

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Friday, March 22, 1985 10:00 a.m.**

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

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

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, it's with a great deal of pleasure that I table for the Assembly's consideration the report of the Select Special Committee on Upper House Reform. The report is titled Strengthening Canada and is signed by all members of the committee. I look forward to its consideration by the Assembly.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Bill 28
Pari Mutuel Tax Act**

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill 28, the Pari Mutuel Tax Act.

This Bill is an update of the old Pari Mutuel Tax Act, to bring it more in line with similar consumer tax legislation in Alberta and in Canada. It will streamline, update, and improve the tax collection and record keeping, inspection, audit, administrative, and enforcement aspects of pari mutuel betting. The amendments have been developed in consultation with the operators and others in the industry, and there is no change in the existing 5 percent tax for those who are involved in this sport.

[Leave granted; Bill 28 read a first time]

**Bill 227
An Act to Amend the
Administrative Procedures Act**

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill 227.

This Bill is a response to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who wanted some suggestions for legislation in her department. It is intended to address the fact that at present no effective means exist in the provincial statute to penalize a person who knowingly deceives a provincial authority. This Bill would make that an offence. If an individual were found guilty by the courts, he could be fined up to \$50,000.

[Leave granted; Bill 227 read a first time]

**Bill 26
Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1985**

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill 26, the Child Welfare Amendment Act, 1985.

The purpose of the Bill is to make a number of drafting corrections to the Bill that was passed in the Legislature

last fall. It will delete the requirement that certain services, such as support services and handicapped children's services, be prescribed by regulation, and it will also delete the regulation-making power which prescribes persons who may represent an appellant at an appeal hearing. Several amendments are related to secure treatment orders, in order to ensure safeguards and reduce the number of court appearances.

[Leave granted; Bill 26 read a first time]

**Bill 221
An Act to Amend the Securities Act**

MR. GURNETT: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill 221, An Act to Amend the Securities Act.

Given the complexities of security transactions in these times and the current too-brief limitation period that exists for that, this Bill amends the limitation section of the current Act, increasing from one to five years the limitation period in cases of actions in courts of law and from two to five years the limitation period in cases of actions commenced before the commission.

[Leave granted; Bill 221 read a first time]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. OMAN: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to introduce to you, and through you to the Assembly, 39 grade 6 students from Banff Trail elementary school in Calgary. Actually, I'm cheating a little bit there, because I think there are some students from the Parkdale school in the constituency of the hon. Member for Calgary Bow as well. In any case, the teachers are Pat Michi, Jacqueline Sveda, and Margaret Main, and they're accompanied by parents Karen Balkwill, Linda Jackson, Ann Bowers, Jane Chan, and Margaret Wong. They are seated in the public gallery, and I would like them to stand and receive the welcome of the House, please.

MR. JONSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce to you, and through you to members of the Assembly, 11 students from the Samson Band Adventist school at Hobbema. They are accompanied by their teachers, Marlene Sinclair and Andrea Van Dieman. These cheerful and enthusiastic students are on a tour of various sites in Edmonton for the day, and I hope they have a great time. They're seated in the members' gallery, and I ask them stand and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

MR. LEE: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you, and through you to members of this Assembly, the vice-president of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology students' association. She's here today organizing a major leadership conference for a group called ACTISEC, the Alberta colleges and technical institutes' students' executive council. It's a mouthful, and it's a dynamic group. She's seated in the public gallery. I ask leaders of this Assembly to welcome to this Assembly a future leader, Lavina Wohlford. Would she please stand?

MR. STEVENS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take you and other members of the Assembly back to the International Year of Disabled Persons and to September 22, 1981, when

our Premier officially opened the William Watson Lodge in Kananaskis Country. On that day over 200 Albertans gathered at a very special ceremony honouring a very fine Albertan. The William Watson Lodge for disabled and senior citizens and their families is unique in North America. Mr. William Watson was a longtime Alberta resident, 1905 to 1965, who worked throughout his lifetime to improve conditions and opportunities for people with disabilities. His arms were paralyzed from birth, and yet he managed to write, swim, and ski, and in 1928 receive his law degree from the University of Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, today I am privileged to introduce to you and members of the Assembly one of our fine provincial employees, the director of that lodge, Mr. George Szwender, who happens to be the brother of the MLA for Edmonton Belmont. George is accompanied in your gallery by his wife, Halinka, their daughter Leslie-Ann, and Halinka's sister Dorothy. Perhaps they could receive the welcome of the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: The more time I spend in my present position, the more activities I seem to become involved in. This morning I have the honour of introducing a group from the Thorncliffe school, in the best constituency in Alberta. They are grade 6 students, seated in the members' gallery and accompanied by Mr. John Southworth, Mr. Lex Duxbury, and student teacher Pat Caron. I ask all my colleagues in the House to join me in welcoming them.

MR. PAHL: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you would concede that your first introduction was a debatable item.

head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Securities Commission

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first set of questions to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. On Wednesday this week the Premier said in the Assembly, with regard to the Securities Commission:

In the use of the term "responsibility" one has to divide the situation between policy on one hand and administration on the other.

Also, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has stated that "the commission is a completely autonomous body" and that it is "responsible for the administration of the Act".

Section 33 of the Securities Act states in part that the Minister may, by order, appoint a person to make any investigation that the Minister considers necessary.

It says clearly:

- (a) in respect of the administration of this Act and the regulations, or
- (b) into any matter relating to trading in securities.

My question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is: will the minister now accept her responsibility, implicit in section 33 of the Securities Act, and order an investigation into the operations of the Securities Commission and its administration of the Act with regard to the matter of Dial Mortgage?

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker. I responded very clearly to that question last Tuesday, I believe. The hon. member has raised a question about the conduct of the commission

and section 33 that deals with a case that is presently before the commission. I'm sure the hon. member, other members of the Assembly, and certainly the minister wouldn't want to be in a position where we are accused of impeding or prejudicing that hearing.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It seems a rather flimsy excuse, to be frank.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. MARTIN: Is the minister following any other constraints that do not enable her to do her duties in this House?

MRS. OSTERMAN: With respect to the question, Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't accept the last comment, that I am not doing my duties insofar as this House is concerned. I have answered that question.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister saying that after the Securities Commission deals with this matter, she would be prepared to order an investigation into the Securities Commission?

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is just framing the question in a different manner, and I have already answered that question.

MR. MARTIN: I said "after". There's not much point in going around this; the minister is obviously not going to accept her responsibilities. My next question is to the Premier.

MR. SPEAKER: May I respectfully draw to the attention of the hon. leader that the last question was hypothetical — I didn't intervene; perhaps I should have — because it covered a situation that has not yet arisen, and we are not sure whether it will arise. May I also respectfully remind him that this is a question period and not an accusation period.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question to the hon. Premier. Section 10(2) of the Act clearly states that the Commission shall be composed of not more than 7 members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

My question is to the president of Executive Council, the hon. Premier. In light of the commission's recent difficulties, has any consideration been given to a review of the current membership of the commission by the Lieutenant Governor in Council?

MR. LOUGHEED: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. Why not?

MR. LOUGHEED: As I said on Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, because there's absolutely no reason or justification for it.

MR. MARTIN: That's a very debatable point, Mr. Speaker, but I'll turn to the Attorney General, and maybe we'll get some answers. I believe the Attorney General has said that he remains satisfied with the legal opinion he received last year, to the effect that charges in the Dial matter were laid

within the period prescribed by the Securities Act. I point out that that was after it was raised in the House by my late colleague. Could the Attorney General indicate to this Assembly if he is still satisfied with the opinion he received last year? What is he doing to make sure that new, crucial prosecutions are not thrown out on legal technicalities?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I suppose the matter the hon. leader is raising is really that any time we lose a prosecution, or presumably any civil suit, the lawyer who conducted it could be called on the carpet and made to make some sort of absolution for his sins in respect to his conduct or the opinion he might have given. That would be entirely improper in all respects. As the hon. leader well knows, interference by the Attorney General or the Leader of the Opposition in the due process of administration of justice is something that reasonable people — the members of the Assembly included, I'm sure unanimously, in this view — would not even want to contemplate. I hope the hon. leader does not pursue a line of approach that is dedicated to interference in respect to what are admittedly important matters. I have not on any occasion called any legal counsel on the carpet, so to speak, in respect to the way in which specific cases were handled.

I think the statistics are that we win most prosecutions. Most people who look upon the justice systems have varying views of its shortcomings, whether it be sentencing, the finding of a particular jury, an acquittal, or something else. But once that is done, it is the process that has functioned to achieve that, and not the interference of the hon. leader or me. I shall stay out of it; I hope the hon. leader will.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be the final supplementary on this topic. I have a fairly long list of members.

MR. MARTIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not trying to interfere; I'm just trying to find out who is in charge. I think that's a reasonable thing to bring up in the Assembly. I say to the hon. Attorney General that thousands of small investors have gone down the tube, and they're asking the same question.

We talked about the limitation period. My question to the Attorney General is simply this: to questions from the ex-leader on this side of the House, he said that he is satisfied with the legal opinion he received. At this particular time is the Attorney General still satisfied with the legal opinion he received in this case?

MR. SPEAKER: That's the same question as was asked a moment ago.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I confess that in my previous answer I perhaps didn't respond to the same question. I would like to, in this sense: I haven't any failing of confidence in the competence and integrity of the legal opinions provided by the law officers of the Crown.

In respect to the question of the one-year limitation period, which was raised last year, as the hon. leader noted, what occurred was that anyone who knew anything at all about the case was aware that this would become a point in issue. The opinion given was that there was a sufficient case to be made out relative to the proposition that the time period had not expired. There was a debate, and everybody knew the two sides of the opinion. To be very

clear, the opinion is based on the question of whether or not, under the statute, notice is deemed to be upon the commission at the time the commissioners learn of it or at the time some staff member learns of it. There can be a time frame of months involved in that. Everyone knew that argument would be made. It turned out to be the argument that was made. But to say that at the time the case was proceeded with, that argument should not be made or that there wasn't sufficient opinion to proceed in that way doesn't address the issue the people who were handling the case at that time had to address.

MR. MARTIN: I'm still not sure I got the answer, but it was a good try anyhow.

