

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Tuesday, November 13, 1984 2:30 p.m.**

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

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Bill 227**Public Utilities Plebiscite Act**

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Bill No. 227, the Public Utilities Plebiscite Act.

The passing of this Bill would set the stage for a plebiscite to decide the issue of public power.

[Leave granted; Bill 227 read a first time]

Bill 268**Government Fair Hiring and Contracting Act**

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce Bill No. 268, the Government Fair Hiring and Contracting Act.

This Act requires that all job vacancies in government and corporations in which the government holds equity of 50 percent or more must be publicly advertised in the Alberta Bulletin and in a daily newspaper. The Bill further demands that all jobs may be filled only after an open competition among all qualified applicants for the position.

[Leave granted; Bill 268 read a first time]

Bill 269**Temporary Unemployment Measures Act**

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce Bill 269, the Temporary Unemployment Measures Act, which may ring bells for some members of this Legislature.

The methods that would be used include accelerating certain public capital works projects, providing incentive grants, providing incentives to private businesses, accelerating road construction, developing new labour-intensive building and construction projects and programs, creating joint municipal/provincial projects, and directing the Alberta Bureau of Statistics to establish a special unemployment statistics branch.

[Leave granted; Bill 269 read a first time]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. KOZIAK: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to table the annual report of the Department of Municipal Affairs for the fiscal year 1983-1984.

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to file copies of correspondence between the Peigan Band administration and

me, related to their proposal for construction of a dam on the Oldman River. This relates to a question I was asked in question period last Thursday.

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to file with the Assembly a communiqué originating from the federal/provincial conference of ministers and deputy ministers of agriculture on farm credit, held November 7 to 9, 1984 in Toronto, Ontario.

I'm also pleased to file with the Legislature three responses to private members' motions that were adopted during the spring session: one, private member's Motion No. 212, adopted by Dr. Elliot; two, private member's Motion No. 202, adopted by Mr. Halvar Jonson; and three, private member's Motion No. 203, also adopted by Mr. Halvar Jonson.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

Federal Economic Statement

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of Tourism and Small Business. It has to do with the recent federal finance statement. Has the minister asked his officials for any assessment of the impact on our tourism industry, particularly in the mountain parks region, of the federal decision to triple entrance fees for our national parks?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, not on that specific point. I can assure members that a memorandum of understanding with the federal government relative to a tourism sub-agreement, signed in Alberta in June 1984, dealt with a number of items related to the national parks system.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. Has the hon. minister asked his department for any assessment of the impact on our Alberta small-business sector of the federal decision to substantially increase fees for a number of things? I'm thinking specifically of patent registration, inspection of weighing and measuring devices, and other corporate services.

MR. ADAIR: At the moment, Mr. Speaker, we're taking a look at exactly what the implications of that document are.

Maybe I should get back to the one relative to tourism and indicate that we're putting together some papers relative to a meeting I hope to be holding with the hon. minister of Tourism in the very near future.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question to the minister. Was there any discussion between this minister and his counterpart in the federal government before they brought in these types of items under the federal finance statement?

MR. ADAIR: Which one are you referring to?

MR. MARTIN: Both of them.

MR. ADAIR: As yet I haven't had any discussions with the minister of Small Business. I've had a number of discussions with the federal minister of Tourism — as a matter of fact, probably more in the last three and a half

weeks than I had in all my term of office as Minister of Tourism and Small Business for the province of Alberta.

MR. MARTIN: That's very nice, but the discussions don't seem to have gone very far.

My question to the minister: is any review under way of the effect on small Alberta contractors and businesspeople of the federal Tory decision to eliminate CHIP, which many businesspeople relied on for survival in this province?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, I find some difficulty in responding to the actions of the federal government in the sense of what they are doing. I did say earlier, and will repeat again, that we are reviewing what was said by the minister last Thursday night. At that particular time, it will be handed down to me. We've had a number of discussions of what might be implications as we see them from our point. I haven't seen that yet.

MR. MARTIN: Just to follow up, has either the minister, in these discussions, or the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs made any representation to the federal government about the possible harmful impact of these changes on Alberta businesses? Have we made that specific representation since?

MR. ADAIR: As I said a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, until I get the document I can't make the representation. But I might ask my colleague — he's not here; possibly the Provincial Treasurer, who recently returned from meeting with some of the good people in Ottawa.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs is in Ottawa today, with the Premier, with respect to the luncheon that is being hosted by the Prime Minister. Doubtless he will have a report when he returns.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question, perhaps to the Provincial Treasurer. Is the Treasurer aware if any minister has made a representation to the federal Conservative government about the possible harmful impact some of the policies passed — i.e., CHIP and some of the others — will have on Alberta? Have we brought that to their attention?

MR. JOHNSTON: Why do you suppose the Premier is down there, Ray?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Premier is down there for the express purpose of discussing not only the economic statement but the agenda proposed by the federal government. Doubtless the response of the provincial government will be made known upon his return.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower. A number of economists and commentators have indicated that the federal Conservative financial statement will result in the loss of — the figures have ranged between 50,000 and 100,000 jobs nationwide. Has the minister any estimate of how many of those jobs will disappear in Alberta?

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have no evidence of the figures the hon. leader is referring to. We have had communications with the federal Minister of Employment and Immigration. We will be having a meeting of provincial and federal

ministers within the next six weeks, I would think. As near as I can determine, the thrust is to put forward a joint effort to assist the unemployed in Alberta and in Canada.

MR. MARTIN: So at this point the minister is not aware of the number of jobs that will be lost because of this federal financial statement, and they have not had a preliminary assessment of that. Is that what the minister is saying?

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm saying we haven't completed a full assessment of the economic statement. I do know — and I believe the hon. leader opposite knows — that the unemployed in Alberta will benefit more under Canada works than they have in many, many years.

MR. MARTIN: If that's the answer, that's a very debatable point.

A supplementary question to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. On behalf of Alberta producers, has the minister held any discussion with his federal counterpart regarding the federal Conservative decision to increase oil prices to world levels through new taxation but not to pass any of this increase on to the producers?

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, I should note at the outset that it is interesting to note that notwithstanding the hon. member's elevation to the leadership of his party, he continues to do his research through the newspapers, with predictable results.

The fact of the matter is that the petroleum compensation charge increase is an adjustment that is made periodically, pursuant to our September 1981 energy agreement. What's significant about that increase is the fact that it proves the so-called made-in-Canada oil price is of no benefit to consumers. Moreover, the increase of that levy to the world level now takes the last leg from under any argument against world price for the producers, which we'll be arguing for strenuously in the weeks and months ahead.

DR. BUCK: You're a little chippy, John.

MR. MARTIN: Yes, the Minister of Energy is a little touchy lately. Maybe he's getting some flak from the producers.

My supplementary question is to the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife. Is the Alberta government in the process of developing any new wildlife research program for this province, in view of the federal Conservative decision ...

MR. SPEAKER: I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member. I didn't realize he was going to his second question. The hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway was awaiting an opportunity to ask a supplementary on the first question.

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, I'm from Edmonton Glengarry. I've been away for two weeks, and perhaps in my absence ...

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. Just so the hon. member — I don't want to confuse him. It's Edmonton Glengarry.

MR. COOK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower. In the policy review the Leader of the Opposition requested with regard to the impact on jobs of the Hon. Michael Wilson's policy state-

ment, would the minister also consider the very favourable impact of the review of energy pricing as announced by the finance minister and correlate the increase in jobs available in the energy industry with the other industries?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member has clearly made a representation, which could perhaps be followed by the second question of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Water Management

MR. MARTIN: I'd like to direct the second question to the Minister of the Environment, and see if there is a minister on the job here today. Last Thursday evening the hon. Minister of Advanced Education, with his expertise in many areas, suggested that in his view interbasin transfer of water within the province is likely in the next several years. Can the Minister of the Environment confirm that his hon. colleague's statement was reflective of government policy?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. minister has a personal opinion on the subject. The government's position is that interbasin transfer of water is not being considered as part of the policy of this government. We are managing the water resources of this province within the basins in which they originate. The hon. member should be aware of the South Saskatchewan River basin planning program hearings now being undertaken by the Water Resources Commission of the province, which underlines the fact that we are managing water within basins and are not considering interbasin transfer of water.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. I expected that might be the answer. Maybe you could take the Minister of Advanced Education aside and have a little talk with him.

My second question has to do with the government's white paper, which says that transfer of water between major basins is ruled out within the next five years; that's the length of the paper. Does this statement mean that diversion of water within major basins, such as from the North Saskatchewan to the Bow, is still part of government water policy?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I've stated what our policy is. It's fairly clear that we are not considering major interbasin transfers of water, which would mean major interbasin transfers from the north to the south. There are examples today where, with the type of waterlines that are constructed — I'm thinking of the Mountain View waterline, which transfers water southward into the Mountain View area, as one which is in existence today. There are examples of small transfers of water in existence today.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary. Other than the one mentioned by the minister, the government has no other plans in place for diversion of water within major basins in this province. Is that government policy?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any proposals for transfer of water from the North Saskatchewan to the South Saskatchewan River basin at this time, other than those small ones that may be in existence today.

MR. MARTIN: I'd like to follow up in a specific area, if I may, Mr. Speaker. The relatively small Parkland dam

would be essential for any effort to divert water from the Bow River to the Oldman River. Our office has been told that the Parkland Hutterite colony has been approached by government agents, and tentative offers have been made for the purchase of land now owned by the colony. My very specific question is, can the minister confirm that the government is now in the process of assembling land for the Parkland dam?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of that specific project. I should emphasize for the hon. member that transfers from the Bow River system into the Oldman via the existing irrigation systems are in existence today.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. Would the minister be prepared to check to see what is going on around the Parkland dam and report back to this Assembly?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question under advisement.

MR. MARTIN: One final question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister update the Assembly on plans for dams at either the Eyremore or Dalemead sites on the Bow River?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, projects in those areas as proposed by the hon. leader are not presently under consideration.

MR. MARTIN: That brought one more question to mind, Mr. Speaker, and it's a follow-up from the Parkland. Can the minister assure this Assembly that the government is not at this time working on any plan to divert water from the Bow to the Oldman River?

MR. BRADLEY: As I have already indicated, Mr. Speaker, several transfers are currently taking place, and may take place, with regard to certain projects, and some are strongly supported by the hon. Member for Little Bow.

Heritage Savings Trust Fund

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I was a little afraid I was going to get my water cut off.

MR. CRAWFORD: There are other ways.

MR. R. SPEAKER: The words of a man of intellect and wisdom — I'll leave it at that.

My question to the Provincial Treasurer is with regard to remarks the Provincial Treasurer made some three years ago today, November 13, 1981, on the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. I'd like to ask the minister whether those remarks hold today as they did at that time. To refresh the minister's memory, I'd like to quote two or three sentences about the fund:

It is a savings fund, a trust fund. It is not an expenditure fund. It's a heritage fund, not a slush fund. It's not for pet projects. It is a savings ... fund for the future, and it involves only 30 cents of each non-renewable dollar.

This last part is what I'd like confirmation on, Mr. Speaker:

It's for that rainy day which we know is coming. We know it's coming basically because our economy is extremely dependent on that depleting resource called conventional oil.

I am wondering if the hon. minister could comment on that and confirm that that still is the policy of the government.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is correct in his quotation, although I said it much better at the time.

As the white paper indicates, an assessment of Alberta today indicates that the depletion may in fact be continuing with respect to conventional oil. But as my colleague the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources has indicated, the overall energy resources of the province are no longer depleting, by reason of the enhanced recovery programs of heavy oil and synthetic oil and of the natural gas that has been found. Accordingly that statement should probably be modified today to the extent that while conventional oil is continuing to be on a dropping line, even that, with the initiatives taken by this government and the agreement of some two years ago, is showing promise of stabilizing. In fact, there is now the prospect of having energy in large amounts well into the next century.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I certainly know that the minister was very verbal at the time, but I'm concerned about the actions since that time. Many Albertans feel that the rainy day referred to in the comment on November 13, 1981, is here today. Could the minister indicate what types of conditions were projected as rainy-day conditions at that time, November 13, 1981? Could that be defined in a clear manner? Is the government now applying its Heritage Savings Trust Fund principles to that rainy day?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, it's true that we were all contemplating that there might be a time when the revenues from our resources would drop or be less than had been traditional. That has occurred with the economic downturn of the last two years. Accordingly, as we've indicated — and I could go on at some length, but I won't — the heritage fund is being used today, and has been for the last two years, to provide a rainy-day umbrella. The \$1.5 billion of income by reason of its savings function that goes directly to support schools, hospitals, and senior citizens' programs for two months out of 12, and the heritage fund interest shielding program this year for farmers, small-business men, and homeowners: all those programs indicate that the heritage fund is in fact being used today to shelter Albertans.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I agree that those programs have been in place. Could the minister indicate what type of funds in terms of today's Heritage Savings Trust Fund are available to react to the rainy-day problems that face many Albertans?

