funding. We also will be working with them to reassess their advertising and see what we can do to make sure that *Arts West* continues to flourish as a magazine for all the art galleries in Alberta.

I think I had only one question from Fort Macleod about funding the musical ride, and I'd like to assure the Member for Cypress that that funding will continue.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I have addressed myself to all the questions and am ready to proceed.

Agreed to:

1.01 — Minister's Office	\$216,039
1.02 — Deputy Minister's Office	\$185,353
1.03 — Financial Services	\$921,004
1.04 — Personnel	\$237,854
1.05 — Communications	\$179,099
1.06 — Department Library	\$124,979
1.07 — Records Management	\$78,990
1.08 — Financial Planning and Management	\$342,350
1.09 — Special Programs	\$486,614
Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$2,772,282
2.1 — Program Support	\$231,847
2.2 — Visual Arts	\$1,695,956
2.3 — Performing Arts	\$6,646,846
2.4 — Film and Literary Arts	\$737,568
2.5 — Library Service	\$11,060,189
2.6 — Cultural Heritage	\$1,245,807
2.7 — Cultural Facilities	\$1,701,012
2.8 — Film Censorship	\$200,934
2.9 — Major Cultural Facilities Development	\$1,072,273
Total Vote 2 — Cultural Development	\$24,592,432
3.1 — Program Support	\$398,415
3.2 — Archaeological Survey	\$990,533
3.3 — Archival Acquisition, Preservation, and Storage	\$798,024
3.4 — Financial Assistance for Heritage Preservation	\$3,910,773
3.5 — Historic Sites Preservation	\$6,901,585
3.6 — Historical Resource Facilities	\$9,571,445

Total Vote 3 — Historical Resources Development	\$22,570,775
4.1 — Planning and Administration	—
4.2 — Anniversary Grants	—
4.3 — 75th Anniversary Programs	—
4.4 — Cultural Programs	\$1,065,000
4.5 — Recreational Programs	—
4.6 — Alberta Homecoming	—
Total Vote 4 — 75th Anniversary Celebrations	\$1,065,000
Departmental Total	\$51,000,489

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Culture vote for 1983-84 be reported.

Before I close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff who have been here many times waiting patiently. Tonight we finally succeeded.

Thank you very much.

[Motion carried]

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

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. APPLEBY: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration and reports the following resolutions, and requests leave to sit again:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1984, sums not exceeding the following for the department and purposes indicated:

For the Department of Culture: \$2,772,282 for departmental support services, \$24,592,432 for cultural development, \$22,570,775 for historical resources development, \$1,065,000 for 75th anniversary celebrations.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Committee of Supply will be called again for the Department of Transportation. If there's time after that, the Department of Housing would be next in order. It's not proposed that the Assembly sit Thursday evening.

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