Gaming Regulations

MR. MARTIN: I'll continue with the Attorney General on the second set of questions, Mr. Speaker. It's about a subject that perhaps we will get some answers on, and it has to do with gambling. As the minister is likely aware, there is considerable apprehension in the province, particularly in Calgary, about proposals to legalize the establishment of permanent casinos in Alberta. Can the Attorney General assure the Assembly that the government is not considering any change to policy or legislation which would permit the establishment of permanent casinos in this province?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I will take a chance on answering that and put it this way: if there is a change in policy, it can only be within the existing limits of the Criminal Code of Canada. We could not have a policy in the province that was not within the limits imposed by the Criminal Code. Basically, those limits are that gaming can only take place for charitable purposes. Now, I have always thought it would be very difficult to have a proposal in a form which would fit those parameters and at the same time be an Atlantic City style of gaming operation. So I have real doubts that it can be done, that it could be designed or presented so that it would fill that task. I think that gives the hon. leader a strong indication of my views about the prospect of permanent casinos.

However, the issue that people are entitled to be fairly heard on their proposals is always present. The Gaming Commission has done that. They have concluded that one proposal in particular, for southern Alberta, does not come within the existing policy guidelines. All that is left to be done in that case is for the government itself to address one more question. Is it possible — not saying whether it would or would not be done; we would all have our own opinions on whether it should be — that the policy within which the Gaming Commission must work because it's a provincial policy and within which we must have our policy because of the Criminal Code ... Is it fair to hear those people out and have them say how they think the policy could be amended in order to achieve their objective whether or not it is ever approved? That's the stage of the process at the present time.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question, following up on the minister's answer. As I understand it, because of the Criminal Code of Canada it would be impossible to have this type of permanent casino in the province. Has the Attorney General held any consultations with his federal counterpart about the possibility of changing the Criminal Code?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I consider that to still be an open question. The answer is that it has come up from time to time — not recently — in discussions between attorneys general and the Minister of Justice. I don't think it's a high priority of the federal government to amend the Criminal Code in this respect. It is a slightly higher priority on the part of some provinces, who would like more freedom to legislate or make regulations provincially in respect to gaming matters within each province. It is not a high priority for Alberta, and any time it came up relative to the federal Ministry of Justice and our consultations with them, my position was that we would not press the matter and would not, in effect, be advocating a position for change.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. Has the Attorney General done any personal review of the numerous studies available in regard to organized gambling, particularly from the United States, that conclude that no matter how well regulated it is, legalization inevitably leads to significant growth in organized crime?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt of that. I suppose it's a question of how well it can be controlled.

I have not personally reviewed the studies the hon. leader referred to, at least not in recent months. I look to the commission, which is a specialist body, very well informed in respect to all these issues, for advice on such matters. Their advice is always consistent with the view that caution should indeed be exercised in regard to expansion of the parameters of gaming. It has to be very carefully done.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. We have a lot of documents I'd be glad to share with the hon. Attorney General. Has the Attorney General or, for that matter, the Solicitor General held any meeting with the Calgary Police Commission to review the material they've been gathering on the connection between legalized casino gambling and organized crime?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have not. I don't know whether or not officials in the criminal law division might have done so. They surely would have, if asked.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary follow-up question, Mr. Speaker. In reviewing possible changes to the gambling laws, if it came about, has the minister directed his officials to specifically review the experience of Atlantic City, New Jersey, which he talked about, where I understand legal casino gambling not only led to an increase in crime but did nothing of significance for unemployment?

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, in all these things I am speaking from impressions and from the feel one gets for this issue after addressing it over a period of time and being to some extent one of those responsible for our own policies within the parameters set by the Criminal Code. I've indicated that I haven't any doubt about the down side and the unfavourable effect of highly organized gaming communities. Examining specific communities and specific studies into the matter is something I don't think I will undertake to do, having already formed the view which I think accords very much with the conclusions reached by those studies as the hon. leader describes them.

MR. MARTIN: Just one final supplementary. Mr. Speaker, following from the Attorney General's answers. At the

present time nothing would indicate that Alberta will be changing its laws in this regard?

MR. CRAWFORD: That is correct, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I should leave it at that, but I draw to the hon. leader's attention that I did say that the people who are proponents are entitled to a hearing, and relative to what policy changes they think might achieve their objective, they should at least be heard.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Attorney General. The Alberta Gaming Commission hears literally hundreds of appeals as a result of being turned down for gaming licences. Has the Attorney General had recommendations from the Alberta Gaming Commission recommending policy changes that would in effect authorize permanent gaming casinos?

MR. CRAWFORD: No, Mr. Speaker.

Alberta Hospital, Ponoka

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Can the minister indicate the problems in the Alberta Hospital at Ponoka that saw that facility lose its accreditation two years ago?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may be aware that the hospital did lose its accreditation many months ago, I believe primarily as a result of a lack of organization that related directly to the absence of senior and key administrative persons who should have been there and who were in the process of being recruited. There was also some concern expressed about the physical condition of some of the buildings, although that is not primarily a reason for loss of accreditation. I'm happy to say that the newly appointed and hardworking board has taken very significant steps during the past few months to rectify both of those situations, and I'm very optimistic that the accreditation will soon be restored.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Can the minister indicate what the justification was for the hospital operating without a clinical director for about a three-year period? What were the problems that we did not have a permanent clinical director?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, that's a very difficult question to answer. The board was making vigorous attempts to recruit someone. The funding was there to pay him or her, and the office and furniture were there for him or her to work in. They just had difficulty finding a suitable client and attracting him or her to that particular facility. But they were patient and stayed with it, and the position is now filled.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Can the minister indicate what steps are being taken to ensure that the psychiatrists' on staff will have Canadian accreditation? Of the 11 staff people, I believe only one had Canadian accreditation. Can the minister indicate what the problem was in that area?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has partly referred to what is a larger problem; that is, the shortage

of qualified psychiatrists in western Canada and certainly in Alberta. It appears there is an opportunity for many more of them to establish successful practices, and the funding is there to pay them. We think our communities are attractive places for them to locate and establish, but there has been that problem, not just in Ponoka but in communities throughout the province. I know that in all cases the boards involved are making every effort to attract the qualified personnel the member referred to.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. Can the minister indicate what progress has been made on having 15- to 20-bed psychiatric units in general hospitals? What moves have been made in the direction of providing that type of mental health care in facilities other than the two major ones we have in the province?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, most of the larger general hospitals throughout the province now have acute care psychiatric wards. That applies to most of the large hospitals here in Edmonton. Certainly the new hospitals that are going up have very nicely designed, separate psychiatric pavilions. We're gradually building into our acute care hospital system the treatment of mental illnesses as well as physical ills.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary on the point the minister made on accreditation. Will the facility in Ponoka have to wait for a new facility before the accreditation is returned, or does he see that that accreditation can be in place before the new facility is constructed?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, the accreditation is carried out by the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation and is beyond the control or jurisdiction of anyone in this province. Periodically, about every three years, that committee visits all the hospital facilities in Canada and either maintains or withdraws accreditation or, in the case of a new facility, puts it in place. My remarks meant that from what I'm told, I'm very hopeful that on their next visit to Ponoka, when they review the progress that has been made and the steps taken with respect to their last report, we should be going a long way toward having that accreditation restored. In the meantime, we and the board are taking the attitude: let's carry on and get on with the job and give the patients the best possible care we can.

MR. JONSON: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. As I recall, one of the key past problems was that of the qualifications of the clinical director. I wonder if the minister could tell the House whether or not the current clinical director meets the certification and experience requirements that were suggested for that position.

MR. RUSSELL: It's my understanding that that is the case, Mr. Speaker. I'd prefer to take that question as notice and check it with the board chairman, but that's certainly my understanding. I'm also advised that they now have four psychiatrists with Canadian qualifications working at Ponoka, two of whom are on a part-time basis.

MR. JONSON: Mr. Speaker, it's my further understanding that a master plan for redevelopment of the hospital was also something expected both by the department and the accreditation people. Could the minister advise the House as to the status of that development?

MR. RUSSELL: The master plan has been produced by the board and was recently submitted to our department for a response. It's going to take a lot of money to carry it out if we're able to approve it and get the dollars through Legislature approval. But they have done that. I'm very hopeful that at least an early start can be made on one or two very important buildings there, and we'll be speaking more about that later on this session.

MR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care deals with the requirement for more psychiatrists in this province. What are the minister or members of his department doing to actively recruit psychiatrists to Alberta?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, I think it's a well-known fact that Alberta is probably the best place to practise the profession of medicine these days, with respect to the way we regard that profession and assign them their responsibilities. There's certainly the opportunity to make a good income. I think the problem goes back to the medical schools and the length of time it takes to become a qualified, practising psychiatrist; it's a long, long grind. Not a lot of medical students choose that path, and those that do are in very high demand.

MR. PAPROSKI: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. There seems to be an extra special need in the area of child psychiatrists. Could the minister allude to the House whether we should be encouraged by the entrance of some child psychiatrists into the province in the near future?

MR. SPEAKER: With great respect, it would seem to me that to ask ministers whether there are grounds for encouragement would really fall outside the ambit of the question period.

Agricultural Chemicals

DR. ELLIOTT: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. Is he giving consideration to reviewing the high costs of agricultural chemicals, one of the costs of input in operating our agricultural industry? Has he reviewed this with the producers and distributors of these chemicals?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, as part of our ongoing review of input costs, which all members know has a high priority, we have been looking at the area of chemicals. I have been giving some consideration to meeting with the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association to see if there's some area worthy of discussion, looking particularly at the exchange rate on the American dollar — there are no import duties or tariffs on agricultural chemicals, I understand — but also at the whole area of what actions may be appropriate at this time.

DR. ELLIOTT: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister reviewed the situation with his provincial counterparts?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, yes I have. In fact, early this morning I had breakfast with the Minister of Agriculture from Saskatchewan. We had some discussion about that, besides a variety of other issues. The whole area of agricultural chemicals was certainly a topic of discussion, and we looked at how we might work jointly

to have some discussion with the Canadian association responsible for chemicals.

Native Education

MR. GURNETT: Mr. Speaker, following the release last June of the report on native education from the Committee on Tolerance and Understanding, the Minister of Education stated that his department would develop a special policy on native education by this spring. This was something that people within the department and native associations in the province had wanted for a long time. Could the minister indicate if that policy is now ready, and would he outline that policy for members of the Assembly?