MR. HYNDMAN: Firstly, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member well knows that this Legislature has approved the reduction from 30 percent to 15 percent of the resource revenue transfer to the heritage fund. That extra 15 percent goes into general revenues to assist the province to provide for a \$3 billion capital budget and to provide for the \$0.5 billion program for the unemployed which my colleague the Minister of Manpower has announced.

As well, starting only in recent months, the total transfer of all the income of the heritage fund benefits Albertans daily in a direct way. It keeps the taxes the lowest in the country, disposable income the highest in the country, allows

for the capital building program, and very directly provides an evident, visible, and massive rainy-day umbrella for Albertans.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Provincial Treasurer. That's a very fine set of remarks that we've heard. I'd like to refer again to the minister's remarks on November 13, 1981, with regard to the amount of funds available. The minister went on to say that

about 90 per cent of the investments of the heritage fund earn income in a direct way. We should remember that the heritage fund has very little cash in it: less than half of 1 per cent of the fund is in cash form. Less than half of 1 per cent is in a form where a person could go to a current account and ask for a withdrawal of some moneys. The heritage fund is long-term; it is committed; it is locked in.

Could the minister confirm at this time that that circumstance prevails today as it did on November 13, 1981?

MR. HYNDMAN: That's true. I don't know the exact percentage, Mr. Speaker, but certainly money is not kept available in cash. For example, the moneys available under section 10, the marketable securities division, are all at work and invested from day to day. As the hon. member knows, that figure is in the range of about \$1 billion, as indicated in the last annual report.

There is need for some flexibility, particularly with the resource revenue transfer going down from 30 percent to 15 percent, particularly with the ongoing commitments to the capital projects division, which the hon. member has endorsed. We have to realize that only the investment of those dollars in that section 10 enables the income to be generated to generate that money into the General Revenue Fund which, as I mentioned, keeps taxes down, pays for the programs, and avoids the province being hit with either a reduction in services or an increase in taxes.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Part of my question was not answered by the minister, in terms of the quote:

less than half of 1 percent is in a form where a person could go to a current account and ask for a withdrawal of some of the moneys.

That refers to the investment division. Would that same percentage in terms of the investment division prevail today? If we were to walk in and it was classed as a current account, could we withdraw less than 1 percent of the fund in terms of liquidated cash?

MR. HYNDMAN: It is probably in that range, Mr. Speaker; I don't have the exact number as mentioned. But it would not be prudent financing and it would be foolish to have moneys simply lying in an account in cash, not earning interest and not at work for citizens of Alberta. So these moneys are invested in the short term, the middle term, or the long term — for example, in the Canada investment division, for an average of 11.7 years — and therefore follow prudent investment principles. That is why we have the income return of over 13 percent going to help this year's budget and to pay for the programs to keep taxes low, as I mentioned.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my questioning is certainly not in that vein; it is just to try to determine the amount of money available for Albertans for that rainy day.

Last Friday I raised a question with regard to the Canada investment division and the agreements with other provinces being tabled in the Legislature. I am wondering if the Provincial Treasurer would take it upon himself to table those agreements in the Legislature. I've checked with the library, and they've not been tabled. I'd appreciate those being made available to us. Would the Provincial Treasurer undertake that?

MR. HYNDMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'll be happy to and will undertake to table them all.

MR. MARTIN: One supplementary question to the hon. Treasurer, Mr. Speaker. One of the recommendations of the heritage trust fund committee a year ago was the possibility of freeing some money tied up in our Crown corporations like AGT and trying to get that money in the open market. Has the government assessed that, and what recommendations are they making to the Assembly about that?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, that was one of the recommendations that is not entirely parallel to the general savings philosophy of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. If at some future date there were a situation wherein that kind of activity and the sale of those kinds of assets was prudent — bearing in mind their term, the savings nature of the fund, and what else the money might be used for — it could be considered, and I've indicated that in the discussion with the heritage fund select committee. At the moment it's not something I would be recommending.

Eastern Slopes Policy

MR. McPHERSON: Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife. I'm referring to A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes, Revised 1984. In that document the following comment is made:

The policy is sufficiently flexible so that all future proposals for land use and development may be considered. No legitimate proposals will be categorically rejected.

From that comment in the preface of this policy document, can we draw the conclusion that uncontrolled development will now be allowed to occur in the Eastern Slopes irrespective of environmental concerns?

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Speaker, that comment definitely allows and is a signal to the community that we will look at proposals. You cannot plan for unknown economic opportunities, and the whole proposal toward planning is to facilitate the future needs of Albertans. At the same time, that policy very definitely addresses the major issue, which is the protection of our environment and our watershed in that area.

MR. McPHERSON: A supplemental, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister describe the extent of public input that was encouraged or took place with regard to the revision of this document?

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Speaker, the original '77 policy was adopted by government. Since then numerous integrated management plans have been taking place. I think there are seven in the Eastern Slopes area. Many of the participants

in those planning teams and the public consultants to those planning teams have continually presented issues to the committee. My predecessor started a review of the Eastern Slopes policy prior to my taking office, and that public input continued until adoption of the policy in 1984.

MR. McPHERSON: A supplemental, Mr. Speaker. Can one then understand that the integrated regional plans will take precedence over the major policy in relation to development proposals?

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Speaker, the integrated management plans will supercede the Eastern Slopes policy after they are completed and approved. There are seven integrated management plans in process in the Eastern Slopes now, and four more are just starting or are to be undertaken. When those plans are finalized, they will supercede the Eastern Slopes policy. It is most vital that public input be received through the integrated management planning process, which is being done on a more detailed basis, area by area, throughout the Eastern Slopes.

MR. McPHERSON: A supplemental, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. It's my understanding that a recent paper entitled Coal Development Policy for Alberta, revised 1984, contains virtually the same clause I referred to in the Eastern Slopes policy: no legitimate development proposal will be categorically rejected. Can the minister confirm that wildlife sanctuaries, heritage sites, provincial parks, and wilderness areas — those kinds of restricted areas — will now be considered for coal mine development?

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Assembly that there has been no change in the coal policy of the government of Alberta to this point in time. At the departmental level, we are currently engaged in an assessment of the coal policy of Alberta that was enunciated in 1976. During the course of that review, which is now at the point of inviting public input in various areas, one of the areas of discussion will be whether or not there should be any change in the current four categories. That is very much a subject for discussion. No decisions have been taken and, importantly, there will be an assurance that appropriate environmental protection will remain in place.

MR. McPHERSON: One final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, if I may. Could either minister indicate if they received representations in the past on the former Eastern Slopes policy, in that there may have been too many restrictions for possible development in the province of Alberta with respect to natural resources?

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Speaker, I and my department have received numerous complaints about the restrictiveness or tone of the document, financial institutions being very touchy about the total restrictiveness. In several locations that tone in the policy has changed to accommodate those complaints.

Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance

MR. MUSGROVE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Provincial Treasurer. In view of the fact that diesel fuel is relatively the same price whether it is through a retail outlet or from a bulk dealer to a farmer, contractor, or commercial trucker, and considering the fact that it is the same price

to the farmer after the 7-cent farm fuel distribution allowance has been refunded, and considering the fact that if you use large volumes of diesel fuel, whether you are a farmer, a contractor, or whatever, you can still negotiate a better price for your diesel fuel, does the Provincial Treasurer believe farmers are getting the benefit from the farm fuel distribution allowance?

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect to the hon. member, this would be an out-and-out matter of opinion, concerning which there might be a great variety. It's really not a question that's seeking facts.

MR. MUSGROVE: Perhaps I could have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Considering the fact that farm people have really endorsed the administration method of the farm fuel distribution allowance, would the minister consider looking into the prices charged by oil companies for different kinds of diesel fuel?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I do believe they are largely getting the benefit of the farm fuel distribution allowance. However, it's important to realize that with the delivery method that was put forward, which is now in statute and regulation, it's not perfect. The best reliance by farmers should be upon shopping around, being competitive, and getting the best deal by visiting the various outlets of every kind.

When the present delivery method of the farm fuel distribution allowance of some \$75 million was established, it was done in such a way as to have a simplified approach with an immediate benefit: no necessity of filling in forms, except one declaration that a person is involved in farming operations, and no waiting for a refund cheque. So when there are supply-and-demand situations and price wars from time to time, it may be necessary for farmers to be particularly vigilant in shopping around for the best deal.

With respect to the oil companies, I'd be happy to pass along and inquire of the oil companies with respect to the submission made by the member and any other members, particularly the Member for Vermilion-Viking, who brought this up last Wednesday.

MR. HYLAND: A supplementary question to the Provincial Treasurer, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that he encouraged farmers to shop around for the best price. If this problem continues, would he consider changing the legislation and allowing that in exceptional circumstances, if farmers find it cheaper to buy at a service station, they could apply to the provincial government for the farm fuel distribution allowance?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member's question is clearly based on an "if". The hon. Provincial Treasurer might be able to read it otherwise.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I think the farm fuel distribution allowance is, and has been welcomed by farmers as, a significant way to reduce farm input costs. If problems arise in future in the delivery of that significant benefit of \$75 million this year, we would respond appropriately so that the full benefit is available.

Lubicon Lake Indian Band

DR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister responsible for Native Affairs is with regard to the Ombudsman's report of August 1984 concerning the complaints of the Lubicon Lake Indian Band. What action has the minister undertaken with regard to that report?

MR. PAHL: Mr. Speaker, I could indicate that there were three specific recommendations in the Ombudsman's report, but I should remind the House that there was "no factual basis" for the very serious allegations made by the World Council of Churches and so enthusiastically advanced by the NDP in this House.

With respect to the three recommendations by the Ombudsman, they were fully and completely supported by the government. The first was with regard to the trappers' compensation program, that a reporting system should be developed to accommodate the cultural differences of native people. Secondly, there was a suggestion that trapper notification be advanced. In that regard there will be continuation of a special procedure established in the 1983-84 trapping season and in all likelihood, on the basis of that recommendation, it will be expanded to other parts of the province. Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, there was a recommendation that native interpreters be provided to explain complicated legal matters and obligations to native Albertans with perhaps a limited command of the English language. A roster of competent interpreters is being established.

DR. CARTER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister of native affairs has been good enough to forward a copy of the report to the World Council of Churches and to make himself available for further consultation if they care to carry it out.

MR. PAHL: I haven't taken that initiative, Mr. Speaker. But as always, I remain willing to respond to any inquiries.

DR. CARTER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. While he's sending his correspondence to Geneva, I wonder if the minister has been in contact with his federal counterpart with regard to the Lubicon land claims and if he would be good enough to report to the House on the current status of the claims.

MR. PAHL: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have contacted my federal counterpart by letter, and he has responded. In response to my letter, he indicated that he shares my priority of the Lubicon settlement as a matter of mutual concern. I might report to the House that since this matter was last discussed, the government of Alberta has provided the genealogical information gathered on the Lubicon Band to the federal government for its use, and presumably to share with the Lubicon Band. On the basis of that information, Mr. Speaker, it was determined that fewer than a dozen people within the Lubicon area could not be traced back to ancestors who had either accepted title or scrip. We provided that information to the federal government to share with the Lubicon Band, with the hope that they could perhaps add to that information.

Inasmuch as the federal minister has indicated that it's a concern of his, and inasmuch as we haven't had a formal response to a treaty land entitlement, I have to feel, Mr. Speaker and members of the House, that the matter now rests with the people of Lubicon Lake who claim to form an Indian band.

DR. CARTER: My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister of Education. One of the ongoing concerns of the Lubicon Lake people is the matter of education, and that gets wrapped up in the matter of construction of a school and the adequate and proper education of their

children. Has the reorganization of the Northland School Division been able to meet any of these concerns?

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, the answer is that in the short term, reorganization has not been able to deal with the particular concerns of the Lubicon Lake Band and that community, but we are hopeful that we will be able to make progress in the near future. If worse comes to worst, we will do exactly what we have done in other communities within the Northland School Division; that is, build the schools whether or not we have an agreement with the federal government and trust that the federal government will see the wisdom of that course of action and sign the agreements sometime during the course of construction.

