

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

[Leave granted; Bills 65 and 67 read a first time]

Title: Friday, October 19, 1984 10:00 a.m.

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Bill 68**Environment Statutes Amendment Act, 1984**

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a Bill, being the Environment Statutes Amendment Act, 1984.

This Bill amends the Hazardous Chemicals Act, the Hazardous Chemicals Amendment Act, and the Special Waste Management Corporation Act. The legislation extends to the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation the responsibility for collection, storage, transportation to treatment facilities, and treatment and disposal of special wastes moving off a generator site in the province of Alberta. The Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation will contract with the private sector or authorize others to carry out its responsibilities under this legislation. This legislation will ensure a cost-effective and efficient implementation of a special waste management system for the province of Alberta.

[Leave granted; Bill 68 read a first time]

Bill 71**Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund
Special Appropriation Act, 1985-86**

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill No. 71, the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Special Appropriation Act, 1985-86. This being a money Bill, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the contents of this Bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

The purpose of the Bill is straightforward, Mr. Speaker. It is to authorize the transfer of 15 percent of the nonrenewable resource revenue received in the 1985-86 fiscal year to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

[Leave granted; Bill 71 read a first time]

Bill 65**Special Areas Amendment Act, 1984****Bill 67****Water Resources Amendment Act, 1984**

MR. KROEGER: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce two Bills. The first is Bill No. 65, the Special Areas Amendment Act, 1984. The purpose of this Act is to incorporate the Special Areas Board.

Bill No. 67, the Water Resources Amendment Act, 1984, has to be updated. Some of the regulations that go with it are now ultra vires.

Bill 72**Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Amendment Act, 1984**

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill No. 72, the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation Amendment Act, 1984.

The purpose of this Bill is to clarify the method by which the representative of the department of the Provincial Treasurer is appointed to that board.

[Leave granted; Bill 72 read a first time]

Bill 59**Department of Culture
Amendment Act, 1984**

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill No. 59, the Department of Culture Amendment Act, 1984. This being a money Bill, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the contents of this Bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

The purpose of this Bill is to clarify the authority for present practice and to amend section 9 to broaden the funding base for our retail outlets.

[Leave granted; Bill 59 read a first time]

Bill 60**Election Finances and Contributions
Disclosure Amendment Act, 1984****Bill 61****Wild Rose Foundation Act**

MR. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, this morning I request leave to introduce two Bills.

The first is Bill 60, the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Amendment Act, 1984. The effect of this amending legislation is to prohibit certain corporations from making contributions to a registered political party, a registered candidate, or a constituency association. These corporations fall into two categories: one, provincial Crown corporations, provincial commercial enterprises, and their subsidiaries; and two, corporations and their subsidiaries that are not technically provincial Crown corporations but the government's equity position is such that there exists a theoretical possibility the government could influence a decision to make a political contribution.

Mr. Speaker, the second is Bill 61, the Wild Rose Foundation Act. This legislation will formally establish the Wild Rose Foundation, which will make grants to registered, non-profit volunteer groups and organizations that provide a necessary and valuable community service to Albertans and which did not previously qualify for grants from cultural, recreational, and athletic foundations and councils funded by lotteries profits. As hon. members will recall from the revised distribution system for lotteries profits announced earlier this year, the foundation will be funded by a \$4.5 million endowment from undistributed lotteries profits and by an annual 5 percent share of lotteries profits to a maximum of \$1 million annually.

[Leave granted; Bills 60 and 61 read a first time]

Bill 75
Workers' Compensation
Amendment Act, 1984

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce a Bill, being the Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 1984.

This amendment provides for the recommendations made by the select committee, which I tabled in this Legislature on May 30, 1984.

[Leave granted; Bill 75 read a first time]

Bill 64
Municipal District of Cypress No. 1
Incorporation Act

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 64, the Municipal District of Cypress No. 1 Incorporation Act, be read a first time.

The purpose of this Bill is to allow the residents of Improvement District No. 1 to become a municipal district and obtain full responsible government.

[Leave granted; Bill 64 read a first time]

Bill 70
Municipal Tax Exemption
Amendment Act, 1984

MR. HIEBERT: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill No. 70, the Municipal Tax Exemption Amendment Act, 1984.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to clarify present provisions regarding the eligibility of nonprofit organizations which own and, in particular, lease property, to apply for tax exemption. Bill 70 will permit nonprofit organizations which lease property that is presently subject to taxation to apply to the Local Authorities Board for assessment and tax exemption.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, there is a provision extending from 40 to 60 days the period of time a municipality has to advise the Local Authorities Board of an objection to a particular application for exemption.

[Leave granted; Bill 70 read a first time]

Bill 63
Fuel Oil Tax Repeal Act

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce a Bill, being the Fuel Oil Tax Repeal Act.

This is a very straightforward Bill and probably sets a record for brevity.

[Leave granted; Bill 63 read a first time]

Bill 66
Reciprocal Enforcement of
Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 1984

MRS. FYFE: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce a Bill, being the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 1984.

This Bill amends an Act of the Uniform Law Conference that was passed in 1980. The principle involves the amendment of sections relating to provisional variation of maintenance orders made in reciprocating jurisdictions.