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, the policy is not ready. The hon. member may be aware that representatives of the department are meeting all through the spring with various interested groups, including band councils, community organizations on reserves, elected representatives of Metis settlements, community groups on the Metis settlements, urban communities of native people, educators specializing in native education, and administrators, trustees, and teachers in school jurisdictions that have a significant native population.

Because there has been a very, very strong positive response to this discussion, I have made the decision and have advised the department that the time line for presenting a draft policy to me will be extended into late May or early June. After that, of course, the proposals will be discussed with my colleagues in the education committee of caucus and with the government caucus, because the outcome of this process will be a policy statement of the government of Alberta, not a policy of Alberta Education. But because the discussion has been very positively responded to and because of the desire that there should be more opportunity for discussion, I have extended the time line.

MR. GURNETT: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the interest in discussion, but I'm concerned when I look back and see that action on this was requested as early as 1972, in the Worth commission. The Ghitter report said:

No group ... has been studied to the extent of our Native population. ... It is time that the Government took the studies from the shelves and turned them into policies ...

I'm concerned, and I ask the minister what measures he has taken to ensure that there will be action on this in the near future.

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, the assurance that there will be action is the result of the fact that I am the Minister of Education. [interjections] There will be action.

The reference in the report of the consultative Committee on Tolerance and Understanding was obviously to federal studies that are sitting on the shelves in federal offices, because this government has no studies that have not been acted on. [interjections] For example, I draw the attention of the hon. member to the report of the MacNeil committee on the administration and organization of the Northland School Division. That report was acted on.

Reports that have been done for the provincial government respecting the provision of educational services to native children in this province are acted on. We are not studying native education at this point in time; we are discussing native education with the parents of the children who receive

it. If the hon. member wants to stand up in this House and suggest to us that we should stop discussing the education of native children with native parents, then I invite him to make that submission. I will consider it. [interjections]

MR. GURNETT: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. On a subject of this importance that has waited so long, it would seem to me that the minister's personal involvement would be very valuable. Could the minister outline his own meetings with representatives of the recognized groups that represent native peoples in this province and the results of those meetings?

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, I think the most appropriate time for my involvement will be just a little bit later in this process, at which time I will meet with representatives of groups such as the Metis Association of Alberta and the Indian Association of Alberta. I do want to make it very, very clear that we are not educating the children of organizations; we are educating the children of parents in the community. I am most interested in talking to the parents of the children. I will talk to the MAA and I will talk to the IAA, but I am most interested in talking to the parents.

MR. GURNETT: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Another aspect of the whole issue, of course, is the non-native population and their education. My question to the minister is whether his native education policy development committee has also been charged with the task of ensuring that native culture and history and native issues will be adequately dealt with in the overall curriculum of public schools for non-native children.

MR. KING: That will certainly be a consideration, but we are now talking about an issue which is also a consideration for the review of the secondary program of studies, the review of the School Act, and the review of the recommendations of the consultative Committee on Tolerance and Understanding. The same concern the hon. member has quite rightly raised with respect to the native community is also a concern that can quite rightly be raised with respect to the Chinese community, the Ukrainian community, the German community, and all the other communities that have brought valuable culture to this province. At that point, the hon. member raised an important question that is not unique to the native community; it is important for all the communities throughout the province.

MR. GURNETT: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. We've heard a lot about the things that are being considered and the things that are being looked at in Alberta Education. My supplementary question, turning to the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, is whether the minister could advise this Assembly whether he has received any reports or recommendations from the committee he established to study native education and what measures he plans to implement any recommendations of that committee?

MR. PAHL: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to assure the Member for Spirit River-Fairview and the rest of my colleagues that things will be done not only because my hon. colleague is Minister of Education but because I'm Minister responsible for Native Affairs.

I'm happy to report on the results of a joint government/Metis Association of Alberta seminar process that went across some 10 communities throughout last year to identify

activities that were of concern to the grass-roots native people of Alberta. Child welfare was on the top of the list, education was second, employment and training were third, housing was fourth, and economic development was fifth.

We felt the best way to go about that process was to attend to a working group concept rather than establish committees of long life. The first one has been established with respect to native child welfare, and we won't want to duplicate. However, Mr. Speaker, if it were a case of having too many committees or working groups rather than not enough, I would opt for that. In view of the time line of the Minister of Education's curriculum committee and the advisory committee to the Minister of Advanced Education on native education, we will be taking a more overarching view.

I would also like to remind the members in the House that with passage last year of the Northland School Division Act, which provided for native people to be on the advisory boards and the full board of the Northland School Division, there has been considerable progress in responding to the aspirations of native people in terms of more impact over the institutions that govern their lives. I submit that that's probably the most direct form of progress we've had to this date.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Might this be brief. We're running out of time.

MR. MARTIN: Very brief. To the Minister of Education: will the government have a policy statement on native education before he runs for the Premier's job?

MR. KING: Mr. Speaker, given my expectation that the incumbent is going to stay there for a long, long time, the hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood wants to be a lot more ambitious than that about the deadlines he sets me.

Ronald McDonald House — Calgary

MR. LEE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Could the minister advise if it is his intention to take action on the need for subsidized, nearby accommodation for parents while their children are being treated at the Calgary children's hospital?

MR. RUSSELL: Oh, Mr. Speaker, that's a lovely marshmallow, because it gives me a chance to share a really happy experience with members of the Legislature. I wish you could all have been at the opening of the Ronald McDonald House in Calgary yesterday. There's one under construction in Edmonton as well.

I want the opportunity to comment on it in the Assembly, because as the member says, it is a remarkable facility for families of chronically and severely physically handicapped and very ill children from southern Alberta. The neat thing is that a world record was established in Calgary yesterday with completion of that house, and I'll tell you about it. But the basic thing is that it was all done with community effort.

A couple of years ago the two groups came to the government, and we were able to provide them with a couple of sites, one in Calgary and one in Edmonton. From there on — and this is so unique to me in my portfolio — they didn't ask for anything. They said, "What can we

give to the community?" That house with its furnishings is worth about \$1 million. It's all paid for; it's all voluntary effort and private donations. There's a large trust set aside, the income of which will be used to operate the facility, so there won't be any operating requests made to the government in the future.

Of all the houses the Ronald McDonald foundation has built around the world — and we were told yesterday that there are about 80 — it was done the fastest from initiation to completion in the city of Calgary. I think that's just a remarkable voluntary effort by Albertans.

MR. SPEAKER: We're running out of time. I did attempt to limit supplementaries — in fact I did — but I didn't anticipate the length of some of the questions or of some of the answers. Since I've recognized the hon. Member for Calgary North West, we might hear her question if the Assembly agrees. Then the hon. Premier would like to supplement some information which was previously asked in the Assembly.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Senate Reform

MRS. EMBURY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs. Will the minister have the opportunity to discuss with the federal hon. Minister of Justice the Senate reform recommendations of the report that was tabled in the Assembly this morning?

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, the question is of considerable importance in view of the fact that we have had word that in the near future the federal government will be introducing its own resolution with respect to the Canadian Senate. I met once with the hon. Attorney General of Canada and advised him that during the course of this session we expected to bring forward the report of the special select committee, which was tabled this morning. I am immediately communicating that report to the federal minister and in the process asking for a firm commitment from the federal government to a process by which we can proceed to a thorough and comprehensive review of the role of the upper House in Canada.

During the course of our meeting I made it clear that we were expecting this report and that we would of course be debating it in this Assembly. I might add that I will be asking the hon. Attorney General of Canada not to introduce legislation into the federal House until such time as the first ministers have had an opportunity to review the proposed federal legislation.

MRS. EMBURY: One quick supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify something the minister said. I believe he said he's hoping that if the federal government introduces something into the Parliament of Canada, there will be a firm commitment to ongoing consultation with the province.

MR. HORSMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that's very clear, and we're reinforcing that point by way of correspondence immediately with the federal government. That was a point that was made during my meeting with him. When this matter with respect to the federal proposal first arose, I indicated that while we as a provincial government would not want to stand in the way of the federal government

dealing with internal operating matters, at the same time we would not agree to abolition of the current Senate unless it were to be replaced by a body which would effectively represent provincial interests in the Canadian federal scene.

Unemployment

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, in an exchange with the Leader of the Opposition yesterday, I answered a question dealing with out-migration from the province. I made the comment:

It is our view that the out-migration has subsided and that we're now in a stable position, and that should continue over the course of 1985.

The interpretation of the words "stable" and "subsided" data requires some clarification. The population within the province is a combination of factors of natural increase and net migration. In the situation with regard to the population there was a decline in the population, and it has now stabilized and will continue to grow steadily. Net out-migration will subside in terms of the extent we've seen over the last two years.

The data on the matter that I wanted to supplement for the House is that we had an incredible 300,000-plus total net migration to this province between 1977 and 1982, which is perhaps unmatched in the history of the nation for a province of our size. Roughly 20 percent of the people who came into the province obviously were involved in net out-migration in the years '83 and '84. So on a net basis, approximately 80 percent of the people who moved to the province in 1977-82 remain here.*

MR. SPEAKER: I express my regret again to the hon. members who were not reached today; there were four of them. Perhaps they might be accommodated on Monday.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

head: CONSIDERATION OF HER HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Moved by Mr. Alexander:

That a humble address be presented to Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour, the Honourable W. Helen Hunley, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Alberta:

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

[Adjourned debate March 20: Mr. Paproski]

MR. PAPROSKI: As I rise, Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to participate in my third debate on the Speech from the Throne. Congratulations to my Edmonton colleague, the Member for Edmonton Whitemud, for an eloquent speech moving Her Honour's Speech from the Throne. Warmest congratulations, as well, to the esteemed Member for Rocky Mountain House in seconding the motion and providing this Assembly with new knowledge about himself and indeed new knowledge about his beautiful constituency. Congratulations and sincerest best wishes to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Alberta on her appointment

as the Queen's representative in the greatest western province in Canada and for her many years of devotion as a public citizen in Alberta, offering so much of her life to the citizens throughout this province.