Spouses' Pension Benefits

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health. In the budget address last week, the federal minister indicated that the federal government is going to follow Alberta's good example of spouses' pension benefits regarding widows and widowers aged 60 to 65. Has the minister been able to assess the impact of the announcement on the Alberta program?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, not completely. The details of that announcement are not known yet. As the hon. member indicated, the current federal program is the extended spouses' allowance. That's a program under old age security that pays a benefit to eligible widows and widowers between the ages of 60 and 64, where the spouse was in receipt of old age security and the guaranteed income supplement at the time of death. The extension of that program announced last week is to all widows and widowers between the ages of 60 and 64.

As hon. members know, our current widows' program applies to those between the ages of 55 and 64. The benefits under that program amount to about \$624 a month, and the benefits under the federal program for spousal allowance comes to \$508 a month, so our widows' pension program is somewhat better. We haven't had a chance to see the details of the federal program, to see how we can make these two programs work together.

As of July this year, about 2,000 persons between the ages of 60 and 64 were on Alberta's widows' pension program, so those people could be affected. I said "affected", but certainly we would assure that all the benefits they are now receiving would continue to be received in the future.

MR. PAPROSKI: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister of Social Services and Community Health give a date when the federal program is to commence?

DR. WEBBER: I think it is July 1, 1985, Mr. Speaker, but I would have to check.

MRS. CRIPPS: Would it be the intention of the provincial government to pick up the difference between the five hundred and whatever amount you noted there and the \$624, plus the additional benefits that widows or widowers now derive from the Alberta program?

DR. WEBBER: That certainly is one possibility, Mr. Speaker. We would not want, nor would we have, a widow or widower receiving benefits today to have a reduction in benefits because of the introduction of the federal program.

If their program is less than ours, I think it would be reasonable to assume that we would pick up the difference.

Senate Reform

MR. STILES: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Member for Calgary Currie in his capacity as chairman of the Select Committee on Senate Reform. Can the chairman confirm whether or not it is the position of the committee that it will not consider as an alternative for reform of the Senate the proposal known as the Triple E: elected, equal, effective?

MR. SPEAKER: I have a little difficulty with this, not because it's addressed to a private member — because in view of the private member having this special duty or assignment, I think that would make the question in order — but there is some difficulty with a committee reporting ahead of time; in other words, getting the report out in the question period. It seems to me that the committee's report as to what position it's taking on various questions should come out in the usual way.

MR. STILES: With all respect, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I'm asking the chairman if he is in a position to confirm whether the committee is considering this proposal as an alternative.

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, if I might answer that question briefly, the committee has at this point made no decisions and has excluded no possibilities.

Specifically with regard to the Triple E proposal, however, I think it would be fair to say that in light of the priority given that proposal by participants in the public hearings this summer, it would be at or near the top of the short list the committee is considering.

MR. STILES: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the chairman advise the Assembly if the committee will be providing more opportunity for public input in its deliberations?

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, the committee had 92 presentations from groups and organizations throughout the summer. It has chosen to send letters to all of those 92, asking for their further participation in answering questions we have before we can make a recommendation to this Assembly. We've further done that with other colleagues in legislatures throughout the country. Through that process, I think we'll have a good idea of what concerned Albertans feel on the issue of Senate reform.

MR. STILES: One further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the chairman give the Assembly some idea of when it will be making its recommendations?

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, though the committee cannot give a definite date, it is still planning to keep its original schedule, which is to report to this Assembly some time in the April-May period of next year.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Wainwright; we're running close to the end of the question period, but the hon. Attorney General wishes to deal with an answer previously given.

MR. FISCHER: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Agriculture ...

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, that's the hon. Minister of Social Services and Community Health. I got my Neils mixed up.

Red Meat Stabilization Plan

MR. FISCHER: Concerning the meeting of the agriculture ministers in Ottawa last week on the red meat stabilization plan, did discussion take place regarding a provincial incentive program such as the \$100 per head retained heifer program that Quebec recently introduced?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it was discussed at a brief meeting between the original signatories of the agreement to proceed with the development of a red meat stabilization program, those provinces being Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and the federal government.

We didn't get into any detail about a red meat stabilization program, but we did discuss with the federal minister what action he will be taking and his timing with respect to legislation. His answer was that he would be moving very soon — very soon being 1984 — to put legislation into the House that would enable a red meat stabilization plan to be put into place. It would be some time after that that federal/provincial agreements would be signed and a red meat stabilization program would be in place.

With respect to details on numbers, that is something that would have to be worked out with the officials of the provinces participating in the plan before the final signing of an agreement.

MR. FISCHER: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Are the provinces prepared to have a uniform, market-neutral, non-toploading plan?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, that was part of the guiding principles that were part of the original agreement. To proceed with legislation, there is no way we in Alberta would be prepared to sign any agreement that wasn't actuarially sound, market-neutral, and voluntary.

MRS. CRIPPS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Did any discussions take place with regard to our position in the North American market, given the European imports?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: No, Mr. Speaker. However, there has been discussion between me and the federal minister over the past couple of weeks, in which we alerted him to the concern about importation of the product and the impact it was having on our producers in this province. As I understand it, he has it under advisement.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day, and might we revert ... Sorry, the hon. Minister for Social Services and Community Health.

Spouses' Pension Benefits (continued)

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, not only do you mix me up, you ignore me. I think your confusion stems from the fact that we're Neils. One of us is known as old Neil and the other one as young Neil, but I'll leave it at that.

I just want to indicate that the proposed federal program will start in the fall of 1985. I mentioned July 1, 1985, and said I'd have to check. I've checked it, and it's the fall of '85.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Might we revert to Introduction of Special Guests, and then I believe the hon. Member for Calgary Foothills has a point to raise which was described to me as a point of privilege.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce to you and to Members of the Legislative Assembly a group of 24 senior citizens from the town of Millet, which is in the Wetaskiwin-Leduc constituency. They are accompanied by their group leader, Mrs. R. Plant. I would like them to rise and accept the warm welcome of this House.

MRS. KOPER: Mr. Speaker, a point of privilege. This week has been declared Ukrainian Women's Week in Edmonton. I wish to call to the attention of hon. members that 1984 marks the 100th anniversary of the Ukrainian women's movement, it having been started in 1884 in the Ukraine by Natalia Kobrynska. Natalia Kobrynska knew that it was difficult for women to attain their goals and made it her goal to unite the women of the Ukraine. With the help of the poet Ivan Franko, she published the first women's almanac, containing literary pieces from Ukrainian women.

When we consider the events of history that led to the organization of this movement and the events that have followed in the struggles for power in the Ukraine, one can understand why it's important to mark this celebration of the anniversary of this organization.

Mr. Speaker, while I am not a Ukrainian, my husband is of Ukrainian descent. When we were first married, I knew very little of the history of the Ukraine. But over the years I've gained a great appreciation of their struggle in former years and of the history that has tried to sever the bonds of their culture and their families. Over my married life I have watched the Ukrainian community grow in strength in Calgary, and indeed in all of Alberta. I'm pleased that this organization has been formed in Canada, because we have never had to face the horrors of occupation because of a great war and the consequent denial of the freedoms that we consider our basic right.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday we commemorated the loss of thousands of lives that were given to defend the rights and freedoms that we hold so highly. I think it is a question, though, whether or not we can fully understand the loss of liberties and their importance to the life of each individual without ourselves experiencing such a loss. Instead, perhaps we must listen to those who have suffered or those who are presently suffering under conditions that are hard for

us to even imagine. We've been brought up in a free country, without a constant sense of fear and suspicion.

Mr. Speaker, when His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was given an honorary doctorate from the University of Alberta in this city, he talked about a mysterious paradox that exists and is described by those who have undergone extreme spiritual or physical suffering during imprisonment, and how they have also experienced a fulfillment of the soul undreamed of by people who have not experienced such captivity. Prominent Ukrainian women are presently being held in Soviet prison camps, and they are continuing their struggle to maintain the Ukrainian identity under Soviet rule. Despite their imprisonment, they are creating works of literature that are finding their way into the free world and inspiring all of us by their translation and publication. Mr. Speaker, I believe many of the women who are celebrating Ukrainian Women's Week here in Edmonton are close to understanding the precious freedoms that we sometimes take very much for granted.

I hope the four organizations of the Ukrainian Women's Movement will be celebrating even more than their culture and their heritage this week. May their celebrations also celebrate our multicultural freedom here in Canada and in Alberta, so it can shine like a beacon to all those throughout the world who suffer in silence the loss of their rights.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [applause]

head: **WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

185. Mr. Martin asked the government the following question: With regard to the disaster assistance payments made to various residents of the Valleyview area following serious flooding on July 25 and 26, 1983:

- (1) how many applications for assistance were received;
- (2) how many applicants eventually received assistance;
- (3) what was the total amount of assistance received by those affected;
- (4) when was the department made aware that indeed a disaster had occurred;
- (5) between what dates was the resultant damage assessed by the department;
- (6) between what dates were the applications for assistance received;
- (7) between what dates were the applications for assistance approved;
- (8) between what dates were the affected individuals paid;
- (9) what evaluation, if any, has the department made of the allegation that the degree of seriousness of the flooding was largely the result of the faulty installation of a culvert?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if the information is available for all the years described, and I ask that Question 186 stand.

[Motion carried]

head: **GOVERNMENT DESIGNATED BUSINESS**

[On motion, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of the Whole]

head: **GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS** (Committee of the Whole)

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the committee please come to order. We have a number of Bills for consideration in committee this afternoon.

Bill 70 **Municipal Tax Exemption** **Amendment Act, 1984**

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment for this Bill. Are there any questions or comments regarding the amendment?

[Motion on amendment carried]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions or comments regarding the amended Bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. HIEBERT: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 70 as amended be reported.

[Motion carried]

Bill 79 **Public Utilities Board** **Amendment Act, 1984**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions or comments regarding the sections of this Bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 79, Public Utilities Board Amendment Act, 1984, be reported.

[Motion carried]

Bill 82 **Alberta Cultural Heritage Act**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions or comments regarding the sections of this Act?

MR. BATIUK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a few comments in lending my support to the Alberta Cultural Heritage Act, which makes provision for the preservation, encouragement, support, and respect of the ethnocultural groups which have played a very important role in this province and this country. I think their contributions have made Canada the best country in the world and Alberta the best province in Canada.

Our government has committed itself to the ethnocultural groups. When you think back, the Premier brought in his first piece of legislation, the Alberta Bill of Rights, in the spring of 1972. There was a provision in it that the welcome was extended to anybody, regardless of his religious creed or race, who was willing to be a loyal citizen in this province. I believe it has been continued, and this Act is going to even strengthen it.

Mr. Chairman, I am a Canadian of Ukrainian origin, and I must say that I too have watched our cultural group expand and progress in this province. The first Ukrainian immigrant, Wasyl Eleniak, came to Canada in 1891. He resided and farmed in the Chipman area, which is in the Vegreville constituency, until he passed away in 1956 at the age of 96. I am sure most hon. members are aware of the contributions the third largest ethnic group in Alberta has made over the years. Particularly in the Vegreville constituency, we have very many ethnic groups. Just looking in the telephone directory gives an indication.

Being honoured by the Minister of Culture to serve as chairman of the advisory board of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village — this too has played a very important role. On Friday we had one of our regular meetings, and it was very pleasing to see two groups come in — one from northern Alberta and one from southern Alberta — to view the function of our meeting and how we go about it. With co-operation such as this, I think ethnocultural activities are going to spread. One only has to visit Edmonton on the first Monday of August every year and there is an indication of all the groups' contributions to society. I think the Alberta heritage council is going to do the work in its administration and also advice to the minister.

Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say I support this Bill wholeheartedly and even commend the minister for her dedication in this portfolio.

Thank you.

MR. KOWALSKI: I'm really delighted to be able to stand in my place today and make a few comments with respect to the Alberta Cultural Heritage Act. At the outset I would like to commend the Hon. Mary LeMessurier, Minister of Culture, for having the foresight and integrity to bring this Bill forward at this time in Alberta.