[Leave granted; Bill 66 read a first time]

Bill 58
Corporation Statutes Amendment Act, 1984

MR. DROBOT: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill 58, the Corporation Statutes Amendment Act, 1984.

The purpose of this legislation is to clarify specific administrative procedures and to correct references found in both the Business Corporation Act and the Companies Act.

[Leave granted; Bill 58 read a first time]

Bill 62
Retirement Annuities Repeal Act

MR. OMAN: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to introduce for first reading Bill No. 62, the Retirement Annuities Repeal Act.

This Act is both obsolete and redundant, and the benefits and provisions of the Act are covered in other existing legislation.

[Leave granted; Bill 62 read a first time]

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bills 58, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, and 70 be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders.

[Motion carried]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the June 1984 report of the Alberta NDP task force on health care and social services, appropriately titled "Tired of having to beg".

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following reports with the Assembly: firstly, the Department of Treasury annual report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1984; secondly, the Treasury Branches annual report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1984; the five reports of the various pension boards, all for the year ended March 31, 1983, and that's with respect to the Public Service Management Pension Board, the Local Authorities Pension Board, the Public Service Pension Board, the Universities Academic Pension Board, and the Special Forces Pension Board; and lastly, the Alberta Resources Railway Corporation financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1983.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a series of annual reports, including the following: the Students Finance Board, Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower, the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, the Alberta Foundation for Nursing Research, Grande Prairie Regional College, Grant MacEwan Community College, and Lakeland College.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. DIACHUK: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce, from the constituency of Edmonton Beverly, some 50 grade 6 students from Belmont school in the Edmonton public school system. Accompanied by two teachers, Mr. Roy Osland and Mr. Jim Norris, they are visiting this Legislature as part of their social studies program. I ask them to rise and receive the usual welcome of the Assembly.

MR. SZWENDER: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly 19 bright and energetic students from Princeton elementary school, located in the riding of Edmonton Belmont. The students, accompanied by their teacher Mrs. Rybotycki, and are seated in the members' gallery. Would they please rise and accept the warm recognition of the Assembly?

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

Compensation for the Wrongly Convicted

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct the first question to the hon. Attorney General. Yesterday a question was raised about the general policy with respect to compensating people who have been unjustly convicted, where there is a miscarriage of justice. In raising my first question, could I be more specific and ask the Attorney General what the position of the government of Alberta is with respect to the miscarriage of justice with respect to Mr. Truscott and whether or not the government considers there is, if not a legal obligation, a moral obligation for restitution?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the policy is meant to encompass what I think we would all describe as any moral obligation in such circumstances. The definition of whether or not there is a legal obligation, though, has some relevance. Having said that, I reiterate that the moral obligation is surely the one that would carry the day in such cases of wrongful conviction with resultant imprisonment.

The case with respect to the gentleman the Leader of the Opposition referred to would of course be considered in accordance with the policy I outlined yesterday.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Being more specific, will it be the intention of the Attorney General to ask the Crimes Compensation Board or officials of the department to give specific consideration to what would be fair and reasonable compensation to Mr. Truscott, in view of the obvious miscarriage of justice that occurred?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think I basically answered that question both yesterday and today. Although each case should be individually assessed, I indicated that my view was that although it had not been done before, the Crimes Compensation Board would be an appropriate agency for referral and that the case of the citizen mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition would fall within that policy. The result of all of that is that my intention is that Mr. Truscott's case will be examined and recommendations will be made with regard to any compensation by the Crimes Compensation Board.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. During the review, has the Attorney General had the opportunity yet to evaluate Mr. Truscott's claims with regard to alibi witnesses? Has the Attorney General had an opportunity to determine when that information became available to either the police or Crown prosecutors?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, that's not the sort of information I have sought in detail. Work in that respect is being done by members of the department.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the hon. Attorney General. It really relates to the administration

of justice. Could the minister be a little more specific as to what directives occurred within the department to determine whether, before the matter was dealt with and this innocent person spent eight months in jail, officials of the department, Crown prosecutors, or police had information which would have indicated innocence?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I can surely answer without any further checking that no person in any position of responsibility would have known prior to the actual conviction that the evidence upon which it was founded was false, if that was indeed the case, which is the allegation that has been made in this situation. No person would have known of any of that in advance of a finding of guilt.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Attorney General. The question is not with respect to the perjury but whether information with respect to the existence of alibi witnesses who could have corroborated the defendant's plea of innocence was made available to either the police or Crown prosecutors.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think that is something that would surely be dealt with in the course of checking by officials of the department. As of this morning, I do not have a specific response to the hon. leader's question. I judge it to be of very considerable significance and will respond further at a later date.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Could the hon. Attorney General advise whether he has given Legal Aid any directives with respect to being able to bring in corroborating witnesses, should they live out of province? A person is facing a serious charge and doesn't have the financial means to bring someone from another part of the country. Has there been any directive to make sure we go the extra mile, so financial barriers do not stand in the way of providing the charged with all the rights and opportunities to establish — to protect one's claim of innocence? I shouldn't say "to establish", because it's up to the prosecution to establish guilt.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think there are two things involved. One is that the legal aid system surely provides very strong support to the citizen who has been charged with any offence and is unable to finance his own defence.