To you, Mr. Speaker, my thanks once more for your expertise, your knowledge, your time, and the decorum that you continue to provide to this Assembly. So often I am reminded by constituents who visit this House and have had the opportunity to experience other Assemblies throughout Canada of the positive tone that you set in Alberta in comparison to other such Houses.

I send to the constituents of the provincial riding of Edmonton Kingsway a resounding thank you for the continued communication, comments, suggestions, directions, and support that I receive from them daily. As their elected representative in the provincial Legislature, I am honoured to represent their wishes.

Almost two and one-half years have elapsed since I was first elected, on November 1, 1982, to represent the great constituency of Edmonton Kingsway. In that time frame, residents of Kingsway have latched on to my motto, "Communicate". They have done so by phone, by letter, and by personal visit. They continue to use well the constituency office that I established in early 1983 on 124th Street and 109th Avenue, and of course they utilize my office in the Legislature extensively. I would like to thank here today my secretary at the constituency office, Rose Stec, for her capable efforts and her hard work on behalf of the constituents of Edmonton Kingsway.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative for all citizens of the province to realize that their MLAs are approachable and willing to listen and act on their behalf. I hope I have provided my constituents with that opportunity and have attempted to share with members here their feelings, their wants, their needs, and their government direction.

I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that Albertans want more and more to see government off their backs as much as possible. That is why the communication I receive is very positive with respect to the privatization and deregulation initiatives of this government, alluded to in the speech by Her Honour. The streamlining of government and the lessening of bureaucracy is wanted more and more by my constituents. The role of government, enunciated so well in the Speech from the Throne, must be to enhance a positive climate for all citizens in all aspects of life, be it leisure, work, education, or others. Citizens are desirous of a government that welcomes a rekindling of the family unit, a climate for the business entrepreneur to hone his or her skills and to offer those skills to their fellow Albertans, a positive climate that welcomes newcomers from other lands to settle in our great province, a province that citizens too frequently forget has stability, tremendous natural resources, and a very, very positive future.

One simply has to skim the press or listen or watch the electronic media to be aware of the wars, the terrorism, the famine, and the unrest that exists throughout our planet. I look at my father's homeland, Poland, and I am so distressed for the many, many people who live in that country. I look at how citizens are mistreated in that country, how so few freedoms exist, how the citizens of Poland truly require solidarity. To those citizens who believe Canada and Alberta are not offering them enough in aspects of life, I'd like them to visit that country or any other communist country, to compare what we have in this great province. How super it is to live in an area of the North American continent that offers hope, that truly offers peace and

*See March 21 *Hansard*, p. 114

prosperity. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I underscore these areas because, although we have some major areas of concern in Alberta, there still exist tremendous opportunities and stability for citizens, be they young or old.

I am pleased that the speech offers hope for those citizens unable to find work in Edmonton and throughout this province. Over 15 percent unemployment is truly unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, but solutions are not found by simply opening up the purse strings of the government of Alberta. We must move cautiously and with extensive know-how to again rekindle areas of employment for those experiencing much sadness through unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, as I visit constituents, I see positive movements. I hear comments, "Yes, Carl, it is very very difficult to make a buck, but I am making a buck." I see new businesses occurring and a feeling of hopefulness. Those involved in construction, however, are especially wanting our government to do more. Most are aware, however, that construction has ceased for a time, for a multitude of reasons, and that until the glut of vacant residential and commercial space is rented or sold, make-work projects are simply not the answer.

Mr. Speaker, the oil and gas industry, our number one industry in this province, that results in extensive employment directly or indirectly, is percolating again. The speech alludes to this, and citizens should be encouraged by the thousands of jobs that will soon be created. The multimillion dollars injected by the private sector, with extensive support from our government, will rekindle jobs that disappeared a few short years ago.

Constituents are encouraged as well by our new federal government, with respect to their acceptance of the need for a strong oil and gas industry in Alberta for Albertans and, indeed, all Canadians. I truly hope that our Prime Minister, Mr. Brian Mulroney, his Alberta MPs, and indeed all his MPs will continue to remember how damaging the previous government's policies were to our population and our great country and will treat us fairly in future policy discussions and ratifications. In my reference to the federal government it is important to stress that much of Her Honour's speech intimates the need for positive major undertakings by that government with Alberta to improve our economy, our employment rate, and again set the tone for a very positive future.

At the Regina conference, held just a few weeks ago, the Premier stressed that duplication of programs must cease in this country, that co-operation and sharing must be the menu of the future, that our province is not an island in Canada and Canada is not an island in this world, that the intermeshing of economics, of our people, and of our goods and services is a reality, and that good, open understanding of our constitutional rights and a positive plan to market our products throughout the world is not only needed but is crucial for sound fiscal management and improved employment.

Mr. Speaker, this is not to say that Alberta should stand still until our federal colleagues agree to our future programs. Indeed, we haven't stood still at all. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been expended in programs that offer hope to those unemployed. Many of my constituents, with information they have received from my office outlining wage subsidy, training, and retraining programs have found employment as a direct result of the Department of Manpower's initiatives. The government must be commended for these initiatives. But more must be done, and more will

be done. Suggestions for those in this Assembly and citizens throughout the province will be implemented.

I appeal to those in the House to consider this member's Resolution 208, which will be forthcoming for debate. I especially would like members of the opposition to pay attention to this particular resolution, and I will welcome their comments when it comes up for debate shortly. I will take the liberty to review what this resolution will be:

Be it resolved that the government continue its program initiatives in the area of job creation and training and that the Assembly urge the government to consider further initiatives in co-operation with both the private sector and the federal government in programs such as a year-round hire-a-student [program], entrepreneurship programs, native employment programs, tourism training, and others. The government is also urged to investigate the impact and opportunities of high technology on the work force and the workplace.

For those members sitting in opposition who say that our government is not planning anything new, that we don't have ideas — well, there is a resolution that has some ideas, and I welcome opposition members to contribute some more. I trust hon. members will indeed contribute, and I look forward to this. I hope the debate will generate ideas that can be incorporated into all aspects of our province.

Mr. Speaker, international trade has tremendous implications for Albertans in terms of dollars, jobs, and an improved standard of living for all of us. I was amazed when I heard members of the opposition say: "Well, really, what are we doing to create jobs?" et cetera. The whole concept of international trade and economic development has created many jobs in this province. I must congratulate the Minister of Economic Development and the Minister of International Trade for their continued strides in marketing our citizens' products and services. The Speech from the Throne refers to many products sold throughout the planet. To underscore how well we are doing in marketing these products, the following is a list, by geographic sector, of Alberta company export contracts assisted by our Minister of International Trade during 1984. I would like to compare the difference from 1983 to 1984, just one year.

In the Pacific/Asia region there is a change from \$25 million to \$61 million of exports; in Canada, from \$20 million to \$56 million; in the U.S., from \$8 million to approximately \$12 million; in Europe, from \$60 million in 1983 to \$132 million in 1984. In Africa we have gone from \$8 million to \$22 million; in the Middle East, from \$1.5 million to \$24.5 million; and in Latin America, from \$7.5 million to \$40 million. A total difference, Mr. Speaker, of \$131 million in 1983 to \$347 million in 1984. Don't tell me that that hasn't created jobs, because we all know that these are Alberta products. For goodness' sake, they were produced here, manufactured here, and they employ many, many people.

I pride myself on being part of a government that doesn't just sit still but attempts to market these goods and services throughout the entire world. With the expertise of the two ministers I alluded to and their departments, I know that will continue to broaden our horizons across this world.

In this debate I must make reference to our tremendous people programs that provide to our citizens of all ages hope, freedom, comfort, and stability. Albertans should be proud of their record of providing housing, social, medical, and educational programs, unparalleled and unmatched, for their citizens. The widows' and widowers' pension program is a prime example, Mr. Speaker. Subsidized housing pro-

grams have offered hundreds of our citizens security and a place to live. Seniors' programs are of unparalleled magnitude. There is a vast number of programs to aid those citizens, be they children in special education programs, adults who are disabled physically or mentally, or seniors who, as pioneers of this province, are provided with excellent health care, social care, and housing.

In recent weeks I again met with citizens of Central Village, Central Manor, Mountwood, Alliance Villa, and St. Andrews centre, as well as many citizens residing in the many apartments and houses in Edmonton Kingsway. They know of these programs that help them and, yes, they are very appreciative.

In addition to these people programs, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to remind hon. members that we continue not to have a sales tax or a gasoline tax, and there is no question that that is a people program. If we had a 5, 6, or 7 percent sales tax in this province, one just has to extrapolate what that would mean to the people of this province and the money that would not be in their pockets.

The new initiatives in education and child welfare are welcome and are required. I'd like to mention just one new development in Kingsway that will help emotionally disturbed young adolescents in Alberta. Established under the capable hands of Dr. Maurice Blackman, this new unit at Westfield is filling a sad void that has been present. For parents who have had totally uncontrollable children, for counsellors, social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and others in the helping professions, I know this unit will be a godsend.

As an educator, the review of the School Act has long been overdue and is welcomed by members of the public and the profession. Each time citizens and legislators address important issues such as these, our children will benefit. Let us not forget, however, that any review of education legislation should primarily be to make things better for our children. The review of secondary education programs is also welcomed. The junior and senior high schools' reasons for existence have to be reviewed and provided with new direction and new initiatives, the reason not being, as some might suggest, to have students fit into a slot or a niche in society but to help graduates understand themselves more fully and to develop skills and attitudes to help them live their lives to the fullest in this great province.

Mr. Speaker, a major area of interest for this member has been the tourism industry, our third largest industry in Alberta next to energy and agriculture. The members of the opposition have said: "There is nothing in here dealing with employment. You don't address it at all." For goodness' sake, surely they should understand that tourism is our third-largest industry, employing over 80,000 people in this province. The initiatives that are in the throne speech will provide even more, I am sure. As a government we must do more in this area to have Albertans visit other areas of their province, a province that offers 12 months — not six, not five, but 12 months — of beauty, excitement, and pleasurable activities. We must also make friends of our neighbours in all other countries by inviting them to partake of the beauty and hospitality that exist in all corners of Alberta. We are marketing many goods and services well, throughout the world. Let us show more initiative in having out-of-province and out-of-country citizens visit our province.