Alberta is a multicultural province; it always has been a multicultural province. I only hope that we will retain the multitude of heritages we have in our province and, as we look at all the ethnic and cultural groups, maintain the perspective we have always had: we are one, but in many ways we are many. The strength of this province is in no way minimized by that fact that we've all been able to get together and serve the history and the people of this province as a part of the whole world scenario and the whole world scene.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that on November 7, 1984, when my very good friend and colleague the MLA for Edmonton Belmont was participating in the debate on this Bill, he mentioned the fact that he was among the first of the ethnic Poles, I guess, in the province of Alberta to have been elected to this esteemed Assembly. I would like to point out to him — because he did give us the option by saying "subject to correction" when he thought he was the first of Polish ethnic heritage to have been elected here — that he is in fact wrong. In 1971 Dr. Ken Paproski sat in this Assembly. He was followed by another Paproski, Mr. Carl Paproski, and another Pole by the name of Kowalski, who was elected in 1979. So Mr. Szwender, the Member for Edmonton Belmont, is really the fourth in line, and we certainly welcome him to this Assembly.

The diversity of our province, as I've already mentioned, is made up of many, many different people from all parts of the world. When you take a look at this particular Bill and the objectives that are brought forward dealing with the foundation and the cultural heritage division — five items are listed:

- (a) to encourage respect for the cultural heritage of Alberta;
- (b) to promote tolerance and understanding of others through appreciation of the ethno-cultures that make up the cultural heritage of Alberta;
- (c) to recognize that the presence of ethno-cultural groups in Alberta provides Albertans with an opportunity to develop relationships with other countries;
- (d) to foster an environment in which volunteer groups and individuals can contribute to the cultural heritage of Alberta;
- (e) to enhance the cultural heritage of Alberta so that present and future Albertans can benefit from its richness and diversity.

I think they are really tremendous objectives for all of us to aim for. I'm really proud of the fact that all of us can travel from one part of the province to another and meet people from other lands, cultures, and heritages, yet we all feel together and all feel at home in this province.

The second major thing I very much appreciate with respect to the Bill is clause 3. It basically indicates that by law

the first Monday in August in each year shall be observed as a day of public celebration and known as "Alberta Heritage Day".

I can think of no greater festival we in Alberta can have each year than the festival known as Alberta Heritage Day. My family annually attends the Heritage Day celebrations in Edmonton. We're absolutely overwhelmed by the fact that upwards of a quarter to a third of a million people can gather for one or two days to share, to be together, to exchange, and to learn from one another. To be repetitious on this point, I can honestly say that nothing moves me like seeing so many different people together yet all in one. This Bill will set the course for further tradition in our province.

Mr. Chairman, I want to conclude my brief remarks this afternoon by giving you and all members of this Assembly 50 reasons why I say with pride and thanks that this Bill is extremely important to the people of Alberta. I want to give you the 50 reasons: Wegner, Breitreitz, Percy, Slemko, Dixon, Basaati, Schultz, Barton, Sanderman, Bennett, Baron, DeGroot, Fegyverneki, Smith, Hove, Johnson, Lam, Lee, Lindquist, Lindstrom, Stocking, Henke, Martin, Teske, Miller, Gurevitch, Hoyda, LeMessurier, Schmidt, Majeau, Nordlund, Veltman, Visser, Towers, LeFebvre, Steinbring, Elgersma, Vander-molen, Zilli, Bilob-roka, Properzi, Prokuda, Lehr, Standeven, Skaret, Tausher, Spitzer, Tredget, Litke, and Mohlo.

Those are only a small segment of the various names of the people who live in the constituency of Barrhead. The 50 names represent upwards of 50 different ethnic origins or cultures and different types of people. Yet our constituency has elected an Albertan by the name of Kowalski, who happens to be married to a woman whose maiden name was Campeau. I can think of no greater endorsement of the heritage of Alberta than simply to read into the record 52 reasons why I'm extremely proud of this Bill and extremely proud to be a citizen of our province.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to add some remarks to those that have already been made in the Legislature congratulating the Minister of Culture for bringing Bill 82, the Alberta Cultural Heritage Act, into the House. It's an important piece of legislation, in that it renews Alberta's

commitment to multiculturalism and the importance of the many cultures to our society.

I was thinking about a gentleman I know quite well, who came over many, many years ago from what was then Syria and is now Lebanon. His name is Hamilton. I asked him one day, "How did you get the name Hamilton?" He said it was really difficult going through the immigration process. "I kept saying to the immigration officer what my name was, and he couldn't get it right. So I finally picked the name of the fellow next to me, which was Hamilton." The gentleman's name was Abougouche, so I can understand why the immigration officer had some difficulty getting the name right.

Many of the early pioneers who had such a great hand in building our province came from many lands and suffered in terms of the kinds of hardships they experienced in the early days prior to Alberta becoming a province. I know many of us in the Assembly have examples of those kinds of pioneers. We can't discuss this Bill without recognizing the huge contribution made by the earlier pioneers from many, many lands.

[Mr. Purdy in the Chair]

There's a passage in the Koran that says: I have made you into separate nations so that you know one another. That's a very loose translation from the Arabic. That particular passage has had discussion over the centuries as to what was meant and what was contemplated. I think the passage is really consistent with the legislation the Minister of Culture has introduced in Bill 82; that is, that we recognize the various cultures and ethnic backgrounds because they have so much to contribute to the strength and diversity of our country.

The kinds of contributions that have been made have been outlined by a number of members. I would like to conclude by saying that these Albertans who have come from so many lands combine a fierce love for our country of Canada, a strong, strong patriotism, as well as the desire to retain as much of their culture as they can. In that sense, Canada is different from the United States. We encourage the multicultural aspect and the strengthening of our country by way of recognition and retention of the many cultures, as opposed to the melting pot theory and practice that goes on in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the minister, the cabinet committee, and the council, all of whom worked for many, many hours to develop the policy and this subsequent legislation. I know it will serve our province well for decades to come.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity this afternoon to make a few comments on this very important Bill. I particularly want to make some observations, first of all because of my responsibility on the cabinet committee in question and also because of my particular responsibilities relative to the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Chairman, I begin by indicating that over the years since 1972, we in Alberta have been very proud of the work that has been accomplished through the Alberta Bill of Rights and the Individual's Rights Protection Act. I see this new Bill as a further brick built upon a very solid foundation, a foundation which, in the basis that is presented by the Alberta Bill of Rights and the Individual's Rights Protection Act, really tries to prevent or discourage people

from actions which discriminate against others. This Bill goes much further. It tries to create an understanding and an awareness of the fellow man who is our neighbour in this province. As the Human Rights Commission has found, it's very tough to say don't discriminate, because people often have pretty closed minds. They see themselves as, if not perfect, at least perfect in respect of their attitudes toward others. In a broad generalization, they don't appreciate that they are in fact discriminating. I think this Bill is very valuable in that it has for its focus the effort to have those cultures in this province flourish. In their flourishing, they will of course be evident to all of us. Through understanding, I think we will remove much of the concern for discrimination.

Perhaps I could take a page out of my youth, which won't interest most people and is far back in the recesses of my mind. I grew up in a province very different from Alberta, and there were two languages spoken in my community. As a little child, I went to a one-room school, as we did in the country in those days. There were two one-room schools sort of at opposite sides of the community. We met one another as students, the French kids — as we referred to them — going to their school and the English kids going to their school. In our situation we had the religious complexity to add to it; it was actually the Protestant kids going to their school and the Catholic kids going to their school. The interesting thing was that as we met one another, we were very careful. If we met on the road, one group went on one side of the road and the other on the other side. Oftentimes we didn't even stay to the road. There was such a lack of communication and appreciation that one group — and I shouldn't really refer to a group because there would be only three or four of us walking along — would take to the field or to the ditch or some other route.

Thinking back to that time, when there was no television, there were only the stories which really didn't come from our parents so much as they came from us as we sort of talked to one another in our little separate groups and reflected upon the attitudes of each other, attitudes which we were reinforcing internally. That's the kind of thing I came to regret very much in later years. We had an opportunity to practise another language, but we didn't have an incentive to do it through the institutional structure of our schools. That was also the situation through the institutions in our social life. What it did for many years was to deprive both groups of an understanding of the other. I say that here because I think that was one of the scars upon our society which very much affected the relationships we have seen in Canada for many, many years.

As we grew into adulthood, I think on both sides we learned to speak one another's language at least somewhat. But it's rather late in the day, and those memories go back a long way. Of course many of them were repeated to others who had no understanding, which I'm sure led to a greater lack of understanding as well.

Mr. Chairman, in addressing this Bill, I want to reflect upon the co-operation which the Alberta Human Rights Commission has enjoyed from the Department of Culture and also from some of the cultural heritage groups. A number of programs the commission has undertaken have been with the very direct assistance of the Department of Culture and the experts in that department. They have also been vetted by the cultural groups. As well, the commission has a practice of meeting with different ethnocultural groups to try to get a better understanding of their day-to-day

challenges as they perceive them. I wanted to mention that fact and the fact that there has been a great deal of co-operation and mutual support. I look forward to even further support in that direction in the future.

This year the commission undertook a program which had tolerance and understanding as its theme. You may recall the Alberta is for All of Us slogan which was used. That was a very useful program and, again, it had the support of the Department of Culture and many different cultural groups who were involved.

Mr. Chairman, I think Alberta has also had an opportunity which is reflected in the gains we've made in the export/import business, which is of course a big boon to our economic situation. We have a special opportunity because of the many different backgrounds and many different languages that are spoken. The Minister of International Trade has told us many times how valuable it is to understand not just the language but the culture of the nation with whom we are trading. I think this particular Bill is directed at enlarging the role in that economic area of those Albertans of different cultural backgrounds, and that's an area that is beneficial to us all in a very direct sense.

Mr. Chairman, I want to conclude with a comment that although we can legislate, I believe the real benefits and gains are going to be made by the volunteers in the ethnocultural communities who make sure that we as a government are fully aware of the talents they have to offer and the contacts they have in their particular homelands. To that degree, I would commend all those people, especially those I've had the pleasure to work with, as part of the ministerial committee, on the development of this new policy. They have committed many, many hours, strictly on a volunteer basis. They have not had an easy time. In developing the comments they put forward to us, I am sure they went through many hours of debate and at times a great deal of criticism while an understanding was worked out within their respective communities.

Mr. Chairman, it's a pleasure for me to support this Bill this afternoon.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, of course I too support the Bill wholeheartedly. But I want to bring one or two things to the attention of the committee. As a person of a minority background, I want to warn members of the committee that by indicating that we come from different ethnic backgrounds and by being a little bit nationalistic in displaying those backgrounds, we sometimes have to be careful that we don't make this a divisive thing rather than a cohesive one.

When the B and B, the bilingual and bicultural, situation was mishandled — I say "mishandled", because to me it could have been handled very, very simply. It could have been handled so simply that no politician would ever think of it. All you'd have to do is say to each province: here's your share of the money; hire yourself some qualified French teachers. We would have then made it a cultural thing. I would have insisted that my children start in grade 1 and take, say, the first five years of their education fully bilingual. Once you learn a language up to that age, you never forget it. I was raised on the farm, and we spoke nothing but Ukrainian. I moved into town when I was in grade 1, and I hardly spoke the language at all after that time. But to this day I have not forgotten the language. I can understand it. The more you use it — if you need to, it comes back to you. That's the way the B and B thing

should have been handled. It should have been a cultural thing; it shouldn't have been forced.

When the Constitution came back to Canada, Mr. Chairman — I think some members will remember when I spoke on that in this Assembly. I said: as of that day, I am no longer a Ukrainian Canadian; I am a Canadian of Ukrainian extraction. My wife is a Canadian of Scottish extraction or background. I think we have to remember that these things must be cultural, so our children can see the different cultural backgrounds, the difference between the Ukrainian and Polish people who come from the same part of Europe. There are cultural differences, so we want to be able to appreciate those differences. We can see that people are a little bit different, but what we have in common is that we are all Canadians and Albertans. I think we have to make sure that this becomes a cohesive force and not a divisive one.

Mr. Chairman, with those few words, I certainly support the Bill. But I just want to give this one word of warning: we don't want to get so carried away with our former ethnic and cultural backgrounds that we forget that first and foremost we are Canadians.

MR. McPHERSON: Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to rise for a few brief moments to extend some remarks on Bill 82 to the Committee of the Whole, in full knowledge that much has been articulated very, very well so far by other members. Possibly other members would also like to engage in the debate, so I will keep my remarks brief. But I want to seize this opportunity to acknowledge this Act, support it to the greatest extent possible, and perhaps briefly outline some of the personal reasons I have for supporting this Bill as I do.