I should take the opportunity to say that it is a system which really does function very efficiently and very well and is a very strong ingredient in the justice system with respect to assuring that defences that are available to an accused are brought to the court, because the accused has legal counsel provided by the system. In many, many cases, particularly in the more serious cases, the legal counsel that would be provided is very experienced and able.

The aspect of directives from me to the Legal Aid Society: I have never tried to do that. As the hon. leader knows, the Legal Aid Society is structured as a relative partnership and an independent board of directors, the players being the Law Society of Alberta and the government of Alberta. Through its board of directors and its staff, the society itself does act in quite an independent way as to its policies. The only way in which there are real directives in any sense from either the Law Society or the government would be in the original contract and the original set of guidelines setting out what the Legal Aid Society has as its function in the administration of justice system.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I could just add one more thing. Even though no direction has occurred, I can obtain for the hon. leader the answer to the question of the society's policy in that respect. Because of the very substantial contributions the legal aid system makes to defending accuseds throughout the province, once again the question of the cost of attendance of witnesses would be of some importance.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. I hope that information will be presented and tabled in the House as well as any review of the Truscott case that's undertaken.

To clarify for members of the House, Mr. Truscott was released from custody on September 26, after the Crown became convinced of his innocence. Could the Attorney General advise whether the first solid evidence of innocence came as a result of affidavits forwarded by a lawyer in Winnipeg, acting on behalf of a friend of Mr. Truscott, or as a result of a separate investigation undertaken by the RCMP? If the latter, what prompted that investigation?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I want any information provided to be very accurate, and will do some further checking before responding to such a specific question.

Unemployment Action Centres

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my second question to the hon. Minister of Manpower. We were to have a tent city on the grounds of the Legislature. I guess inclement driving conditions from Calgary have postponed that for a little while. On November 2, the second anniversary of the re-election of this government, the unemployment action centres may have to close down. My question to the minister is, will this government give consideration to funding the continuation of the useful services provided by unemployment action centres in Alberta?

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, our monitoring of the activities of the unemployment action centres indicates that many of those activities and services have been positively received by some of the residents of the communities in which they exist. However, it is our judgment and decision that the best use of public funds is in our training and job creation programs; in other words, provide them for training and the development of real job opportunities. Hence, Mr. Speaker, the direct answer to the hon. member's question is no.

MR. NOTLEY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. The minister has indicated a monitoring of unemployment action centres. During the course of this monitoring, did the minister visit a single unemployment action centre?

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have not personally been in any of the unemployment action centres. I have had discussions with voluntary board members that service unemployment action centres, I have had input from unemployed people who have used the action centres and from other members of this Legislature who have had unemployment action centres operating in their community.

MR. NOTLEY: So the minister hasn't visited one. That's interesting.

Could the minister advise the Assembly what type of consideration led the government to conclude that it wouldn't fund unemployment action centres after the federal program expires,

yet we are prepared to at least partially financially support the Over 45 Group Society — and I think this is a good program. What is the difference between the good work done by this one organization, which receives assistance from the government of Alberta, and not funding unemployment action centres?

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is right: we fund the Over 45 organization, the Opportunity '45' organization, and the ACCESS 45 organization, for programs that are aimed at workers over 45 experiencing a career change or a need for upgrading. They also attempt to do some placement work.

I suppose the hon. member is finally starting to touch on the point. In certain communities there is an overlap between the activities of the unemployment action centres and groups like Over 45, other government agencies, and other volunteer agencies. Many of those functions can be carried on by the voluntary agencies. In many of the communities where the reaction was positive, I'm confident that there may be some continued activity or a different thrust in activity once they've identified where the real needs are.

I reiterate that putting the in excess of \$600,000, which was the funding request that came from the sponsoring organization last May, into our Alberta wage subsidy program or our new Alberta youth employment and training program will generate over 300 positions that provide meaningful work opportunities for young Albertans. That's where our emphasis is.

MR. NOTLEY: A supplementary question. That's very nice, but . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be the final supplementary on this. If there's time we can come back, because I have a fairly large number of members waiting to ask their first question.

MR. NOTLEY: Fair enough. I ask the minister whether he has in place any clear-cut strategy as to when the government of Alberta can at least reach the position attributed to the minister, of unemployment of, say, 6 percent — the minister's target last summer, as I recall, for a healthy rate of unemployment. Could the minister give us some indication as to when programs in his department will allow the government to reach that target?

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, the target of Alberta Manpower and the Alberta government is to work toward the objective of having an economy where every job-ready Albertan can find a position. We do not feel it is acceptable to have a situation where anyone who is ready and willing to work cannot find the opportunity to work. [interjections]

I cannot indicate to the House the point in time when some magical percentage will be achieved. I again encourage the hon. member to look at the variables that go into creating percentages before he makes his comparison based upon straight percentages.

I reiterate that it is our goal to achieve that point in time when any job-ready Albertan can find a job. Recognizing that many groups of Albertans need extra assistance to compete in a tight labour situation, we have designed a number of programs aimed at different groups. We have programs aimed at single-parent families on social services, at natives in remote communities, rehab programs aimed at the handicapped, and our recent major initiative aimed at Alberta's young people. Those types of programs will be needed for some time.