How important is this tourism industry, Mr. Speaker? I'd like to make reference to a publication that recently came from Tourism Canada. They tell the world how important tourism is to this country. I'd like to quote a

couple of brief paragraphs, to make citizens and members aware:

From 1973 to 1983, international travel and tourism has grown at a rate of 15% per year. It is estimated, counting both domestic and foreign travel, that the total global expenditures on tourism-related activity at the end of 1983 was close to \$1-trillion in Canada.

How many members have seen that figure on very many publications?

This growth in worldwide tourism shows no sign of diminishing. If anything, the most explosive growth lies ahead. Indications are that over 2 billion people will be travelling each year by the year 2000 — making tourism one of the largest, if not the largest, industry in the world at the start of the 21st century.

Who said that it doesn't have job implications? Come on, members of the opposition.

As the MLA for Edmonton Kingsway, I want to make reference to my role as an elected provincial representative, to those elected to Edmonton city council. Other members have alluded to the adversarial role that has developed between the mayor and some city council members and some members of Edmonton caucus. It does not matter, Mr. Speaker, what the media may say. I want the citizens to know that as an Edmonton-born and -raised citizen, I want to see my city prosper, I want to see my city develop to the fullest, and I want this city to continue to be the best city in this province. I take some pride in being part of a team that has provided the citizens of Edmonton with dollars and program initiatives beneficial to them.

I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, to take a moment to talk about some of these initiatives. We have solidified this city as the centre of government for this province. We have provided hundreds of millions of dollars in support of new arterial roadways, freeways, and ring roads. We have helped finance the Convention Centre. We have secured oil sands and heavy oil research for Edmonton. We have provided over \$130 million for LRT. We have fought for the new industrial research park and for the \$60 million Alberta Research Council complex being built in it. The Citadel Theatre, the Space Sciences Centre, the Butterdome at the University of Alberta, the Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre, et cetera.

I welcome positive communication and have enjoyed positive communication with most members of city council. The capital city of Alberta is my home. It has my roots. It is my city. Its citizens are my constituents and the constituents of the council members of the city of Edmonton. I state unequivocally that I will do my job to have as many new initiatives as are financially possible initiated and implemented for the citizens of Edmonton. I welcome the citizens to review, for example, the Alberta municipal assistance programs book, 142 pages that offer the municipalities in this province, including the city of Edmonton, a multitude of assistance programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne alludes to Senate reform. Today is an historic day, because a publication entitled Strengthening Canada has been put forward to this Assembly. I feel good about being part of that committee, and I believe strongly that this report will indeed strengthen our great country. I, for one, believe that this is not a report that will sit and gather dust on the shelf of somebody's office. I truly hope that the initiatives presented by the committee will be implemented across this land.

Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Edmonton Kingsway is an exciting, vibrant constituency. It offers its citizens and the citizens of the province many tremendous programs and businesses. The Winnifred Stewart school provides mentally handicapped young adults tremendous learning opportunities. Cerwood Industries provides mentally handicapped men and women the opportunity to learn and work. The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology continues to be a leader in the training of men and women to take their place in society as first-class workers in a multitude of occupational areas. The NAIT Oaks have again shown the citizens of Edmonton and of the province that no hockey team in this province can compete with their tremendous record, having an undefeated season once more and going to the national finals of the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association.

The Edmonton Municipal Airport, situated in Kingsway, provides the citizens of Edmonton and Alberta with super access to and from this capital. The hundreds of small and large businesses situated in the constituency offer to Edmontonians and Albertans a multitude of products and services. The schools, the community leagues, are active and pride themselves on the many activities that they offer their citizens. The Charles Camshell hospital continues to be one of the best in Alberta. The multitude of churches that provide a most important element to our citizens must also be commended by this member for the caring and sharing they have shown their congregations. I have welcomed extensive communication from them in the past and hope for more in the future.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are concerns in the city of Edmonton and throughout the province of Alberta with respect to some areas, but there is a feeling of hopefulness, there is a feeling of openness, and there is good communication. I strongly believe that our government has been responsive. I commend Her Honour's speech to this Assembly, and I look forward to the budget and know full well that it will assist in implementing the many proposals therein.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I would like very briefly this morning to take part in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. Before I do that, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview on attaining an electoral victory in that constituency. It's not that often that I would be glad to see an additional socialist in this Legislature. But when you are down to three, you will even accept socialists to help out on this side of the House. I wish the member well, and I sincerely congratulate him. It is a reflection upon the people in that constituency that they understood the parliamentary and democratic process. They knew that the government didn't need one more member on that side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time I congratulate the member, I would like to again congratulate the Premier for the 20 years he has been in politics. At times I think we have to remind ourselves that we do belong to a pretty exclusive club. I've always said to the new members of the Assembly that the cut and thrust of debate in the Legislature has absolutely nothing to do with what goes on outside the doors of this Assembly. I think I know the Premier personally as well as or better than even some of his colleagues do, and I know one thing you can never take away from the man: he gives 110 percent at all times. I wish to say that publicly. The differences we have in the House are part of the process.

MR. SZWENDER: Switch parties.

DR. BUCK: Switch parties? If they were more conservative than I would like to see them be, then there could be a chance. I've been trying to lead them into the path of at least being centralists, not so left that the Member for Edmonton Norwood would not have any trouble taking over some of their policies and implementing them as his own.

I'd also like to give a little advice to the hon. Member for Edmonton Belmont. I think there's been a little lack of education on somebody's part — maybe the Government House Leader's — in teaching him a bit about the procedures and etiquette of the game in this Assembly. When you take on a member who is not in this Assembly, who cannot defend himself, by having a run at the executive assistant of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I think that is a cheap shot. I said that, and *Hansard* has recorded it. I personally like the Member for Edmonton Belmont, but he has to learn a little bit about the parliamentary process. So I say to the hon. Member for Edmonton Belmont: I like you personally, but I sometimes think you may need a short course in the niceties of the parliamentary system.

Having got that off my chest, I would like to indicate to members of the Assembly, in the debate we're entered in at this time, that I am an optimist. I have great confidence in the future of this province. As many of you know, I am in the process of a very extensive personal endeavour in constructing Alberta's first 27-hole golf course. Because I have that optimism, I am willing to risk everything I have accumulated in all the years of practice in my profession. I have that kind of optimism, but at the same time this government does not give me confidence that they have that kind of optimism. They have not given me any confidence that they have a game plan. We talk so much about the team. Well, the team must have a game plan. The hon. member mentioned that the signs are there: the signs of decay, the signs of indifference, the signs of arrogance that were in the former Social Credit government in their latter days, where you stand in this House and defend to the end all the programs you have and don't think there can be any improvement. That's a sign that the members of this Assembly on the government side are not listening to what is happening in the real world.

I believe it was the hon. Member for Rocky Mountain House who, when we were in Ottawa, said to somebody: "You live in an unreal world when you live in the city of Ottawa. You don't really know what's going on in the real world, because you're picking up your cheque every month or two weeks and you don't know what's going on outside that small city." That is basically what is happening to our government members. I guess they know what is really going on out there, but they don't want to admit it.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about what is going on in agriculture. Farmers who have been farming for generations in this province are in severe financial difficulties. We have to look at lowering the farmers' input costs. I compliment the Minister of International Trade for the work he does in trying to promote this province. The hon. minister and I have had some differences of opinion over the many years, but again I give the man his dues, because he does work very, very hard in promoting Alberta, its products, and its people. I wish to congratulate him on that endeavour. But we've got to do something for agriculture. We pay lip service to the fact that we recognize that it is our second-highest and most important industry next to gas and oil.

We've also heard how we're not going to be so dependent on the income from natural gas and oil, but we in this province go on and on using those resources, not really looking to the future. I was concerned with the minister of energy's report that he wasn't going to look at this 25-year ongoing reserve for natural gas. I think that's very, very shortsighted. When the Social Credit Party was in power, we looked at a 30-year reserve, a rolling, ongoing reserve. The minister of energy was quite taken aback when I asked him if he could guarantee and assure the people of this province that there would be an ongoing 25-year reserve, which over a long period is really just a blip on the scale of time. We have to husband and skillfully make sure we protect those resources.

So agriculture has to have more concern than it has been shown. The hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview brought to the attention of this government that they did not act quickly enough about trying to do something for the crops that are under snow in the Peace River country.

I think that area of my own constituency has probably been more recession-proof than any other part of the province. The Scotford Shell plant came on stream, the benzene plant came on stream just recently, the Northwestern Utilities natural gas cavern, a large project, has come on stream. So relatively speaking, the majority of my constituency has been recession-proof. But at the same time that I say that, I do communicate with my people and I find out from them what problems they have been having.

The unemployed — and I think the point the hon. Leader of the Opposition has made in this Assembly several times is the psychological devastation to people who do not have a job, even more than to the young graduate, who has not had a job for a few years and then lost it. The greatest devastation psychologically is for the person who is between 40 and 55 years of age, who has worked hard at his job, who has worked diligently, who has provided the kind of service and expertise that we need in this province. What a devastation to that man and what a threat to his future. At the age of 55, does he start retraining? The psychological effect is devastating to him and to his family. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that people like that have probably suffered more than anybody has suffered in this recession. The psychological devastation has been awesome.

Mr. Speaker, I want to know what hope this government offers for the new Albertans who are coming into the work force: the graduates from NAIT and SAIT, from AVC, from our universities. I would like to indicate to this Assembly that the greatest concern those young people indicate to me is that they're afraid they may never get a job. Is that the kind of diversification this government talks about? Is that what they have to look forward to? Where in the throne speech is the hope for those young people?

Why did we have the strike in Elk Island? Because the school boards just don't have enough money left. When this government came to power in '71, they talked about increased funding for education and taking the burden off the taxpayers at the local level. But what have we seen? An increased load on the local people and less and less participation by the provincial government. As a representative of a new party, we would reverse that trend and would say to the people of Alberta, "We can cut a lot of the fat out of the budget of this government and redirect it into education." I believe very, very firmly that the future lies with education. The future lies with our young people who have received training and an education. That's the direction I think we have to move in.

I would like to put in a plug for AVC. I believe that many of us are not familiar with what programs are offered at AVC, and I wasn't until several months ago. We've heard about NAIT and SAIT, and the programs that are offered there sort of fill in the areas that the other institutions don't cover. It would behoove all members of the Assembly to make themselves a little more conversant with what opportunities are available at AVC. I just thought I'd like to get in that little plug for AVC, because possibly we as members are not familiar with what does go on.