Mr. Chairman, when I was newly elected, shortly after November 2, 1982, one of the first public functions I participated in was a gathering of the Alberta Cultural Heritage Council in Red Deer. I have attended many other ethnocultural activities in Red Deer since that date, and I've always found them to be so much fun. They're fun because the people involved have such an exuberance for life. They have such a commitment to their choice of where they are making their lives; that is, in Alberta. They strike me as having so many of the important attributes of the pioneers who formed this province and made it great.

Mr. Chairman, I recall well the first time I had an opportunity to address this Legislature in my maiden speech shortly after our election. At that time I tried to trace for members the movement of the McPherson family to Alberta in 1883. I tried to express the pride that I as a fourth-generation Albertan — my son being a fifth-generation Albertan — had in this province and the commitment, if you will, of our pioneers. They seemed to exemplify the values of self-reliance, independence, and a willingness to strive on their own to achieve their goals: all of those attributes that, frankly, I find so common even today in many of the diverse ethnocultural groups who make their choice to settle in this province.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps the most important element of this Bill and Bills similar to it, the efforts of the government, is that it really does reflect on the government's encouragement of the volunteer sector. Obviously in the community of Red Deer there's a multiplicity of ethnocultural groups, and I would simply like to take this opportunity to commend them for their great dedication to the voluntary effort in the city of Red Deer and the central Alberta area.

Mr. Chairman, it strikes me that the people who have become involved in the ethnocultural groups in Red Deer want to become involved. One of the things about Bill 82 that I'm so very, very pleased about is that it reconfirms the government's commitment to the Cultural Heritage Council, and it extends to that council greater participation by ethnocultural groups and volunteer organizations. It does that by establishing eight regional councils and a provincial co-ordinating council. I am delighted to see that one of the eight regional councils will be in the central Alberta area. As I have mentioned, the key is voluntary participation. From conversations with the Minister of Culture, it's my understanding that this extension will increase participation in the various cultural councils from approximately 66 people to some 360 people. That must be applauded and commended. Moreover, the new structure will allow for the council to better reflect the ethnocultural communities in the various parts of this province.

Mr. Chairman, I want to again extend my congratulations to the minister for the introduction of this important Bill and to the ethnocultural groups in central Alberta, particularly in Red Deer, for their very, very important contributions to the social milieu of central Alberta.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: May the hon. Member for Calgary Egmont revert to introduction of visitors?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS** (*reversion*)

DR. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, all members of the Assembly are very appreciative of the work carried out by our pages. Today I would like to pay tribute to one of the pages, Rhonda Peterson, who I understand is the first page from Calgary to be in the Assembly. She comes from the constituency of Calgary Egmont. At the same time as she is standing, so the rest of you recognize who she is, I would like her mother, Mrs. Ruth Peterson, who is seated in the public gallery, to stand and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

head: **GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS** (**Committee of the Whole**)

Bill 82 **Alberta Cultural Heritage Act** (*continued*)

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I want to go over a few of the points I made in second reading. I don't think the minister has had a chance to come back on a couple of the comments. I point out that I was planning to bring in an amendment but, after discussion with the minister, I will not bring it in. We will be looking at the guidelines later. I appreciate that co-operation, so I will withdraw the possible amendment I was going to bring in.

The point I want to make clearly to the House, through the minister to her other colleagues, is that the Bill is going to be a good Bill and I will support it, but it comes down to finances. I'm not going to go through all the figures I used last time, but I think there is a serious funding problem in the department, especially if the department wants to do

some of the excellent things they're talking about in the Bill. Mr. Chairman, if the minister can put some clout to her colleagues and up that, it will certainly get support from the Official Opposition.

The other point I want to make, and I'm now convinced — I talked about the fact that I thought it should be done by elections, even though it wasn't in the Bill. That was the amendment. But I am told that this will be laid out in the guidelines, so that is fine.

I thought it was a good idea that the minister instituted a cabinet committee on cultural heritage, but I didn't see it mentioned in the Act itself. The question I asked at the time was: was that meant to be only a temporary body? Perhaps the minister can come back and tell us.

The other area of course has to do with the unemployment rate. What I said last day, Mr. Chairman, was that the ethnic communities are sometimes the people who are disadvantaged when it comes to work. As I pointed out, among some groups — the Indo-Chinese — it's double what it is with the rest of Albertans. It seems to me that with this new cultural committee set up, perhaps some sort of — I know the term is often misused — affirmative action program in those areas . . . I'm glad the Bill recognizes cultural heritage as going beyond just preservation of culture. As I understand it, it's going to look at some of those problems and how they can be alleviated. I will not go into it in much more detail. At least for this particular Bill, we've been spared an amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I leave those few comments with the minister, and perhaps she could answer my one or two questions.

MR. SCHMID: First of all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment on the remarks my hon. colleague the Minister of Housing made regarding Mr. Hamilton. I had the pleasure of having dinner with Mr. Hamilton only last Saturday evening. That gentleman is 93 years old. He came to Alberta in 1905 when he was 12 years old, and he's still very spry — so much so that when his son tried to tell him he really should not drink lemonade because it may not agree with him, he said: I'll do what I want. We had a fantastic evening. The next day he was going to the hospital for a minor operation. I want to take this opportunity to again say that the gentleman my colleague referred to is a fine man and has contributed much to the community of Lac La Biche. In fact he was in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company, sold out, was in charge of the John Deere and Massey-Ferguson dealerships, and sold out — a very successful businessman indeed.

Mr. Chairman, some brainy fellow said that a Canadian is a man whose parents were born in Scotland, who married a nice Italian girl from Quebec, heads up a Jewish wholesale business, rides downtown in a German Volkswagen to see a play written by an Irish author and performed by English, black American, and Scandinavian actors, and then takes his family to a Ukrainian restaurant where he orders Chinese sweet and sour — all in honour of his daughter's forthcoming wedding to a Polish engineer she met while majoring in Greek classics at university.

Mr. Chairman, I think we can thus describe not only Alberta but Canada as a whole. Many times I have said that if we are not proud of where we came from, we cannot expect our children to be proud of their parents. It's therefore of especially great pleasure to me to congratulate the Minister of Culture for bringing in this Bill. I think it's a major step forward.

I have to say it's building upon a solid foundation that was in fact established in 1965. Many times we hear that this or that is so many years old, and it usually refers to the '70s. Mr. Chairman, it was the then leader of the opposition, now Premier of Alberta, who at that time asked to recognize the contribution our ethnocultural groups have made and asked me to be his adviser in recognizing this contribution back in 1965 when he was made leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. We should never forget that. I would say he was the first leader in Canada to recognize this.

Of course we had people — in fact I would call them early missionaries — such as Peter Savaryn, Dr. Roger Motut, Dr. Manoly Lupul, Father Sopulak, Nina Timperley, the former Mayor Bill Hawrelak, Sab Roncucci, Bill Pidruchney, Laurence Decore, Frank Clemen, Mary Munro, Alberto Romano, Nick Spillios, Jaromir Stribny, and many others who at the time were really the first ones to make sure that the endeavour of the then leader of the opposition was being followed. After our election to the government, they were also the first ones to help us set up, in fact call into being, the June 1972 conference that eventually resulted in the cultural heritage magazine, the heritage council, and of course Heritage Day.

Mr. Chairman, I remember very fondly that the first person that walked into my office after I was appointed Minister of Culture was Dick Wong, representing the Chinese community. He was very concerned about the contribution his people could make to the mosaic that is Alberta and wanted to make sure that as the new government we shouldn't forget that Alberta is composed of so many different nationalities.

I remember the conference as the first time in the history of Alberta that people of those backgrounds were together: the Ukrainians, Lebanese, Croatians, Doukhobors, Tibetans, Germans, Italians, Mennonites, East Indians, Swiss, Pakistanis, Polish, Indians, Chinese, Slovenians, Welsh, Scots, and so many others.

I also remember that the federal government had sent some observers to the conference to see what we were doing, and they of course copied a few of our programs later. In fact we hired the gentleman who was in charge of the federal delegation, Orest Kruhlak, to make sure that things were carried out the way we wanted them. We took him away from the federal government, but he has returned in the meantime. He is now working in Vancouver, but I think he also very much deserves our thanks for what he accomplished. We all know his successor was Beth Bryant, and she is now sitting in the gallery. I think she would agree with me that all the people I have mentioned really helped her immensely to carry out the programs she was put in charge of, being responsible in the administration for the preservation of our cultural heritage.

Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned before, Heritage Day came out of that conference. Of course we are all very proud of what has happened around Alberta, and the Minister of Culture, the Hon. Mary LeMessurier, referred to that. I should also say that naturally I am very proud as an Edmonton MLA to find that Edmonton really has caught on and that Heritage Day is a celebration in itself, showing the cosmopolitan makeup of our big city.

I also remember that the first chairman of the Cultural Heritage Council was our now Mayor Decore. Not once during that time — and I could confirm that — was he partisan in helping those different groups to get together, and he was very strongly supported by so many different

leaders of the different ethnocultural groups around the province. I want to name a few — I know I will forget some — just to say that, at a time culminating in this Act before us, I think all of us owe them a very great vote of thanks and our deep appreciation for their pioneer work. I want to mention Mr. Tom Nawata, Mary Romanko, Spencer Gooden, Joe Hak, Maria Siegl, Dr. Henry Shimizu, Ted Van Eeken, Dr. Julius Buske, Don Vinge, Krishan Joshee, Linnea Lodge, Dr. Josef Kandler, Dr. Pierre Monod, Muhamed Adam, Andy Baxter, Terry Lusty — who so ably represented the Metis people — Sam Donaghey, Paul Denis, and Elvira Krausas. Of course I should not forget the late Roman Ostashevski, who did so much to help the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village come into being.

Speaking of that, I don't know if our good Member for Vegreville mentioned it during his remarks, but I have to say that his contribution as the adviser, as the representative MLA on the board of the Ukrainian heritage village, did much to bring it up to the present position. Again I would like to thank the Minister of Culture for continuing the fine work of preserving that important history of our people from the Ukraine.

At the same time I have to mention — and I know there were difficulties with the gentleman and his wife, as there always are when someone has as big a project as that one — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lakusta, whose idea it was to start this village, with a committee and the late Mayor Bill Hawrelak. It would probably not be there if not for people like Mayor Hawrelak and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lakusta.

Mr. Chairman, we all realize that our people in Alberta stem from some 74 different nationalities, but they all have one thing in common. Their grandparents, parents and, for that matter, they themselves came here in search of a dream that one day each one of them would bring into being the country, the nation, that we hoped Canada would be: a country of peace, which it is; a country where each one could retain his own character and yet be part of a magnificent mosaic; a nation great among the nations of the world. When they came — the voyageurs, the Scotsmen, the Irish, the Scandinavians, the Ukrainians, in Sifton's sheepskins as they were called, the Hungarians, the Germans, the Italians, the British, and of course countless other Europeans and others from all parts of the world — heartsick and tired of the hates and wars that time and again put out the lamps in their nations, they came to find peace. They came from Japan and China to flee the tenements of the Far East. They came with nothing but the fierce determination that they would prove that any man, given a chance, would do as well as others.

We all know, Mr. Chairman, that they gave their lifeblood to this nation and especially to our province. They came untrained and uneducated, and what did they do? They beat the prairie locusts; they beat the drought. As far as we're concerned and have the pleasure of experiencing now, they made the prairie what it is today, the breadbasket of the world.

A miracle, Mr. Chairman? I would say so. They learned that each man's problem is his neighbour's problem. The problem of plague was no worse than the problem of ethnic bigotry, of religious hate, and other problems that still face other countries, which we have overcome — most of them anyway. As far as I'm concerned, they fashioned their lives so they knew that no matter what happened they could live in peace and harmony amongst each other. While once in a while we still have difficulties, I dare anyone going

anywhere in the world to find a better place than Canada, a better place than Alberta, to live in harmony, in understanding, and in sharing all the riches we have because of our backgrounds.

Mr. Chairman, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker said it one way when he said we could liken Canada to a garden with many flowers of different colours, and that was what made a garden beautiful. But Sir Wilfrid Laurier also said it in a different way:

I have visited in England one of those models of gothic architecture which the hand of genius guided by an unerring faith has molded into a harmonious whole. This cathedral is made of marble, oak, and granite. It is the image of the nation I would like to see Canada become, for here I want the marble to remain the marble, the granite to remain the granite, the oak to remain the oak, and out of all these elements I would build a nation great among the nations of the world.

Mr. Chairman, I think this is what we have accomplished in Canada, especially in Alberta.