Oil Pricing

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier, and then possibly to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. It's with regard to a comment in the Premier's address on Wednesday: "we believe the world oil price will generally hold". In the last day we've had some indication that the world oil price will not hold. I wonder if the Premier could indicate what possible significant drop will have a significant adverse effect on the Alberta economy. At what stage does the government feel that the drop will be alarming to Albertans?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I would not want to specifically quantify with regard to that matter. What I said in my remarks last Wednesday was: "we believe the world oil price will generally hold. There may be some ups and downs." Certainly it's a very volatile situation, as all members are aware. We're in constant communication with our Agent General in London, who is monitoring for us the situation in terms of developments in Europe and the Middle East and, for that matter, worldwide.

Perhaps I could refer to *Hansard* of October 17 and the comment I made:

... it would be appropriate to perhaps make this comment. If there is an opportune time for Canada to move towards market-responsive oil pricing, it's probably never been better than right now from the consumer's point of view.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, relating to the energy pricing agreement of September 1, 1981. In terms of the possible reduction of the world price — and it's falling at the present time — could the minister indicate what action would be taken in terms of those that are producers of old oil, whereby the 75 percent rule would be in effect? A significant decrease would certainly affect those producers very much. Is there a plan in place by government to re-evaluate that part of the agreement?

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will recall a set of discussions we were involved in with the federal government on just that point early in 1983. It would be quite incorrect to suggest that the agreement provides that there would be some rollback of the old-oil price. Clearly the agreement was predicated on the understanding of rising world oil prices, which was the view held by virtually all the analysts at that time. It was certainly not contemplated that in the event of some downturn in oil prices, there would be some rollback of the so-called old-oil price at a time when it is still significantly below the true market price.

I simply emphasize the point the Premier has made about the appropriateness of moving to full market pricing at this time. The fact of the matter is that we are still significantly below that level.

Unemployment Action Centres (continued)

DR. ELLIOTT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to follow up on the questions about the unemployment action centres. I'd like to ask the Minister of Manpower if he is planning any follow-up meetings with the organizers of these action centres to discuss funding or any other form of support.

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have had no direct communication from the unemployment action centres since I received a letter

last May from their sponsoring group, the Alberta Federation of Labour, requesting funding. However, I understand my colleague the Minister of Labour has had more recent communication, and I refer the question to him.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, the unemployment action centres indicated that they wished to present a petition to government tomorrow. I responded to them on October 12, indicating that I have to attend a government, labour, and management conference this weekend and that I would be available today and would welcome an opportunity to meet with a representative group of them to explore whatever matters they wish to discuss. I file with the Assembly copies of my correspondence on that matter.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is the Minister of Manpower aware that his department and the social services department have from time to time referred people to the unemployment action centres?

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm quite aware, and was from the beginning, that Alberta Manpower has worked co-operatively with the unemployment action centres, as we work co-operatively with any other group assisting unemployed people or assisting people in accessing training or upgrading.

Gunn Centre

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. Did the minister recently receive a report about conditions in Gunn Centre, a provincial shelter for homeless men?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I can see the hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood is up to his usual great scientific research, reading local newspapers, [interjections]

Mr. Speaker, I have not received any complaints in my office about anything that may be awry at Gunn Centre.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, yes, we do read the newspapers. I know the government doesn't like it when people bring up its 19th-century policies; they get a little defensive.

My question to the minister is: can the minister outline the policy considerations which have led to single, employable men being sent to a shelter some 50 kilometres from the city of Edmonton, where there would not be any chance of finding decent jobs?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, from the way the gentleman asked the question, I interpret that he opposes our treating people in the rural areas of this province, [interjections] I can't understand that, in that we do have a centre in Gunn, Alberta. It's a residential facility for homeless, transient men. It is a rural setting. Men are referred there by the Single Men's Hostel and the General hospital in Edmonton. Patients who come out of our psychiatric institutions are also often referred.

I would be happy to go on and inform the member. There are a maximum of 125 spaces there. Most of the men that reside at Gunn are in the older age group, which includes the 40 to 65 age group, if that's older — which includes us. [interjections] Mr. Speaker, I can see that I have upset all my colleagues with those comments.

As I understand it, there are about 20 to 25 male employables. The program they're on is trying to re-establish contacts with their families and become more independent in their living. Transportation is provided them if they wish to seek employ-

ment either in Edmonton or in the area. I mentioned that the objective of the program was to make them become more independent, yet the critics seem to think that all the decisions for the people there should be made by government and supported in every way.

MR. MARTIN: I didn't know Gunn was quite the metropolis of economic activity, that all those jobs are there.

My supplementary question to the minister is: what specific retraining efforts are made at Gunn Centre to get these men back into the labour force?

DR. WEBBER: As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, most of the men are there either by referral from the Single Men's Hostel or from hospital situations. Room and board is provided, along with clothing and a monthly personal allowance. In order to encourage them to get out into the world and live more independently, the staff at Gunn encourages them to seek local employment or go elsewhere to seek employment. I believe their average stay is about three months for the employables and from nine to 18 months for those who are recovering from mental illnesses.