Mr. Speaker, this government is showing a lack of concern for the protection of the environment. Back in 1971, when we were all talking about "now", this government was concerned about the protection of the environment. But what has happened? Basically, they have gotten rid of the legislation. They will not place a person such as an ombudsman that we as a new party would put into place if we were to come to power. We would put in an environmental ombudsman so that the person who's concerned about pollution does not have to go hat-in-hand to the minister saying, "We would like this or this investigated." The environmental ombudsman would have the power given to him by this legislature. He would not have to answer to any politicians. He would have a secure term of five years, and he could be the person who is the watchdog to make sure our environment is protected.

I would like to say to this government that I think you're backing off in your promises to the people of this province when you said that we will not bring in outside wastes from other provinces to be treated in our province. I want a commitment from this government that other provinces will be responsible for looking after their hazardous wastes. We do not want them brought to this province. At the same time that I say that to the hon. Minister of the Environment, I think the department and this government made the wrong decision in not putting that plant in an area where the wastes are generated, but that is history at this time. I thought sites were offered that would have been geologically compatible with the job we were trying to do. The recommendations from the committee were exactly that: have the plant near the area where the wastes are generated.

I'd like to indicate to the minister of highways that building main thoroughfares and highways through the major cities should be a responsibility of the taxpayers as a whole. That should be the responsibility entirely of the department of highways. If a person is driving from Red Deer to Athabasca, he should be travelling on a provincial highway totally funded by the taxpayers of this province, in going through the city of Edmonton or through any major centre. That should be a charge on the entire province.

The major water and sewage lines should be entirely a charge on the province. This government is going to get rid of some of the those strings-attached grants. We have to look at some of these programs. At the same time we're talking about water and sewer, I'd like to bring to the attention of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of the Environment the problem that's been created in the little town of Bruderheim. Directly as a result of direction from those two departments, there are 70 houses vacant in Bruderheim at this time. The village of Bruderheim had a good water supply that they had invested in. But no, they had to hook onto the northeast waterline because Vegreville needed water. So we as politicians have to be careful to see what we do to small communities, what impact it has on those small communities, when we force them to do certain things that we think they should do.

Mr. Speaker, I've always been very concerned about this government's intervention in the private sector. Why did we have to set up the Alberta Housing Corporation? I know the hon. minister at that time, the hon. Mr. Yurko, is a great empire builder. But we are competing directly — and this government has a record of competing directly — with the private sector. People want to know, if we came to power, what we would do, how we would balance the books. Well, there's one department that would go immediately.

Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't be in the land business. We shouldn't be in the development business. If this is a small "c" conservative government, let the private sector operate. It can do it better and more efficiently. I know my colleagues to the left wouldn't agree with that. But I also know that my colleagues to the left would spend the entire provincial budget and be back for more, as they did in the province of British Columbia. That's the socialist philosophy.

MR. MARTIN: You must be getting worried about it.

DR. BUCK: I'm not really worried, hon. Leader of the Opposition, because 19 percent it's been and 19 percent it's going to remain. It went up to 21 percent, but it isn't going to change. I do wish you luck, and I compliment you on your optimism.

Mr. Speaker, I compliment the government on the committee that was set up to look at getting rid of needless legislation, but I would like to see some action. I think we are drowning ourselves in red tape, hon. Member for Edmonton Whitemud. For example, in the town of Fort Saskatchewan, which is to become a city on July 1, a citizen had a 150-foot residential lot. He was going to divide it into two 75-foot lots. It took over six months, with nobody dissenting, to divide that 150-foot lot into two 75-foot lots. Talk about bureaucracy run amok; there is a prime example of it. We all know that if you buy a piece of raw land in the province of Alberta, you're lucky if you can get the thing developed within two to two and a half years. You go down to some of the American cities, buy a piece of raw land, and in six months you can be building houses on it. That has to happen, because anybody that's any kind of an entrepreneur knows what the cost is of servicing the cost of that land over a two and a half year period. It has to be built into the cost of the product. So we have to look at what we're doing to the entrepreneur.

Again, we pay lip service not only to agriculture. We pay lip service to the small-business man. Of course, the socialists are trying to think that that's their domain. They're going to do all these great and wonderful things for the small-business man, but I haven't seen any record of that helping any of the provinces where we've had socialist governments. If anything, the small-business man has suffered under socialist governments rather than being enhanced.

Mr. Speaker, the difference between Blakeney and any of the other socialist premiers is that Blakeney was basically a small "c" conservative in action. Of course, the socialists are all trying to hide under the guise of being social democrats.

MR. MARTIN: I'll tell him that tonight when I see him.

DR. BUCK: Well, I think Blakeney would probably appreciate that compliment, being a small "c" conservative socialist.

Mr. Speaker, we have to look at incentives for the small-business sector. They do not have to be incentives that will cost the taxpayer money directly, but we have to do something for the small-business man in the private sector.

I was interested listening to the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway talk about tourism. This government is not taking advantage of the favourable position that Alberta is in to promote tourism. They've lost their imagination. They've lost their zing. They've lost their thrust. "Thrust" was an "in" word here about four years ago.

MR. HIEBERT: Support Triple Five, then.

DR. BUCK: The hon. Member for Edmonton Gold Bar says to support Triple Five. I'll tell the hon. member that if we had as many optimists in this province as Triple Five is, this place would be going. Even though we knock Triple Five, who is making this city go in a major way at this time? Triple Five. You have to give them their dues.

At the same time, I say to the hon. Member for Edmonton Gold Bar that when the government had the offer to look after the Alberta Game Farm by setting up a foundation — not, heaven forbid, that the government would run it — they fumbled the ball. What has been done is that a world-class operation is now divided into two small entities, and the Red Barn is losing its shirt on the game farm. We all know that. We also know how much money this government has pumped into that operation. So really we ended up spending as much money to get a basically inferior product. There, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, was an opportunity for government to have been involved, not directly but to make sure that that facility, which was world class and which was something for our children — it could have been funded by the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. That would still have been a world-class facility.

Mr. Speaker, when we get back to talking and promoting tourism, why are people not coming to this province in droves? With the higher priced American dollar, you'd think we would have to lock the borders. I think there are several reasons why Americans are not flocking to Alberta. Look at our high cost of gasoline compared to theirs. Look at the high cost of accommodation. Look at the high cost of food in this province relative to the Americans. The thing that concerns me — and I've said this to the Alberta restaurant association, so it's no secret, and I'll say it again: our level of food services in this province is appalling. I'm not going to win too many friends in the food services business when I say that, but I think it's about time this government showed some initiative, in conjunction with that group, to provide some decent training to the people who are going to be responsible for the serving of food, drink, and accommodation. I know we've made some small steps, but I think there's room for a lot of improvement.

To the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway, one of the silent 16, I would like to say: where do the Edmonton members stand on the AGT/Edmonton Telephones dispute? I haven't heard anything from the Government House Leader, one of the high profile members of the cabinet; I haven't heard a word. We've heard a little from the member from Calgary, when he threatened Edmontonians by saying: "Well, if you don't solve the problem, we'll take the AGT tower down to Calgary." Also, some of the Edmonton members are quite twitchy about their ability to be re-elected if the AGT and Edmonton Telephone dispute is not settled.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an ongoing thing. It's been going on for many, many years. It is one of the platform

planks that the government party came into power on. They were going to do something immediately. That was 1970, hon. Government House Leader. You well remember how you were going to solve that problem. And "now" has not become now, all these years later.

Another plug I'd like to put in for the city of Edmonton — and I don't think the Edmonton council seems to realize what a great theme they have in the Klondike theme. That is an international, worldwide, recognized theme. I think the provincial and city governments are very, very short-sighted in not promoting that theme to the hilt. If we are going to attract people to this province and to this city, we have to promote some of the good things we have. I certainly am a supporter, and I would like to see the city and the province promote the Klondike Days theme much more strongly than we have been.

I would like to bring to the attention of the minister of hospitals that the town or about-to-be city of Fort Saskatchewan has put in a proposal, in a very prudent manner, I think, to make use of the hospital facilities we have in that community, to add on, not completely destroy, and to use the facilities that are there for chronic treatment. In a time of restraint we have to be a little more responsible than we were four or five years ago in how we spend the taxpayers' dollars. So I will keep pursuing the minister of hospitals to see that facility upgraded.

Also to do with tourism, I would like to compliment the county of Strathcona on winning the Alberta Games. I know the county, and especially the hamlet of Sherwood Park, will do a good job of that. All the people in the county are really quite excited about hosting the games.

Getting back to hospitals, so I don't forget, the facility in Tofield is proceeding. I want to compliment the government on that project, and they are looking at a regional hospital. In the meeting we had with the nurses the other morning, they were all so enthused about the private members' resolution about how they were going to suddenly become the great new thrust in patient care. I warned those young ladies that what they're really getting here is a red herring from the government. If the government were serious about incorporating the nurses more actively than they are now incorporated into health care services, there would have been a government bill brought in. Bringing in all these private members' resolutions is one way of misleading the people of the province that you're going to do something. It is a good political ploy, and I compliment the government on it. But I want the people of Alberta to understand, though, that that is what it is: a political ploy to make it look like they're doing something.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned, and I would like the hon. minister of recreation to assure this Assembly, some time before this session is over, how this government is going to control the cost of the Olympics in Calgary. If the record of the Saddledome is any indication, the taxpayers are going to take a bath again. They're going to have to prove to me that they've got some measures in place, because we're already hearing about the cost going from \$300 million to \$800 million. People are already starting to waffle by saying, "We were talking about the 300 million as 1982 or 1981 dollars." Well, you can keep going further back, and maybe it could be 1949 dollars. We have to have some control over the real cost to the taxpayer, and the minister of recreation is going to have to assure the people of this province that we're going to show control. It had better be better than what it was with the Saddledome.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the Assembly that I am very familiar with the activity that's going on in

the Elk Point district, because that is my home area. It actually extends all the way from Bonnyville, and eventually it will extend to Lloydminster. If members of the Assembly have an opportunity, they should get down to that country. I've always had the feeling that even though the Esso megaproject was turned down at Cold Lake, eventually the cumulative total of the small companies working in that area is going to be almost twice as much as the megaproject would have been. I think that's being brought home at this time. I'm sure in my own mind that these smaller projects will be more efficient dollarwise than had it been a large megaproject.