With Bill No. 82 I know we have taken a major step forward, a major addition to the past policies of this government and the previous government. Naturally I would also say it's a major step forward in creating harmony, experiences of sharing, and assimilation to preserve our heritage and to be proud of it, and in making sure that Canada remains that great nation among the others. It is one of the very few that is able to handle this kind of diversity in harmony, be it of the peoples, the cultures, or the contributions of riches made from so many different nations of the world to Alberta.

Mrs. Minister of Culture, my appreciation to you, the committee of cabinet, the Cultural Heritage Council, and all who have worked so hard to make this become a reality, especially the people in Alberta Culture, represented up there by Beth Bryant, who made sure that everything would work out well, that all would agree, and that the harmonious co-operation of the past would be carried into the future.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for the time I have been given for these remarks and again wish everyone involved in this area not only every success for the future but enjoyment of the heritage from which we all came.

Thank you.

MR. LEE: Mr. Chairman, it's a privilege to enter committee debate to speak to Bill No. 82, the Alberta Cultural Heritage Act. I too wish to join with my colleagues — I know unanimously — in saying to the Minister of Culture: well done.

Mr. Chairman, I've had the pleasure to get to know hundreds if not thousands of representatives of our diverse and dynamic multicultural communities during five years as an alderman and the past two years as an MLA. It has been an education in literally a dozen fields of human endeavour, but particularly in the field of friendship. In many ways friendship begins with the words "hello, how are you?" What I've learned by meeting these various multicultural communities is that there are many, many ways to say "hello, how are you?"

I've learned that you say *pasayo* in Korean. I've learned that in Hungarian you say *jo napot kivanok* in the afternoon, but in the evening you would say *jo estet kivanok*. I've learned that in the Islamic faith — and we have people from various countries all over the world, Lebanon, Pakistan, Egypt — they have a wonderful way of saying "hello, how are you": *assalamu alaikum*, may peace be with you, to

which you respond *waalaikum assalamu*. I've learned from the Ismailis — and we've just had a visit of their world leader, His Highness the Aga Khan — that to say "hello, how are you", you would say *ya ali madad*, and the response to that is *mawlali madad*. I've learned from my Ukrainian and Polish friends that wonderful fresh simple way, *Yaksya mayesh?* It's fun just saying it. I've learned from my friends from Croatia, *kako si*.

From my friends in India there are so many ways. We have so many cultures, so many languages from India. In Calgary alone I count seven specific languages that are spoken. If you're from Bengal you would say *namaskar*. If you're Hindu you might say *namaste*. If you're from anywhere in particular you might say *adab arz*. Or if you're from the Punjab — I rather like this — you say *sat sri akal ji*. Mr. Chairman, I like the *ji* at the end, because when you add *ji* to the end of any word in Punjabi you're saying, "I say it with humility". I can't think of a subject I need more of than humility. So it's a pleasure to say "hello, how are you" in that language.

Of course in German we'd say *wie geht es*. I've heard the answer to that is: the gates are okay, but the barn burned down. We have lots of fun. In Greek you might say *tikanis* for "hello, how are you". The answer is *kala efharisto*: "Very good, thank you very much". Being a Lee, I'm intrigued by Chinese. We have three distinct dialects that we speak in Alberta. To say hello in Mandarin you'd say *nee how*, to say hello in Toishanese, *ho la ma* or, if you want to be a little more elaborate, *fun gin gah kew*. In Danish we would say *hvordan har du det*. And in one language I find interesting, the Jewish language, if we want to say "hello, how are you", we'd say *shalom*. If we want to say goodbye we'd say *shalom*. I've never been able to figure out whether I was saying hello or goodbye.

Maybe it's appropriate that I conclude my remarks by saying this. My conclusions from learning how to say "hello, how are you" in all these languages — and I certainly haven't mentioned them all — are four observations. Friendship transcends every language, every culture, and every background, and friendship is available in rich supply in the province of Alberta. I've learned that all our multicultural backgrounds have brought a richness to this province that is immeasurable, irreplaceable, and priceless. Mr. Chairman, I've learned that our new Canadians in some respects are our best Canadians, because they have brought with their culture and their maturity a renewed and refreshing commitment to the freedoms and opportunities of this land and have shared that renewed commitment with all who touch them. I've learned that the issue for our multicultural communities is no longer mere acceptance, because acceptance occurred a long time ago. The issue is leadership — the leadership they bring to our communities from one end of this province to the other, from one end of Canada to the other — a dynamic, enlightened, enlivened leadership in almost every field of human endeavour.

Mr. Chairman, the Greeks have a saying that I believe suits this occasion: *ine o keros tou*; now is the time. I believe it's appropriate for Bill 82. Now is the time to say thank you to all those who participated in making this Bill possible, all those who, from day one of the Alberta Heritage Council to today, worked and toiled so hard to develop the policies that are part of this Bill. In particular, Mr. Chairman, I say a special acknowledgement to the former minister of multicultural affairs, the hon. Member for Edmonton Avonmore, who made such a remarkable contribution to Alberta in this field during his tenure as the minister of culture.

Now is the time to renew our support for the components of the Bill: the Alberta Cultural Heritage Council, the government cultural heritage policy, the new regional councils that are proposed in this Bill, the Alberta Cultural Heritage Foundation, the cabinet committee on cultural heritage, and the new cultural heritage division of the Department of Culture. Mr. Chairman, now is the time to recognize once again the richness and diversity of the languages, music, dancing, food, beverages, art, clothing, protocol, ritual, religions, and philosophies that so many citizens from all over the world ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please. I hate to interrupt the hon. Member for Calgary Buffalo, but the time for this motion has now concluded.

MR. LEE: Mr. Chairman, in closing I would say above all, now is the time for us as legislators to say to all the people of this province: welcome, hello, how are you, thank you, a job well done, keep up the great work; thank you for making this province what it is and becoming part of the permanent fabric of this province by the approval of Bill 82.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration and reports Bill 79, reports Bill 70 with some amendments, and reports progress on Bill 82.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the report, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I move that consideration of Government Bills and Orders be continued until 5:30, by unanimous consent.

[Motion carried]

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, we give unanimous consent only on the condition that speeches be very short.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that amendment will have to be taken according to its spirit rather than its text.

[On motion, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of the Whole]

head: **GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS**
(Committee of the Whole)

[Mr. Purdy in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Will the Committee of the Whole please come to order.

Bill 82
Alberta Cultural Heritage Act
(continued)

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure I have unanimous consent to be brief. I want to make three brief comments. One, each year when we celebrate Heritage Day, the first Monday of August, in my community there are 23 members of the Southern Alberta Ethnic Association that are there for only two reasons. One, they have decided in their hearts that they want to preserve their culture and ethnic values and, two, they've had excellent leadership by the government of Alberta through the former minister, the Member for Edmonton Avonmore, and the present Minister of Culture.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, when we talk about culture and heritage and ethnic, we tend to talk about those people who look different, speak differently, or dress differently. That's not the intent at all. Whether the Member for Edmonton Belmont is the first or fourth member of Polish descent to be in this Assembly is immaterial. He is making a meaningful contribution to the House, and that's what's important.

We in Alberta have been very fortunate to have people not separated by water from this great country of ours, and that's United States citizens. If a very important event hadn't occurred in 1924 in Pasadena, California, the Member for Cardston wouldn't be with us today. I think it's very important for us to recognize that in Calgary we have some 25,000 Americans who have chosen a Canadian and an American way of life. Because they don't look different, speak differently, and dress differently, the inference seems to be that they don't wish to preserve their heritage. I suggest they do.

Mr. Chairman, I offer these comments to the Minister of Culture in commending her for bringing the Bill before the House. When we talk about culture, let us not forget that there are many people who happen to speak our language and dress like us but don't happen to be born in Canada, who have become great Albertans and great Canadians.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, I tried to get in about half an hour ago. Many members have spoken to Bill 82 and have really given their full support and discussed various activities of our ethnic community in Alberta. Having one of the largest constituencies by population in Alberta, certainly not without many, many different ethnic groups within the constituency, I think it would be prudent for me to make a couple of comments relevant to this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, along with other members, I too certainly congratulate those who have participated and given their all in developing this Bill. It is very important. I think it's more important than many people realize to have our many cultural groups participate in our society in a manner that we as Canadians like to think that we participate. Having lived overseas myself and having seen some of the difficulties experienced by many immigrants to a country, I think we as Canadians and more so as Albertans should be proud today to recognize the various qualities, needs, and cultural activities that many of our ethnic friends bring to this community. I think we can by recognizing them, as hopefully they will recognize those of us who were born and raised in this country. My father was born outside this country also, so I have some background, as do most members of this House. I don't think the full background of too many of us has necessarily been in Canada.

Mr. Chairman, as the Member for Lethbridge West said, I'll get unanimous consent to be very short and sit down in a moment. Again, I would like to say I offer full support to this Bill, and I hope that through the next number of years it will achieve its goals. I'm sure those people who have worked so diligently to develop it will ensure that the various groups and also those of us who are natural-born Canadians as such will participate and see to it that all people of Alberta are treated equally and that we will recognize the many, many cultural advantages we can have and have developed within this province.

Again, congratulations to all those who participated and best wishes for their continued participation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Has the Minister of Culture any concluding remarks?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: First of all, I would like to recognize the many members who spoke on this Bill. I believe it has been one of the easiest and most gratifying Bills to deal with. I thank my cabinet committee colleagues who served on the committee with me, and Margaret, the secretary who spent many hours with us. I also thank the members of the heritage council and the members of the foundation, and a special thanks to the members of the cultural heritage branch and to Beth, my new assistant deputy minister for the division.

I do have some points to clarify, Mr. Chairman, and of course they are for the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I thank him for bringing the budgetary figures to my fellow colleagues, and I'm sure I will be able to put forth a good case for an increase.

The member commented on about five points, so I'd like to address those. The first one, of course, was the budgetary item, and we'll be discussing that when I discuss my budget in this Assembly. Second, the hon. member spoke about this not being the only such Act in Canada. There are two Acts. Saskatchewan has a multicultural Act that establishes the advisory council and sets out the grant provisions by that council. Manitoba also has an Act. It's called the Intercultural Council Act, and it creates their advisory council. So our Act really is quite different, quite broad, and I think the only one of its kind in Canada.

The hon. member also spoke about the members who are appointed to the council. I'd like to assure the hon. member that the makeup of the council will be addressed in the bylaws, as well as the term of office and how many times you can be a member of that board. I announced in my ministerial address that the government wishes to reaffirm that the cabinet committee on cultural heritage, consisting of eight members and chaired by the Minister of Culture, will continue as a permanent committee of Executive Council. I'd like to assure the member of that.

The hon. Member for Red Deer mentioned the fact that the council would grow from approximately 66 members to 366, I think he said. I'd like to correct that. It will grow from 66 to between 250 and 300 members.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know if I haven't addressed any points that were raised. Once again, I would like to thank all members of the Assembly for addressing this Bill and also for supporting it.

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 82, the Alberta Cultural Heritage Act, be reported.

[Motion carried]

Bill 80
Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings
Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division)
Supplementary Act, 1984-85

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments to be offered with respect to any section of this Bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 80 be reported.

[Motion carried]

Bill 81
Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings
Trust Fund, Capital Projects
Division) Act, 1985-86

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments to be offered with respect to any section of this Bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 81 be reported.

[Motion carried]

Bill 84
Wildlife Act

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment to the Bill. Are there any questions or comments with respect to this amendment?

[Motion on amendment carried]

MR. MARTIN: I want to follow up and ask four or five questions. The first one will determine how brief I am. It is my understanding that this will not be proclaimed till the spring. There was some discussion about it, and I had to leave when it was being brought up. If I could ask that one question, I'll make four or five points.

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, I said that we would review the existing regulations and go over them thoroughly prior to the proclamation of the Act, which will take place sometime in the spring, early enough to get those regulations in force for the 1985 hunting season, et cetera.

MR. MARTIN: While we're considering that, I think it would be appropriate — there are things that have been raised with my office and I'm sure with the minister's office. I take it that that would be ongoing consultation to maybe make the Bill better. I brought up in *Hansard* the possibility of disease, which I don't think the minister fully referred to, other than to say that he's aware it could happen. So I hope they're giving some consideration.

I'd like to raise five quick points, though, that have been brought to my attention, and if I can handle it that

way, ask the minister if he would take these into consideration before we come back with the Bill. Wildlife people who have come to us since the Bill — and some of them came in confidentially — have raised these five points. I would like to leave these with the minister so he will think about them.