As I indicated to some yesterday, I think work is good therapy. To have people active and involved in doing work of one sort or another is good therapy. I'm happy to see that many of the men out there are getting employment opportunities.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary.

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

MR. MARTIN: The final one. Well, the therapy — I think we would like the minister to go out and pick ...

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps we could come to the question for a change.

MR. MARTIN: My question is to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister able to indicate to the Assembly whether the government has issued a specific exemption to employers in the Alberta Beach-Onoway area to allow them to pay less than the minimum wage?

MR. YOUNG: To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, no specific exemptions have been issued to employers in that area. I also indicate that, to my knowledge, no complaints have been brought to the attention of the employment standards branch.

We follow the system that if an employer or employee, one or the other, feels that the arrangements they have entered into have not been completely followed — and oftentimes there are misunderstandings; we handle from 850 to 1,200 cases a month — it's up to either of the parties to bring its concerns to the officers who could review the case.

In the situation that is alleged with respect to Gunn, if there are persons who feel they are not being treated in a manner which is acceptable, they can use the RITE line and contact the Edmonton office. The number is 427-3731.

Armed Forces Training Grounds

MR. ALGER: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs is with reference to the Department of National Defence negotiating with the Nelson Ranch to purchase some 760 acres of deeded land and over 7,000 acres of Crown land for the purpose of establishing a small-arms training ground for the army. I ask the following question as a direct result of many expressions of deep concern

from my constituents in the immediate area, and certainly throughout the Highwood constituency as well. Will the minister describe to the Legislature at what stage these negotiations now stand?

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, negotiations have been under way with the federal Department of National Defence since June this year. As hon. members are aware, the training facility for the Canadian armed forces near Calgary has not been available to the Department of National Defence since 1981. They've been seeking another location in Alberta for those activities to be carried on, and the department has approached the government of Alberta to receive provincial approval to enter into a land-use agreement for provincial Crown lands currently under lease to the Nelson Ranch through the department represented by my colleague the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife.

At the present time negotiations are still under way, subject to a number of concerns expressed by the government of Alberta, particularly with respect to local concerns: access for hunting, fishing, grazing, and oil and gas activities. There has been an environmental impact study completed, and there are of course other requests for use of the facilities as well. At the present time no final conclusion has been reached, Mr. Speaker, and I understand that the meetings which have been held by officials of National Defence and residents in the area have not resolved the concerns of the local residents.

That is the current status of the matter. Our expressions of concern have been made to the Department of National Defence relative to the issues that have been identified in the local meetings and, of course, by the government of Alberta itself.

MR. ALGER: Mr. Speaker, to the minister. Since the environmental study has been completed, which I wasn't aware of, I wonder if the minister would speak to the repercussions the alleged training ground would create in this beautiful Highwood ranching area.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, the environmental impact study was completed by the Department of National Defence. Copies of that were made available to the government of Alberta for review and consideration, and I was of the impression that those were discussed by Department of National Defence officials with local residents. In any event, that issue is of considerable importance to the government.

The point really is that a change of use of the grazing facilities to a military base would require approval of the government of Alberta. At this stage, Mr. Speaker, no such approval has been given.

MR. ALGER: A supplementary. Has the minister been instrumental in trying to find areas of less agricultural importance to offer to the Department of National Defence?

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I should point out that at present the training continues, and has since 1981, but that is now being carried out at the Wainwright military facility. The Department of National Defence has identified the transportation of their troops to that facility as increasing their cost by something in excess of \$2 million per year. At the same time, alternative sites in southern Alberta have been suggested. At this stage the federal Department of National Defence has rejected those as being unsuitable.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, options other than pursuing the Nelson Ranch location are still available to the Department of National Defence. We as a government have identified those

to the Department of National Defence for their consideration, as well as suggesting — and this is something that is entirely outside the control of our government and has only been made by way of suggestion — that reconsideration be given to the subject of the Sarcee location, which they previously occupied.

Extra Billing by Doctors

MR. SZWENDER: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care is with respect to the government's position on the Canada Health Act. In view of the recent decision by the Ontario government to submit to the Canada Health Act and ban extra billing in that province, thus leaving only Alberta in the position of allowing extra billing, could the minister indicate to this Assembly whether there will be a change of policy on this issue by the government?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe those reports of Ontario banning extra billing are correct. My understanding is that that is not the situation and that the practice is continuing in Ontario, under the same concerns as it is here in Alberta.

MR. SZWENDER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister indicate whether he has any information as to the amount of extra billing occurring in the province since the inception of the Canada Health Act?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, when the Canada Health Act was proclaimed on July 1, the provinces were required to submit a detailed estimate of the current levels of extra billing being carried on within their jurisdictions. The amount we submitted to the federal minister at that time was just barely over \$900,000 a month — about \$10 million and something a year. That estimate was accepted by the federal minister and forms the basis on which the transfers are made each month.

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be the final supplementary.