Does that beeper mean it's tea time, or does that mean I'm getting close to the end of my short remarks?

Mr. Speaker, I was only going to go on for 15 minutes, but I do want to conclude with this. I'm not convinced that the government appreciates how serious the problem is out there. I have not been assured that this government provides any hope for the young people of this province, for the farmer, for the unemployed. A throne speech is supposed to indicate to the citizens what new direction this government is supposed to take, what long-term plan it has for the people of this province. I've been very disappointed, because it's really a recycling of old programs. It does not give us the hope, even to an optimist like myself, that this government really knows where it's going. I think it is time for a change of government in this province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, if I could rise on a point of correction. I didn't want to interrupt the hon. Member for Clover Bar in the course of his remarks, but I want to make it clear to members of the Assembly that the Alberta Housing Corporation was established in 1970, when the hon. member was a member of the government that established that corporation.

DR. BUCK: They didn't lose \$90 million either.

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to enter into the debate ...

MR. SPEAKER: I hesitate to interrupt the hon. minister, but I'm a little concerned about the intervention by the hon. Minister of Housing, in that under ordinary procedure his remarks would be constituted as having been his speech in the debate if he were intending to take part. There isn't any recognition in any standing orders or parliamentary practice of a so-called "point of correction." Most corrections or implied corrections are matters of debate, where one member disagrees with another, whether that be on facts or otherwise. I don't know whether the hon. minister has the intention of entering the debate; perhaps I should have intervened sooner so that he would not have deprived himself of that opportunity. Of course, if the House agrees otherwise, that won't be any problem.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Maybe the hon. minister will go down in history as giving the shortest throne speech debate in the history of this province.

MR. SPEAKER: I think we'll all go down in history.

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm rising perhaps on the same matter as my colleague the Minister of Housing. I had not intended to enter into the debate, but I thought I

should put a few facts before the House for the record. I always enjoy the remarks of the hon. Member for Clover Bar. Today he gave his usual performance.

Before I get into providing some facts, I'd like to congratulate the Member for Spirit River-Fairview on his election to the Assembly and wish him well in representing his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to mention a few things with regard to the Department of the Environment and put forward a few facts which would be useful for the record in terms of the commitment of this government to the protection of the environment in this province. First, in terms of air quality we've adopted some of the strictest standards in the country, particularly with regard to sulphur dioxide emissions. Our standard is 17 parts per million. We know some of our eastern provincial counterparts, Ontario in particular, have problems with acid rain. They have a SO₂ emissions standard of only .23 parts per million. So we have adopted one of the toughest standards in the nation.

With regard to this air quality matter, specifically acid rain and sulphur dioxide, in the period from 1974 to 1982 there was a net reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions in this province of approximately 10 percent. That was in a period when the number of plants processing sour gas increased from 77 to 122. That certainly speaks well of what the government has done.

With regard to water quality in rivers in the province, I should also mention that a recent report in which we released an assessment of the water quality in the North Saskatchewan River over the last 30 years noted that there has been a marked improvement over the period from the 1950s to the 1980s. I should also comment that the Canadian Nature Federation recently had a report card on conservation and environmental matters across the country. Alberta placed second to Ontario in that report card. Specifically with regard to pollution control we got an A, which was the highest in the country, for our per capita expenditure on pollution control equipment. It should be noted that other provinces did not fare as well as Alberta, particularly Manitoba, which placed at the bottom of the list in a number of areas. We also received very high marks for our beverage container legislation, which is some of the finest in the country.

While I'm on my feet, there was some mention in the Speech from the Throne debate by the hon. Leader of the Opposition that one of the initiatives the province should take is to clean up our rivers. I think it should be pointed out that we've done very well in this area. I note the A we got from the Canadian Nature Federation in terms of their report and our expenditures on pollution control. It should be noted that over the period from 1979 to date, through the water and sewage treatment program now under the Department of Utilities and Telecommunications, some \$600 million has been granted to municipalities to assist them in terms of treating water and sewage. I mentioned the North Saskatchewan River assessment, which says the water quality of that river is getting better. I should also note that we have entered into a program with the city of Calgary to remove phosphorus from the Bow River in terms of their sewage effluent.

In terms of river cleanup, there is a program under the Department of Manpower called the Alberta environment employment program. Last summer I received communication from the mayor of Fort Saskatchewan of her particular concern about the aesthetics of the North Saskatchewan River valley. I responded that we, in fact, had a program

called the Alberta environment employment program and suggested to her that either the municipalities along the North Saskatchewan River or some service clubs might be interested in taking advantage of this program to clean up the river valley. In fact, the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce has applied to the Minister of Manpower under this program, and a project has been approved with regard to cleanup in the North Saskatchewan River valley. I should mention that the Bow River, particularly the stretch downstream from the city of Calgary, has been touted by *Fly Fisherman* magazine as being one of the finest trout fishery streams in North America.

I should mention that in the Edmonton area we have the Edmonton regional sewage plant, which will be coming on stream and is now operating a very comprehensive system of treating the waste of municipalities in the Edmonton area.

I just want to put those facts before the House to counter — I don't know where the hon. Member for Clover Bar or the hon. Leader of the Opposition got their information. Alberta has always had a high priority with regard to environmental protection. I think the facts I put forward to the House today indicate that.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the throne speech presented in this Third Session of the 20th Legislature. My thanks to the hon. Member for Edmonton Whitemud, who moved the speech, and the seconder, the hon. Member for Rocky Mountain House. Their sensitive thoughts have provided energy and momentum for the session which lies ahead. A very warm welcome to Her Honour the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Helen Hunley and our thanks for her throne speech delivery. Appreciated and well known for her tireless labours and deep concern for our province, her knowledge and wisdom will surely bring a special measure of gracious dignity to this House.

The anticipation of the session now commencing is somewhat less this spring. We are missing a northerner, one of our best debaters, the hon. Grant Notley. His contribution to this House and to the field of representation will long be remembered, and his memory remains as a challenge of service to the people of Alberta.

To the hon. Member for Spirit River-Fairview, the hon. Jim Gurnett, please accept my personal welcome. I join my colleagues in looking forward to your participation in the proceedings of this House. Though we may sit across the floor, feelings are often very similar. I vividly recall the day of my first sitting, an unusual mixture of nervousness and excitement. Sound familiar? Accept our encouragement and best wishes.

This is the sixth occasion on which I've had the honour of responding to the Speech from the Throne as the Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray. Mr. Speaker, I highly value this occasion which is enabled by our democratic process. The recent report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission may impact my role in the future. This may be the last time I'll be privileged to speak in this capacity. These responsibilities certainly give rise to feelings of nostalgia. It was five years ago last month that my constituency office, the first in Alberta, officially opened. It has developed into a constituency hub, a listening post, a direct pipeline to government and government services. Its activity does not diminish regardless of where my duties take me, and its easy access and open door are factors which enable individual participation in my role as a representative and a part of today's government. In my experience this pilot project has

more than proven itself an extremely important service and support system for member and constituent alike.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to sincerely thank all the people of my constituency who have so generously given of their time to keep me abreast of current local issues, shared their ideas for change and improvement of policies and services, and offered support and encouragement to me personally, along with their advice and guidance. I've appreciated every contact, for it has provided concrete direction to my representation. The people of my constituency epitomize the quote, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." To emphasize my pride in the constituency of Lac La Biche-McMurray, I'll continue, my pledge to keep her needs before this House.

It has been a busy year since we last sat together at this time, a year of changing directions, accomplishments, challenges, and fulfillments. It has not lacked its own share of disappointments or frustrations. But I guess that's what colours the pencil of experience and learning indelible. While present days of economic recovery are difficult, I feel that one must look back occasionally to gain encouragement from the rebuilding that has taken place. When I review the activity within my constituency, I do feel encouraged. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present a brief overview of this activity to the House at this time.

Fort Chipewyan, the most northerly centre of the Lac La Biche-McMurray constituency and the oldest community in Alberta, now boasts a completed fire hall and a fish plant. A new \$7 million school is under construction. I must interject at this point, Mr. Speaker, that I am pleased with the emphasis being placed on new facilities for native education throughout the province. Much of my constituency will benefit directly. I am hopeful that this year will produce a resolution of the Fort Chipewyan land claim issue and will offer a base for such things as development of the rich granite deposit, known as wild rose granite, found in this locale. Hopefully, we will see wild rose granite on many buildings in Alberta in the future.

Syncrude, by offering a special project to this community, has effected a turnaround in the employment rate. A weekly plane shuttle provides jobs at the plant site. With this has come an increasing need for education and training progression, and I'll continue to work toward a satellite Keyano campus in the community to meet this need. Road transportation to this region remains a major factor yet to be addressed constructively. Year-round ground access must be provided. In conjunction with the federal government much thought and planning has taken place. The time has long passed for action. We've had enough talking; let's get on with it.

Under the leadership of Chief Dorothy McDonald, who is very ably assisted by Clara Shott, Fort MacKay is moving steadily forward. I am most pleased that their master plans are now complete, and I look forward to working with the hamlet and its leaders in attaining their goals.

In comparing the past to present, compliments are certainly due for the planned development of Anzac. While not all the requirements have been addressed, they've definitely come a long way: a new fire hall, hotel, retail outlet, acreage developments, and a school. The people are involved and, using many outside resources, are making volunteerism effective.

Isolation relief is on its way to such areas as Janvier and Conklin with phase 1 of road construction from Fort McMurray. This \$10.5 million provincial commitment will provide the means to access essential urban services such

as health care, continuing education, retail and trade outlets, government services, and so on. They are all advantages, Mr. Speaker, which so many of us simply take for granted.

A welcome opportunity for Fort McMurray residents will also be offered by this road. Now travel to this beautiful part of our province will become possible, and the tourism will be most beneficial to the local economy. My commitment to completion of phase 2 of this road construction, which will link phase 1 through to Conklin and Lac La Biche, remains. One has only to scan a map quickly to appreciate that road networks in northeastern Alberta are scarce indeed. They are needed.