As I understand it, all the wildlife associations — the Alberta Fish & Game Association, the Alberta Wilderness Association, and the Federation of Alberta Naturalists — are opposed to the concept on several grounds. These people are experts. They are indicating that part of their concern is that they didn't have time. That was brought up. But I gather that the minister is now saying that we're not going to proclaim it, that they will have time to give him responses to this Bill. So I think that's partly handled.

The other concern had to do with game ranching. We're told that they feel this would increase the problem with poaching. I'm told that at present approximately 50 percent of wild animals that are shot are poached and may go to the black market. The point they are making is that game ranching would simply provide a safer funnel to the market for such meat and would increase potential profit. So they have that concern.

They also say that the fish and game officers are overworked and have mileage and overtime constraints. I understand there are a hundred of them at present. They say that if they must assume the regulation of game ranching, they will have to do so in a sketchy manner and will have to ignore other aspects of their jobs. So I hope that's also taken into consideration.

Following along, Mr. Chairman, if the game stock is to be increased by bringing in outside animals — they use the example from the U.S. — we risk lowering the calibre of our genetic stock. They give the example that American elk are less disease-resistant, weaker animals than our Canadian elk. This would erode the international market the minister is claiming we have for wild meat and would harm a valuable public resource, namely our wildlife.

The final point has been brought to our attention from the time we debated this in second reading. It is mentioned that in Europe animals were traditionally privately owned and are becoming a public resource now because of the problems of private ownership. They point out that in the state of Wyoming, game ranching was permitted but is now outlawed because of the problems. In Montana and South Dakota, where game ranching is permitted, the owners of game ranches spend nearly as much time in court as on their ranches. I guess they want to know how much of that the minister has examined and considered. Their point is: should we not learn from the experience of others? They indicate that in Wyoming and some parts of Europe there's a move the other way. Perhaps we should take a look at why they're moving in the opposite direction.

If the minister wants to come back now on those five points, that's fine. Or if he's saying that those things are being considered and will be considered before proclaiming the Bill, as long as there is that consultation, I would be satisfied at this point.

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, the first item basically refers to the Act. The other four primarily refer to game ranching per se. As you all know, I introduced a discussion paper on game ranching, which will be thoroughly discussed prior to any regulations being made with reference to game ranching. The four latter questions all tie down to poaching, the use of wardens, and the overwork of officers. With

reference to game ranching, the risk to stock is covered and will be discussed more thoroughly. Just how game ranching will take place in the future, if it is approved by way of regulations, will be left to a lot more public input prior to those regulations being made.

I think it's important to point out that the first question is one I've had thrown at me several times: we haven't had enough time to participate in this Act. Just for the record, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to refer back to the fish and wildlife policy that had much discussion prior to 1982 and was brought in by my colleague the hon. Bud Miller. In 1983 we put out a discussion paper on all the major points and had a terrific response from the public, especially the organizations mentioned. We then analyzed all of that public input, the 18 key issues that were being addressed, and had them very fully discussed at the fish and wildlife advisory council, which gives the minister advice on everything we do within the department and consists of 20-some organizations, including the ones you mentioned.

While we were sitting last Thursday and Friday, I was running back and forth to the Holiday Inn where the fish and wildlife advisory council was going over and reading in detail each and every paragraph of the Wildlife Act. That is what caused the three amendments we just voted on. If I may, Mr. Chairman, I'll read their motion into the record.

Moved by Herman Schwenk, seconded by Peter Armstrong that we endorse Bill 84, as the new Wildlife Act for Alberta and we would encourage all members to participate in the development of the regulations that go with this Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Of all Acts, I think this Act has had a terrific amount of public input. We've had a terrific amount of co-operation and teamwork by having these various interest groups sit down around a table and discuss the issues. I can assure you that on the key issues, like the game ranching regulations, those organizations will have participation in the future prior to those regulations being made.

There are quite a number of other regulations that will be discussed. I urge every member and all of those associations to look at the present regulations prior to, say, January 30. About then, we will be summarizing and drafting the new regulations to replace the old ones. Those organizations should take this opportunity to have further input on any regulation they may wish, and any member is also encouraged to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 84 be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

Bill 85

Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Amendment Act, 1984

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are there any amendments, questions, or comments to be offered with respect to any section of this Bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 85, the Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Amendment Act, 1984, be reported.

[Motion carried]

Bill 86
Gas Resources Preservation Act

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment to this Bill.

[Motion on amendment carried]

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, just a few comments on the Bill, more in terms of questions than anything else. I think that expanding the mandate of the Energy Resources Conservation Board in approving gas exports to include Alberta's economic self-interest is generally a good route to go. It is my understanding that it was previously restricted in judging gas exports on the grounds of whether there was sufficient surplus gas available.

Mr. Chairman, I generally agree with this change; it's not bad. I guess the only points I make come down to a couple of questions. What sorts of tests will be used to determine what constitutes the public interest of Alberta? I think that's rather a key point. For example, will the board examine the long-term costs and benefits of keeping the gas in the ground until the market improves compared to the short-term costs and benefits of selling our gas on what at least for the time being seems to be a depressed, glutted market?

I raise this because I think it's a fundamental decision that we're going to have to make, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it, various projections by the NEB and the industry indicate that the natural gas bubble in the United States is expected to slowly dissipate, and there will no increase in the natural gas export market for some time. A recent study released by the Royal Bank of Canada concludes that there will be no significant improvements in gas exports for Canada until at least 1987. Yet as the NEB's September report points out, the long-term prospects are expected to improve. I think this is the key.

The reason I come back to that second question, Mr. Chairman, is given this situation — this is why I'm wondering if the minister can point this out — is it wise to give away our natural gas to the U.S. at bargain-basement prices now, instead of waiting until the market improves and selling it at better prices? I'm told that Mexico recently announced it did not intend to engage in a price war with Canada over natural gas exports to the U.S. It plans instead to export its domestic markets. If Mexico is looking at that, I suggest it is something we might take a look at too.

The other area that it does nothing for, in my understanding, is remedying the problem of fair market access faced by the small independent gas producers. In other words, how do they get a fair share of the market? I'm sure the minister is aware that they have many complaints in this area. I wonder if there is some thought to helping them out, because increased gas exports may not necessarily ensure that the small independent gets a share of that market. I wonder if any thought has been given to that in the Bill. I'm not going to go through all the arguments. You know that some of the small independent producers complain that the pipeline companies wield too much power and that's part of the access.

I think those two things are relatively important. If we are going to go into increased gas exports at lower prices, what is the basis of the economic interest and how do we work that out? Secondly, how do we ensure that the small independent producers get what we might call their fair share? Some of them at least are indicating that they're not at this time.

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member has raised a number of very significant points that really focus the discussion with respect to the Bill that is before the committee at the present time. I'll try to respond to them all in about the sequence in which he raised them.

First of all, the hon. member asked about the definition of the public interest and what kinds of considerations the board might take into account. Perhaps the most appropriate way to respond is by pointing out that in the first instance under the current legislation the considerations of the public interest are part and parcel of the decision-taking process of the Lieutenant Governor in Council when it takes a final decision on any recommendations of the board. The process is one where a hearing is held by the Energy Resources Conservation Board. As a result of that hearing process, they make certain recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and consideration is taken by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

We are really trying to provide a venue and an opportunity for various interested parties to bring before the board their views as to what might well be considered to be in the public interest. Specifically, we're looking at the matter of what might be in the economic interest of the province of Alberta, and that could very well include consideration of whether or not it is appropriate to move the gas or otherwise. So what we're really trying to ensure is that we maximize the potential that the mechanism of the Energy Resources Conservation Board has to give to the government input that has been accumulated through that very valuable hearing process. Viewed in that light, I think the legislative change that is proposed will in fact facilitate just the kind of discussion, amongst other discussions, that the hon. member is referring to, and it facilitates it in that open hearing process of the Energy Resources Conservation Board. It's always a healthy debate as to what is appropriate in terms of the marketing of a particular product.

I want to comment specifically on the reference to whether or not it is foreseeable that there will be increases in natural gas export sales to the United States. As a matter of fact, I've had an opportunity to speak with senior representatives of the Royal Bank — Mr. Jack Stabback for one — about their recent study. The Royal Bank is of course a very creditable organization in this country. I expressed the view to Mr. Stabback, and I'll express it in this House: if I may say so, Mr. Chairman, I think they're being overly conservative in their projections about the potential for increased sales. In fact I think it's fair to say that even now with the recent set of applications that have been approved for export by the National Energy Board, we're seeing a demonstration of the fact that Alberta and Canada can sell significantly increased volumes of natural gas into the United States market, even prior to any dissipation of a gas bubble or gas sausage, however one may describe it.

That is simply because the market in the United States is a huge one. It approximates some 17 trillion or 18 trillion cubic feet per year, of which we currently have less than a 4 percent share. We've long been of the view that if our

exporters are given the opportunity to get into that huge market on an unfettered basis, to have a chance to compete on the basis of price as well as other conditions of sale, we have considerable potential for increased sales even in the near term. Again, I think the evidence that was considered and weighed by the National Energy Board in the recent bout of applications bears evidence that that is in fact the case.

The hon. member again made a fair comment in terms of the Mexican situation. Recently they did make a decision that they would not be exporting volumes of natural gas to the United States in the near term. I think one has to clearly distinguish the circumstances of Mexico from that of Canada and Alberta in a couple of respects, the first being the volume of natural gas that has been sold by Mexico into the U.S. market. Their volume of sales is approximately one-tenth the volume being sold by Canada. If we're selling in the order of approximately 700 bcf a year into the U.S. market, they've been selling approximately 70 bcf. I recently had an opportunity to speak with Mexican officials, and they confirmed my prior understanding that in significant measure it represented an extension of the current Mexican policy of utilizing much, if not all, of their domestic gas supply for domestic purposes, thereby allowing themselves to have maximum opportunity for sale of crude oil through some substitution and greater domestic use of the alternate fuel. So it's fair to say that the Mexican decision turns as much on their own domestic aspirations as it does on the matter of price.

With respect to whether or not we could apply that in the Canadian context, every measure is being taken to try to maximize the use of natural gas here in Canada. I think we're continuing to make good strides in that area. However, there is no question at all that Canada simply does not have the domestic requirements at the current time to take up the available flow and the kind of flow of natural gas that is necessary to maintain the viability of our energy industry and ensure that the exploration and development of the resource continues.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, on the matter of prorationing, we've had good and lively debate on other occasions in this Assembly on the question of access to market. We have long taken and continue to take the view that prorationing must be viewed simply as a last ditch measure which would not be pursued if other measures had a likelihood of succeeding, because prorationing involved cutting through thousands of existing contractual arrangements. If one canvases the industry in its entirety, I think one will find that the prevailing view in industry is that the government should not interfere with those existing arrangements that have been in place for a number of years.

Mr. Chairman, we've taken the view that the way to ensure access to the market is by expanding markets, by creating a bigger pie rather than trying to divvy up a static pie. That has been the approach, and I think it's fair to say that with the announcement of the new natural gas export policy and the recent contracts that have gone before the NEB, that policy is in fact bearing fruit and is proving to be successful.

Mr. Chairman, I close by saying that I continue to be encouraged by the prospects for our natural gas industry in the near and medium term. As we see the results of the new natural gas export policy and initiatives that have been taken here in Canada, I think we're going to have more and more of our natural gas explorers saying: by gosh, we'd better get out there and look for more natural gas,

because we're starting to sell more and more. I think the policy is working.

I hope that constitutes an adequate response to the hon. member's questions.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, at this point we're getting beyond the Bill. I'm sure we will have public debate about that. But in terms of the Bill, I'm satisfied with the answers for the time being.

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 86, the Gas Resources Preservation Act, be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

Bill 90
Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 1984

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments to be offered with respect to any section of this Bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 90 be reported.

[Motion carried]

Bill 91
Certified General Accountants Act

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are two amendments to this Bill, one dated November 7 and one dated November 13.

[Motions on amendments carried]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. KING: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Bill be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

Bill 93
Health Occupations Amendment Act, 1984

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment. Are there any questions or comments in relation to the amendment?

[Motion on amendment carried]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. KING: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Bill be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

Bill 96
Judgment Interest Act

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment. Are there any questions or comments in relation to the amendment?

[Motion on amendment carried]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. STILES: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill 96 be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

Bill 97
Natural Gas Pricing Agreement
Amendment Act, 1984 (No. 2)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to any section of this Bill?