MR. SZWENDER: Mr. Speaker, could the minister indicate if he has an acceptable figure, in terms of dollars, which the province is willing to forgo in transfer payments from the federal government in order to preserve provincial autonomy in health care?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, we've always tried to maintain the position that it's the principle involved that is important, to support a high quality health care system. It's very difficult to attach a figure to that. I'm encouraged by the fact that during recent years the incidence of extra billing has gone down. The challenge is there to the medical profession to assure that it's used with discretion.

MR. McPHERSON: May I have a supplemental, Mr. Speaker? Now that Albertans have been bombarded with the health care Act, which leaves the message that all Albertans are given the unlimited right to access our health care system, is the minister aware of the pre-eminent study by the Rand Corporation in the United States, which indicates that those individuals or families offered free medicare spend 50 percent more on health care than those who have at least some deterrent factor in relation to access of health care?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the study referred to by the hon. member. There is a great deal of useful information of that kind being developed in North America. In fact, in many cases the results are quite startling.

Mortgage Life Insurance

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the hon. Minister of Housing. It concerns a series of complaints I've had from constituents that the government of Alberta is selling life insurance, primarily by mail, through an agency, the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation. If this is so, could the minister advise the House when and how this policy was devised?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, over the years the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation has received requests from spouses of borrowers where the borrower has passed on and there was no life insurance in place on the mortgage. As a result of that sort of interest, in 1983 the corporation sent letters to the 103 life insurance companies that are licensed to sell insurance in Alberta, asking if they were interested in making a proposal to the corporation to provide mortgage life insurance on a group basis. The corporation received 30 responses as a result of the 103 letters. The corporation sent out a further request to those 30 who responded and asked those companies to submit a proposal to the corporation. The corporation received nine proposals and, subsequent to the receipt of the nine proposals, the board of the corporation selected, from among the nine, one company, which now provides mortgage life insurance to those borrowers who have loans under the family home purchase program. That is available to the borrowers on a voluntary basis. That's the process that was used to establish the availability of mortgage life insurance to clients.

MR. GOGO: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that people like the Investment Dealers Association and bona fide life insurance agents work by the principle "know your client". Does the corporation do this exclusively by mail, or do they in fact take the time to personally talk to the people they are attempting to sell that insurance to?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that once the decision of the corporation was made that mortgage life insurance would be available, a mailing was made to all of those borrowers who had mortgages under the family home purchase program, asking if they were interested. If they were interested, an opportunity was made for them to get the details of the program. To my knowledge it's a group plan, and as a result there isn't an active solicitation under the program for clients. I'm not precisely sure of the process under which the relationship between the mortgage company and the borrower takes place, and would have to check and report back to the hon. member.

MR. GOGO: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, if I may. In quoting from the material sent by the corporation, if people don't wish to accept this insurance — which I view somewhat as an invasion of privacy — they must in fact decline in writing and obtain an independent witness to their signature. If in fact a person must sign a waiver declining the insurance, could the minister perhaps advise the Assembly now, or even later as a follow-up, what happens at the corporation end when they receive that waiver? Are they saying, in effect through some sort of coercion: you must accept this insurance? Or do they put some mark on a record: this person has signed declining the insurance and also had a witness attest to it?

MR. SHABEN: No, Mr. Speaker. There's no attempt by the corporation to coerce families into obtaining mortgage life insurance. It's there on a voluntary basis. My understanding

of the notice was simply so that the corporation was aware of whether or not an individual wanted to have mortgage life insurance. In some cases, many individual borrowers — and we would expect they will continue to do so — obtain their life insurance from other companies, and that will continue as a matter of course.

MR. McPHERSON: Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: We're just about at the end of the question period time and, if possible, I'd like to reach the Member for Edmonton Kingsway.

MR. McPHERSON: One supplemental or . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps we could have a short supplementary, and the Member for Edmonton Kingsway may wish to decide whether he wants to ask his question today or wait till Monday.

MR. McPHERSON: Mr. Speaker, my very brief supplemental to the Minister of Housing is simply this: has the minister received any representations of concern on this subject from the Life Underwriters Association of Canada or from the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association?

MR. SHABEN: Not that I'm aware of, Mr. Speaker. I had described earlier to the Member for Lethbridge West the process that was undertaken in terms of giving an opportunity to the private sector to participate in making this mortgage life insurance available. But I will check for the Member for Red Deer to see if any correspondence has arrived, either to the corporation or in my office, and report back.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway.

MR. PAPROSKI: In view of the time, Mr. Speaker, I'd appreciate asking the question on Monday.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have received certain messages from His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, which I now transmit to you.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Order!

MR. SPEAKER: His Honour the Lieutenant Governor transmits an estimate of a certain sum required from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund for the 12 months ending March 31, 1986, for the purpose of making investments pursuant to section 6(1)(a) of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act, in projects which will provide long-term economic or social benefits to the people of Alberta but which may not necessarily by their nature yield a return to the trust fund, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor further transmits an estimate of an additional, sum not otherwise provided for, required from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund for the 12 months ending March 31, 1985, for the purpose of making an investment pursuant to section 6(1)(a) of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act, in a project which will provide long-term economic or social benefits to the people of Alberta but which may not necessarily by its nature yield a return to the

trust fund, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Please be seated.

head: GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

15. Moved by Mr. Hyndman:

Be it resolved that the messages of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the supplementary estimates of investment (A), 1984-85, and the 1985-86 estimates of proposed investments of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, capital projects division, and all matters connected therewith, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

[Motion carried]

16. Moved by Mr. Hyndman:

Be it resolved that the Assembly do resolve itself into Committee of Supply, when called, to consider the supplementary estimates of investment (A), 1984-85, and the 1985-86 estimates of proposed investments of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, capital projects division.