I had the recent pleasure of attending the opening of the new school at Conklin, and I'm also pleased that a new school for Janvier has now received approval. New schools have also just been completed at Garden River, Chipewyan Lake, and Wandering River: more examples of government's solid thrust toward meeting educational needs, particularly in northern Alberta.

Isolated forest settlements to an agricultural zone at Wandering River give a prime indication of the diversity within my constituency. Folk in this area are self-sustaining farmers, and no one will question that this, too, is a tough row to hoe, if you don't mind the pun. Despite the untoward pressure of the slowly recovering economy, they continue to strive for improvements and have a real sense of community. A subdivision for residential lots has recently been approved and represents a longtime effort on behalf of local residents. They have also been instrumental in bringing forward the need for a senior citizens' residence in this hamlet. Since this project had been deferred a year, I am pleased — the Minister of Housing just advised me yesterday — that construction will start this year. Their need has been clearly demonstrated.

About four years ago I made mention of Plamondon being a community that asked for little. But can they give? Despite past economic crises, they have come through with flying colours in an effort to maintain their own identity. My hat is off to them, and best of luck to the newly elected council. Thanks for responding when needed.

Moving on to Lac La Biche and region, in particular the southern part of the constituency and the Kikino and Caslan areas. My apologies to the Kikino settlement. The Minister of Municipal Affairs is responding to a need in that community this morning; I regret that I could not be with them.

Mr. Speaker, I'm again prompted to state my commitment to the completion of phase 2 road construction between Conklin and Lac La Biche. The isolation relief factor is not the only important consideration. This alternate route between major centres will offer the area an opportunity to become economically viable and independent. Resources in this part of northeastern Alberta — such as lumber, oil, gas, and tourism, to mention a few — remain largely untapped. Constituents are formally and informally creating innovative measures to attract development, as exemplified in a recent chamber of commerce tourism brochure. They know what they have, and they're willing to sell.

As mentioned in the throne speech, facilities of the Alberta Vocational Centre in Lac La Biche are answering the calls for broader educational services. This is especially meaningful this year, the Year of Youth, and I am proud that government's response has been both timely and fulfilling. Tenders have now been invited for the construction of eight single-family transitional housing units and an 18-unit senior citizens' apartment complex in the town of Lac

La Biche. All have been long sought after and will provide significant housing support along with the new Opportunity Corps centre. Mr. Speaker, the private sector is responding as well. New conventional drilling activity, a new Bank of Nova Scotia to be built on the site, a service station complex, retail facilities, drugstore, and others are just a few that are taking place in the community.

A quick review now of the city in my constituency, Fort McMurray. Thanks to a local hiring commitment by Stearns Catalytic, Suncor, and Syncrude, which are our three major employers, our unemployment statistics are enviable. I'd like to acknowledge the fact that there were past problems with such things as name-hiring, but as good corporate citizens and good corporate companies they have identified these problems and addressed them. When you consider the national average, we certainly are enviable. This combined with spin-offs for small businesses has kept our city on a fairly even keel despite the economic climate.

The Year of Youth is especially noteworthy for us. Fort McMurray will host the Alberta Summer Games in August, and you're invited. The flurry of organization has doubled the size of the capital V in "Volunteerism", and these folk are presently upgrading the S in "success" to a capital level. We hope all hon. members will set aside August 8, 9, and 10 of your summer schedule to share the games with us.

As exhibited throughout my constituency, the work of volunteers in Fort McMurray is most deserving of special mention. Their efforts and support with schools, extracurricular school activities, hospitals, service clubs, fund-raising projects, sports, cultural associations, and the like, are given unstintingly. You'll find them working with probation officers, active on library and community advisory boards, contributing to tourism promotion, listening on distress lines, working tirelessly with Big Brothers, Big Sisters, women's crisis centres, and group homes, assisting the elderly, and just being there whenever and whatever is required. Volunteers recognize limited dollars and resource-sharing. They understand a plain, old-fashioned helping hand offered by a neighbour. Their example is noted by services and businesses alike. Further support and sharing is growing. When I think of how community groups are supporting the selling of their own communities, I am pleased to share with you and the Assembly that Fort McMurray was noted as the most giving community in Canada in the '84-85 United Way campaign. Volunteers give more than their time.

Our cities look forward to some very special occasions this year. Among them the official opening of the oil sands interpretive centre immediately comes to mind. We look forward to the Premier's participation as our honoured guest at this event and welcome you to visit this unique facility.

This past year has been busy and productive for the Northern Alberta Development Council. I have found my role as chairman very rewarding. I was honoured to represent Alberta at the northern ministers' conference in Saskatchewan last September. Discussion centred on economic development and employment opportunities. Such idea exchanges and explorations are most valuable as we all seek a common goal, that of economic recovery.

The council sponsors opportunities for medical practitioners, and interchanges in both major cities in November serve a real need in attracting doctors to northern Alberta. We're again pleased with the forums which have produced the recruitment of some 12 doctors to northern Alberta since 1983. Our year's activities have included early school-leavers workshops, a northern tourism conference, employment alter-

native workshops, and community growth studies. Grants have been improved to assist individual communities with projects ranging from growth studies and day care to geriatric surveys.

We will sponsor a major Challenge North conference October 2, 3, and 4 this year in Fort McMurray. We expect 250-plus delegates. Conference topics will centre on the examination of economic development in northern Alberta, and private-sector input will carry a high profile.

Our student bursary program is increasingly in demand. While helping students finance postsecondary education, these bursaries are encouraging needed professionals to locate and work in the northern part of our province. I would like to thank government for its continued support of the Northern Alberta Development Council. The involvement in public meetings and council activities, plus the staggering number of briefs we receive, more than demonstrates justification for the commitment to the specialized service to the people of northern Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, too often we are quick to criticize and reticent to extend compliments. Before concluding today, I'd like to rectify in part this common human frailty on my behalf I was especially honoured last June to accompany the hon. Minister of International Trade on an economic trade mission to Germany. We're indeed fortunate to call a diplomat of this calibre "colleague". I was proud to be in his company and proud that Alberta was represented with such a high level of professionalism and statesmanship.

Recognition is due to a hardworking government agency and its chairman, the hon. Member for Lethbridge West. The efforts of the Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission are impacting all areas of my constituency. Public feedback is very supportive of AADAC, and there is no doubt in my mind that this service to the people of our province remains unchallenged in Canada or abroad.

While time does not permit acknowledgment of all deserving committees, agencies, and councils, there's a group I cannot overlook: the people working within the civil service. In area and regional offices and here at the Legislature, I have found co-operative, helpful, and resourceful employees who, along with my Edmonton and Fort McMurray secretaries, Mrs. Sharma and Mrs. Coventry, have assisted me greatly as a member of this House. My sincere thanks to them all.

During the past year I have travelled a great deal throughout my constituency. I met with city and town councils; hospital, school, and college boards; large industries and small businesses; service clubs; cultural associations; representatives of women's crisis centres; and special interest groups. I have also spent many hours with individual constituents. Coupled with attendance at frequent special occasions and events, this spells a busy schedule while still maintaining regular office hours as an MLA. But how else does an MLA acquire a working knowledge of his constituency and its needs? The hours can be long and the travel tiring, but it's part and parcel of a working member. I must say that this member has no alternative to working full-time.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give credit to the Members' Services Committee. They've certainly been of assistance to me and have clearly demonstrated their empathy towards the demands of rural constituencies.

People, not oil, are the greatest resource of the constituency of Lac La Biche-McMurray. I have made this statement in the past, and it bears repeating. The people of my constituency are strong and creative, yet practical;

energetic, with a clear perspective; co-operative, while demanding a return of fair play. They voice their needs without fear, yet are quick to caringly respond to the needs of others. People on the street, in kitchens and executive offices, on tractors and in small businesses, securing logging chains and driving Wabco trucks, school kids and trappers, tourists and fishermen, professionals and tradespeople, the young and the seniors, the employed and the financially dependent, the sick and the healthy: they know the real world. They all have something important to say, and I believe we as a government are listening.

At Christmastime I received a poem which bore an appropriate message for this day. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to share it with the House and conclude on this point:

Isn't it strange
That princes and kings,
And clowns that caper
In sawdust rings,
And [all the world's] people
Like you and me
Are builders for eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass,
[No] book of rules;
And each must make,
Ere life is flown,
A stumbling-block
Or a stepping-stone.

May this year be a "stepping stone" for you.

MR. SPEAKER: May the hon. member conclude debate?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. ALEXANDER: Mr. Speaker, a week ago today I had the honour of moving an historic first: that this House present an humble address in reply to Her Honour, thanking her for her gracious speech addressed to us at the opening of this session. It's my view that Albertans will be encouraged to note the fundamental realism of the throne speech, the optimism of most members of this Assembly, and the real prospects for stable growth of our economy. I think members have properly counted the special blessings of living in this province and the great opportunities which are here to be grasped. It seemed clear from the debate that the improving prospects and growing confidence of Albertans seemed to be a bit unnerving to members of the

opposition. I don't blame them for that. I'm not sure if that's the reason they have presently left the Chamber, but I'm leaving it at that.

Perhaps a highlight, a note of light relief if I could call it that, was the threat this morning that we were to be led on the path of something by the hon. Member for Clover Bar. While the member was hesitant to say exactly what it was, I noted that members on this side were quick to respond with the word "righteousness", which indicates to me that members have begun their work at least from a proper base.

Given that secure foundation from which to begin, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to move that this House accept Her Honour's Speech from the Throne.

MR. SPEAKER: On the motion by the hon. Member for Edmonton Whitemud, seconded by the hon. Member for Rocky Mountain House, that an humble address be presented to Her Honour, would the members in favour of motion please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. SPEAKER: Those opposed, please no. The motion is carried.

head: **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**

6. Moved by Mr. Lougheed:
Be it resolved that the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne be engrossed and presented to Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor by such members of the Assembly as are members of the Executive Council.

[Motion carried]

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, as we call it 1 o'clock, I would indicate to members of the Assembly that second reading of Bills on the Order Paper will be the business for Monday afternoon. We will consider available for calling on Monday afternoon any of the Bills on the Order Paper other than the two that were introduced today. Of course, the budget speech is on Monday evening.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Assembly agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[At 12:31 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 4, the House adjourned to Monday at 2:30 p.m.]