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. ZAOZIRNY: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill No. 97, the Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Amendment Act, 1984 (No. 2), be reported.

[Motion carried]

Bill 98
School Amendment Act, 1984

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions, comments, or amendments to be offered with respect to any section of this Bill?

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, it has to do with the process. We hear a lot from various ministers about co-operation, especially with people who are involved. I know that both the ASTA and the ATA have written the minister, and unless they've changed their minds, at this point they are not in favour of this particular Act. When both major players are against the Act, I wonder why we're bringing it in at this time and if there has been any recent consultation with them. It seems to me this is one area where a lot of consultation should have gone on.

MR. KING: Mr. Chairman, I must confess I am not aware that the organizations are opposed to the substance of the Bill. I recall having received a letter that was signed jointly by the president of the ASTA and the president of the ATA, in which they expressed concern about the process of consultation. But I do not remember their saying they were opposed to the substance of the Bill.

MR. MARTIN: You're right. They are upset about the consultation; that's very clear. Is the minister saying that both these organizations are now in favour of this Bill? Is that his assessment?

MR. KING: I don't know whether I can say they are in favour of it. I am only saying that I have no knowledge that they are opposed to it. The letter the hon. member is

referring to expressed concern about the process of consultation. Since the letter was written, I believe we have explored the question of the process of consultation and that it has been resolved to the satisfaction of the two organizations and, certainly for my part, to the satisfaction of the Department of Education. So I can only say that I have no information that the organizations are opposed to the Bill at this time.

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. KING: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Bill be reported.

[Motion carried]

head: **PRIVATE BILLS**
(Committee of the Whole)

Bill Pr. 9
Jewish Community Centre of Edmonton Act

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment to the Bill. Are there any questions or comments in relation to the amendment?

[Motion on amendment carried]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Jewish Community Centre of Edmonton Act be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

Bill Pr. 14
Central Western Railway Corporation Act

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment to this Bill. Are there any questions or comments regarding the amendment?

MR. McPHERSON: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I was in my place; I couldn't get your attention. I think just a brief remark on Bill Pr. 14 would be appropriate on this occasion. We spent some time today in debate on Bill 82, the Alberta Cultural Heritage Act. In that debate a fair amount of Alberta's history and the pioneer spirit in Alberta was mentioned. I think it would be somewhat appropriate to acknowledge that we're having a certain amount of history being introduced today through this Bill. My understanding is that it has been some 75 years since a private Bill has been introduced in this Legislature incorporating a railway, this one of course being the Central Western Railway Corporation Act.

Mr. Chairman, I can't help but note that section 2, Incorporation, starts by saying "Thomas Payne, locomotive engineer, of Edmonton" together with other people — I'm not sure if they're present today — will become shareholders of the corporation. I would like to acknowledge the presence of Thomas Payne, locomotive engineer, in the public gallery. I think it would be appropriate for him to rise and be recognized by the Legislative Assembly.

I will make one further comment, Mr. Chairman, acknowledging the efforts of the Member for Olds-Didsbury, the Member for Stettler, and the Member for Camrose for

their efforts in presenting this Bill to the Legislative Assembly. I would simply like to extend my regards and best wishes to the Central Western Railway Corporation in its efforts in Alberta.

[Motion on amendment carried]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Chairman, I move that Bill Pr. 14, the Central Western Railway Corporation Act, be reported as amended.

[Motion carried]

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration and reports Bills 82, 80, 81, 85, 90, 97, and 98, and reports Bills 84, 86, 91, 93, 96, Pr. 9, and Pr. 14 with some amendments.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the report, do you all agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the business this evening will depend on whether or not hon. members wish to go to Royal Assent. That would call upon us to deal with the items that have been dealt with in Committee of the Whole by way of third reading. They are not yet available for that in my view, and I wondered if I might seek unanimous consent when we return this evening to read a third time, along with those that are on the Order Paper for third reading, those which are on the Order Paper and have been dealt with in Committee of the Whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the hon. Government House Leader the consent he has requested?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: It is so ordered.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, so that we might deal with third readings starting at 8 and His Honour would then attend right after that, before calling it 5:30 perhaps I could do two other things. One is to revert to Tabling Returns and Reports.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: It is so ordered.

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS** (*reversion*)

MR. CRAWFORD: I think the hon. Leader of the Opposition will perhaps be pleasantly surprised that we finally got the answer to Motion No. 214, and that is the item I'd like to table now.

Another item that we could deal with before calling it 5:30 is Motion No. 18. It hasn't been called, Mr. Speaker, but perhaps with the understanding of the Clerk, now that I'm on my feet I could simply move Government Motion No. 18 on the Order Paper.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

18. Moved by Mr. Crawford:

Be it resolved that when the Assembly adjourns, it shall stand adjourned until such time and date prior to the commencement of the 1985 session as is determined by Mr. Speaker after consultation with the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

[Motion carried]

[The House recessed at 5:25 p.m. and resumed at 8 p.m.]

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS (*Third Reading*)

[It was moved by the members indicated that the following Bills be read a third time, and the motions were carried]

No.	Title	Moved by
22	Physical Therapy Profession Act	King
29	Exemptions Amendment Act, 1984	Kowalski
55	Securities Amendment Act, 1984	Osterman
58	Corporation Statutes Amendment Act, 1984 (No. 2)	Drobot
59	Department of Culture Amendment Act, 1984	LeMessurier
60	Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Amendment Act, 1984	Crawford (for Payne)
61	Wild Rose Foundation Act	Crawford (for Payne)
62	Retirement Annuities Repeal Act	Oman
63	Fuel Oil Tax Repeal Act	Thompson
64	Municipal District of Cypress No. 1 Incorporation Act	Gogo (for Hyland)
65	Special Areas Amendment Act, 1984	Bradley (for Kroeger)
66	Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 1984	Fyfe
67	Water Resources Amendment Act, 1984	Bradley (for Kroeger)
68	Environment Statutes Amendment Act, 1984	Bradley
69	Municipal Taxation Amendment Act, 1984	Crawford (for Koziak)
70	Municipal Tax Exemption Amendment Act, 1984	Hiebert
71	Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Special Appropriation Act, 1985-86	Hyndman
72	Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation Amendment Act, 1984	Shaben

No.	Title	Moved by
73	Labour Relations Amendment Act, 1983, Repeal Act	Young
74	Municipal District of Clearwater No. 99 Incorporation Act	Campbell
75	Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 1984	King (for Diachuk)
76	Utilities Statutes Amendment Act, 1984	McPherson
77	Public Service Pension Plan Act (No. 2)	Hyndman
78	Electric Energy Marketing Amendment Act, 1984	Bogle
79	Public Utilities Board Amendment Act, 1984	Bogle
80	Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Supplementary Act, 1984-85	Hyndman
81	Appropriation (Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Capital Projects Division) Act, 1985-86	Hyndman

Bill 82
Alberta Cultural Heritage Act

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 82, the Alberta Cultural Heritage Act, be read a third time.

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, that is in the expectation that I will be able to be brief. I think I can be.

I only want to observe, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill is one that has been debated at all of its stages. I think that's appropriate, given the nature of the Bill. It is also appropriate, given the nature of the Bill, that in all of this debate many important contributions and many important observations have been made.

If I repeat some of the things that have already been said, it is only because repetition will emphasize the importance this government attaches to maintaining the vitality of our diverse cultural heritage and projecting the vitality of that diverse cultural heritage into our present and our future.

Members have described the great progress that has been made since position paper number 7 was read in this Assembly by the Hon. Horst A. Schmid in 1972. The 1972 position paper has proven serendipitous. Without the foundation that was offered by position paper number 7, we would unquestionably have been poorer in this province. With any other foundation, we would not likely have been so rich.

I feel personally enriched by the opportunities that have surrounded me in this community these past 12 years. I have learned, for example, that culture is not something you display; it is something you live. It is significant that this is a community in which people can organize the Shumka Dancers or the Cheremosh dancers. It is even more significant that children whose last names are Mackenzie or Vivone also have the opportunity to learn Ukrainian dancing. I have friends whose name is Vivone. They attended a recital at which their young seven-year-old son was doing Ukrainian dancing. They heard their neighbours, the Mackenzies, whose parents were also attending the recital. Old Mr. Mackenzie said to Mrs. Mackenzie, "It's beautiful, but I wish he was doing the Highland dancing."

Alberta is one of the very few places in the world where that could happen and be appreciated. Culture is not just displayed; it is lived. That is the first significant acknowledgment of this Bill. The second significant acknowledgment is that recognizing, valuing, and projecting all of this diverse cultural heritage, we in Alberta also want to make something that is uniquely Albertan, rich, attractive, and very powerful in human terms. We want to accomplish this by weaving together diverse strands into a richly textured tapestry. We do not want to reject from this process every strand but the cotton ones. We do not want to insist that every part of the tapestry must be of a single thread.

Education is the process by which children are brought into full membership in the community; it is the essence of bringing children into the culture. It is for that reason that I, as Minister of Education, am pleased to be associated with this initiative of the government and pleased to speak briefly in support of the Bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 82 read a third time]

[It was moved by the members indicated that the following Bills be read a third time, and the motions were carried]

No.	Title	Moved by
83	Child Transportation Safety Act	M. Moore
84	Wildlife Act	Sparrow
85	Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Amendment Act, 1984	Zaozimy
86	Gas Resources Preservation Act	Zaozimy
87	Public Service Management Pension Plan Act	Hyndman
90	Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 1984	Crawford
91	Certified General Accountants Act	King
93	Health Occupations Amendment Act, 1984	King
96	Judgment Interest Act	Stiles
97	Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Amendment Act, 1984 (No. 2)	Zaozimy
98	School Amendment Act, 1984	King

PRIVATE BILLS
(Third Reading)

[It was moved by the members indicated that the following Bills be read a third time, and the motions were carried]

No.	Title	Moved by
Pr. 9	Jewish Community Centre of Edmonton Act	Alexander
Pr. 14	Central Western Railway Corporation Act	Stromberg

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor will now attend upon the Assembly.

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

head: **ROYAL ASSENT**

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Order! His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

[The Honourable Frank Lynch-Staunton, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, took his place upon the Throne]

MR. SPEAKER: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has, at its present sittings, passed certain Bills to which, and in the name of the Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

CLERK: Your Honour, the following are the titles of the Bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed.

[The Clerk read the titles of all Bills to which third reading had earlier been given]

[The Lieutenant Governor indicated his assent]

CLERK: In Her Majesty's name, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these Bills.

MR. HYNDMAN: Your Honour, as I understand this is the last occasion on which we will have the pleasure of your presence on the floor of the Chamber, on behalf of the Premier and the government and all members of this Assembly I want to thank you for your special service as representative of Her Majesty.

Your years in office, sir, have enriched this province of Alberta and Canada. We salute you as a gentleman, as a person of warm and gentle informality. As one who exemplifies the best pioneering instincts, Your Honour reflects with distinction the enduring agricultural and ranching heritage of this province. In your years as Lieutenant Governor, sir, by example you have underscored the old-time but perhaps newly relevant values of duty, integrity, loyalty, honour, and tradition.

We wish you and Mrs. Lynch-Staunton many years of good health, happiness, and new challenges. [applause]

HIS HONOUR: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hyndman:

If you say any more, I'll be getting such a swelled head I won't be able to wear this black hat. I'll have to get a newer one.

It's true that I'm really looking forward to my retirement. I never retired so far in my life, and I don't expect to go into complete retirement yet, as I have other things to do. But I have enjoyed the last five years. I've enjoyed working with you people, and it's been an experience that's well worth while. I want to thank you for your co-operation and everything and also for your very, very kind words.

Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: Your Honour, I too, from the Official Opposition, would like to thank you for representing the Queen so well in this province. The dignity that you have brought to this office is certainly admirable. We in the Official Opposition wish you the very best, sir, in your new endeavours. I know you're not going to retire; you're much too active a gentleman for that. I expect that you'll come back into the Legislature from time to time and visit us.

Again, thank you and good luck.

HIS HONOUR: Thank you very much, Mr. Martin. I'm going to be spending quite a lot of time in Edmonton. No doubt I'll meet you people every once in a while, so it really won't be good-bye. Thank you again.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Order!

[The Lieutenant Governor left the House]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Assembly now adjourn in accordance with Government Motion No. 18, passed earlier today.

[Motion carried]

[The House adjourned at 8:42 p.m.]

[The Second Session of the 20th Legislature was prorogued by Order in Council 91/85, effective March 13, 1985.]