[Motion carried]

12. Moved by Mr. Lougheed:

Be it resolved that the Assembly approve in general the operations of the government since the adjournment of the spring sittings.

[Adjourned debate October 18: Mr. Isley]

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to proceed with part two of the lesson to my small class, that I started yesterday evening.

MR. NOTLEY: I hope you're a better teacher today than you were last night.

MR. ISLEY: I note that my attendance is at the same level it was last night, with 50 percent absent — the same 50 percent. In the practice of good teaching, I suppose I should first of all review some of the points that were made last night and hope that they were grasped. I think the first point we dealt with was that the Alberta Progressive Conservative government places a high emphasis on people and people programs, and respects Albertans as people who wish to become independent, self-reliant, self-respecting individuals, which is a far different philosophy from the Big Brother philosophy we heard expounded earlier.

I then went on to remind my students of some of the recent employment and training programs we had developed and announced as a result of our concern for the unemployed, and made special mention of the special thrust to the young Albertans who are unemployed and are having difficulty getting their first work experience opportunities. And lo and behold, we concluded that the opposition members in this province, at least the members of the Official Opposition party, were opposed and objected to us doing something for young Albertans. I closed off by indicating that I wished to make some comments with respect to economic recovery and diversification before I concluded my remarks on Motion No. 12. I would like to proceed with that, and I hope I have the attention of my students.

Mention was made in the comments of the Leader of the Official Opposition about there being no economic recovery in Alberta. He immediately started quoting unemployment statistics. If the hon. member would sit down and have a discussion with his researcher, who I'm sure has grasped this point, he would realize that the last indicator of economic recovery is unemployment rates or, if you wish, employment levels. Looking at that first is something like trying to lead the cow by pushing it by the tail.

I think it was recognition of the fact that the movement in employment levels is the last indicator that led the government of this province to make the rather dramatic announcements on October 3 of job creation and training opportunities. As I said, we recognize that employment levels will be the last to move. We recognize that it will take some time for the Alberta economy to eat up the surpluses that got built up in the overheated years.

In co-operation with the private sector, we've laid out a two-and-a-half-year program, aimed primarily at our young people. I think it's a strong message to our young people, particularly those trained in our Alberta institutions: hey, we're confident you will be needed in the labour force down the road, and we're prepared, with the use of public dollars, to better prepare you for that labour force and give you some real work experience.

If you can't look at unemployment rates — as the opposition members tend to wish to do — as the indicator of economic recovery, what do you look at? You have to look at investment, and you have to analyze your economy and see if there are any areas where positive investment is going in that will generate activities and subsequently the meaningful, long-term jobs. When you look at the makeup of the Alberta economy, that investment has to start showing up in one of our primary sectors. If you follow the figures of Statistics Canada, over the past four months we've seen a trend toward increased employment levels in what is known as the other primary industries, primarily being oil and gas.

If hon. members would do some travelling around this province and see what is happening out there, they would probably realize that the economic indicator that is starting to move very strongly is the oil sands and heavy oil industries. I would like to review some of the things that are going on around this province for the hon. members, and I hope they will make notes. Then maybe they can pick up a road map from the hon. Minister of Tourism and Small Business and go out and take a look at what's going on. Get to know Alberta, fellas, [interjections]

I look at the Suncor expansion under way at Fort McMurray, a \$355 million project and an average construction work force of 350. I look at Esso Resources' announcements of phases 1 and 2, and phases 3 and 4 in the Cold Lake area, each project \$250 million, total investment \$500 million, construction work force peaking at 1,060 and generation of 250 permanent, ongoing jobs. I move to Syncrude, Fort McMurray, a \$1.2 billion announcement, estimated 22,000 man-years of direct and indirect employment trade out and, once the construction is finished, 2,175 direct and indirect jobs created.

I move to the British Petroleum Exploration Canada Ltd. Wolf Lake project, a \$200 million investment, construction work force peaking right about now at 450 people and 125 permanent operating jobs being left behind. I move to the Husky Oil upgrader announcement at Lloydminster at \$3.5 billion, construction work force estimated to peak in 1987 at 3,300, will create 220 new operational jobs and is anticipated to create another 1,300 induced jobs. Shell Canada Resources, Peace River — it's not too far for the hon. Leader of the Opposition

to go — a \$200 million investment, construction work force peak of 400 and 150 operational and induced jobs.

I move to Elk Point, another heavy oil project: Amoco Canada Petroleum, currently expending \$50 million, 70 construction work force on site at the moment, creating 40 operational jobs. You should also be aware that the same company has announced an expenditure and development program in that area of \$1.2 billion over the next 20 years. So it isn't a short-term thing; it's going to be around for a while. I go to Esso Resources Canada Limited and look at the Judy Creek project northwest of Edmonton: \$125 million; construction work force peak, 350; 30 operational and induced jobs, [interjections] I look at Dome Petroleum Limited, the Lindbergh field — it may be in the hon. Member for Lloydminster's constituency, although the town that will reap many benefits is in the hon. Member for St. Paul's constituency — currently a \$26 million pilot operation; a recent announcement of a \$365 million heavy oil enhanced recovery project that will produce 15,000 barrels of bitumen per day.

I go to the natural gas industry: Canadian Hunter Exploration gas plant at Elmworth, \$30 million; Shell Canada plant at Grande Prairie, \$30 million; Sulpetro gas plant expansion at Grande Prairie, \$30 million; Petro-Canada gas processing plant and pipeline, Drayton Valley-Lodgepole, \$35 million.

MRS. CRIPPS: How many jobs?

MR. ISLEY: Construction work force peak, 200; operational jobs, 15; induced, 23.

Under petrochemicals, Dow Chemical of Canada, Fort Saskatchewan: \$100 million expansion investment, work force peaking at 450, 70 permanent jobs, 105 induced jobs.

I look at mining: Union Oil and Rescon Coal Holdings at Obed-Marsh, a \$300 million investment; construction work force peak, 750; permanent ongoing jobs, 400. I look at pipeline: the Alberta Energy Company heavy oil pipeline, 24 inch diameter, currently under construction Edmonton to Cold Lake, an \$81 million expenditure, work camp at Ashmont with approximately 300 men in it; Husky Oil Operations Ltd. heavy oil pipeline, first two phases completed and clearing currently under way for the third phase, Lloydminster to Cold Lake, \$20 million.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the hon. members of the opposition that all I've announced are projects with an investment of \$20 million or over. I could stand here for some greater length of time and talk about the small \$5 million and \$7 million ones, which provide a lot of local benefits in the community in which they're located. Or if my two students would like to join me after I've finished, I will give them personal, individualized attention. [interjections] That is why I am confident to stand here and say that economic recovery is under way, indicators are at work, and Alberta's better days are ahead.

Let me move very briefly to diversification, [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ISLEY: The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition indicated that this government had been totally unsuccessful in diversification. I don't know how he judges diversification, but if you want to judge diversification, look at employment levels; that is your best indicator. Your problem is that you're using employment levels in the wrong place.

Let's look at employment levels in this province since Stats Canada started keeping accurate statistics in 1975. In 1975 there were 789,000 employed Albertans. [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ISLEY: I'll be plain here and indicate that I'm comparing a 12-month average in '75 to a nine-month average in '84, because we're only at the beginning of the 10th month. In 1975, there were 789,000 employment opportunities in Alberta; in 1984, 1,112,000 employment opportunities in Alberta. That's a 41 percent increase in employment opportunities over that nine-year period.

Where did those occur? Let's go back and take a look. Other primary industries, which includes oil and gas, which I'm identifying as the driving force that is leading our economic recovery, employed 28,000 people in 1975. In 1984 it is currently employing 73,000 people, a 160 percent increase in employment opportunities. Manufacturing, which I think one would look at if they were looking at evidence of diversification, employed 71,000 people in 1975. Today it is employing 90,000 people in Alberta, a 27 percent growth in employment opportunities. Transport and utilities, another good indicator, employed 69,000 people in 1975 and is employing 96,000 people today, a 39 percent increase. Trade should be an indicator of diversification: 147,000 employment opportunities in 1975 and 195,000 in 1984, a 33 percent growth. Finance and real estate: 36,000 employment opportunities in 1975 and 60,000 in 1984, a dramatic growth of 67 percent. Our service industry employed 206,000 people in 1975 and there are 352,000 job opportunities today, a growth of 71 percent.

Agriculture, the only sector of our economy that showed an employment decline, in 1975 employed 111,000 people and in 1984 is employing 88,000, a decline of 21 percent. But I think anyone representing a rural constituency in this Legislature knows why that decline occurred. It occurred because through technology farmers increased their production tremendously during that period of time to counter the cost/price squeeze. I suppose the one positive that is showing up now is that while over the nine-year period employment opportunities

in agriculture declined 21 percent, we may have bottomed out in 1982, when it employed 77,000 people. In 1983 it showed a growth to 80,000; in 1984 more growth to 88,000. So maybe the technological impact is over and we're going to see agriculture as a generator of employment opportunities, but only time will tell.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that if the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview would analyze and attempt to understand those figures, would use the assistance that the public provides him through his research grants or would use the assistance that I've offered in educating him, he might well stand up in this House some day and compliment us on the job of diversification.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

[Motion carried]

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I was in the process of writing the hon. leader a note to speak of next week's business, but I might as well do that for the full record now. No other business is proposed for this morning, so we will shortly be calling it 1 o'clock.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply will occupy the first couple of days next week. Evening sittings: Tuesday, yes, and Monday, no. Early next week I will give an indication as to when we might begin to call the legislation which has now been introduced.

Mr. Speaker, I move we call it 1 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Assembly agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[At 11:26 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 4, the House adjourned to Monday at 2:30 p.m.]