

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Monday, April 15, 1985 2:30 p.m.**

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

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **PRESENTING PETITIONS**

MR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to this Assembly a petition sponsored by the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired, signed by 1,374 citizens of the province of Alberta. The essence of this petition is to urge the government to amend the Individual's Rights Protection Act by changing the definition of the protected age, which is now 45 to 64 years inclusive, to age 18 and over.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS****Bill 22****Employment Standards Amendment Act, 1985**

MR. SZWENDER: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill 22, the Employment Standards Amendment Act, 1985.

The primary purpose of this Bill is to clarify that pregnant women in employment are eligible for 18 weeks of unpaid leave, distributed as required by pregnancy and employment circumstances. The maternity-leave provisions of the Act will now apply to all female employees.

[Leave granted; Bill 22 read a first time]

Bill 33**Individual's Rights Protection
Amendment Act, 1985**

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill 33, the Individual's Rights Protection Amendment Act, 1985.

The principle of the Bill is that female employees may not be discriminated against in employment by reason only of pregnancy. This provision complements but does not overlap the maternity-leave provisions in the Employment Standards Act, to which amendments have just been proposed in Bill 22 by the hon. Member for Edmonton Belmont.

Another provision introduces the concept that discrimination will be deemed not to have occurred where the action was reasonable and justifiable in the circumstances. This provision clarifies that special projects, of which there are many, should not be found to be unacceptably discriminatory, nor should they need formal and specific authorization.

Finally, I wish to mention one more of the other amendments. The concept now in the Act, that the Alberta Human Rights Commission has a responsibility to endeavour to effect settlement of a complaint, is reinforced. These amendments specifically authorize the commission to offer nonbinding recommendations to assist the parties in resolving complaints.

[Leave granted; Bill 33 read a first time]

Bill 23**Industrial Wages Security
Amendment Act, 1985**

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 23, the Industrial Wages Security Amendment Act, 1985.

The purpose of this Bill is to remove the requirement for employers in the coal mining industry to post security pursuant to this Act. However, the provisions of the Employment Standards Act will continue to apply to coal mining. The Bill provides for flexibility in establishing the amount of security required to be posted by an employer in a designated industry, based on each individual company's circumstances. Finally, the Bill streamlines and simplifies administration procedures.

[Leave granted; Bill 23 read a first time]

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker. I move that Bills 22 and 23 be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders.

[Motion carried]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the 1984 annual report of the Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. PAPROSKI: Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce to you, and through you to members of this Assembly, 10 representatives from the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired. The society was established in 1970 to serve the older people of Edmonton, their families and friends, and the community at large. The purpose is to help aging persons achieve the highest possible quality of life. Members of the society are encouraged to participate as volunteers in the community, and I know they offer the society and the community tremendous resources. Among the many services offered to seniors are health counselling, heritage programs, a housing registry, information referral and advocacy programs, legal services, libraries, outreach programs, personal counselling, a retirement registry, a consumer consultant program, numerous social, recreational, and educational opportunities, and a tremendous monthly newspaper entitled *News for Seniors*.

Mr. Speaker, the following are seated in the galleries today: Mr. Elmer Souch, the president of the board of directors; Alice Henbest, the director of the society; Irene Ramsell, the coeditor of the *News for Seniors*; and seven other members of the society. They are seated in both the public and members' galleries, and I wonder if I could ask them to stand and please receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

MR. CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you, and through you to the Assembly, two groups of students from the constituency of Edmonton Calder. Seated

in the members' gallery are 30 grade 6 students from Caernarvon School. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Dame, and by a parent, Mrs. Chizen. I would like them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

Also, Mr. Speaker, dans la galerie publique nous avons quatorze étudiants au niveau élémentaire d'école francophone, à l'école Brigadier Gault. Avec les étudiants nous avons deux professeurs, Christine Fielding et Evelyne Deslauriers, et un parent, Madame Robertson. Je demande qu'ils s'élèvent et reçoivent la bienvenue de l'Assemblée.

MR. TOPOLNISKY: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly 26 grade 6 students from the Redwater school. They are accompanied by teachers Mr. Golan and Mrs. Grainger, parents Mrs. Beztilny, Mrs. Olson, Mrs. Fry, Mrs. Berget, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Broda, and bus driver Mrs. Webber. They are in the members' gallery, and I ask that they rise to receive the warm welcome.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to introduce 48 students from the Warburg elementary school. They are accompanied by teachers Mrs. Meinczinger, Mrs. Broadbent, and Mrs. Rimer and parents Mrs. Andersen, Mrs. Sikur, and Mrs. Herregodts. They are seated in the public gallery, and I ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

MR. PURDY: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure this afternoon to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly nine adult students from the Enoch Band at Winterburn. They are involved in the continuing education course. The uniqueness about this course is that it's completely funded by the Enoch Band; the teacher is paid that way. It's probably something new in Alberta and Canada.

I understand the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, the Member for Edmonton Mill Woods, met with the group today at lunch, as I did, and had a very interesting conversation with them. Accompanied by their teacher, Virginia Tautchin, they're in the members' gallery. I ask them to rise and receive the recognition of the members.

head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Hazardous Waste Disposal

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of the Environment. On March 20, from page 99 of *Hansard*, the minister said in the House:

we did not favour the importation of waste into the province.

Then he said:

I've made it clear that there's a proviso that if another province comes to us with a request and we have capacity, we may consider it at that time but only on a very specific need and request basis.

Mr. Speaker, it has become clear that a truckload of PCBs on the way from Montreal. Quebec, had an accident in Kenora, Ontario. It was going to Nisku. My question to the minister is: when did the government of Quebec request this particular shipment to Alberta, and is this the only shipment covered by that request?

MR. BRADLEY: With regard to the question of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker. I believe my

statement in the House dealt with the implementation of the Alberta special waste management system and specifically with regard to treatment at our facility to be developed at Swan Hills. Companies which are in the practice of storing special wastes are currently in place and operating. One of them operates in Alberta. We are currently negotiating with that company with regard to how they would fit into the overall Alberta system. Those negotiations are ongoing. To date there has been a series of exchanges of letters between the Special Waste Management Corporation and the company the hon. member alluded to.

With regard to authorization the Special Waste Management Corporation has been dealing with the specific company. Normal business practice would provide that we extend some courtesy to them. The Special Waste Management Corporation has authorized, in terms of the letters and exchange of information, that the company be allowed to continue its current business practices with regard to bringing wastes into the province until May 15. This authorization would deal with those wastes the company had contracts for, which would be specified in a date in the letter. I believe it was that any contracts the company had in place as of April 4 would be honoured until May 15.

MR. MARTIN: It's nice to be courteous, Mr. Speaker, but it's another thing to be a dumping ground for PCBs. My question is: could the minister indicate why we continue to allow the importing of hazardous wastes into the province when we clearly cannot dispose of rapidly accumulating PCBs right at this moment?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think I dealt with that with regard to implementation of the Hazardous Chemicals Act, in questions in the House on March 20. On March 13 the Hazardous Chemicals Act came into force. In terms of the amendments which had been passed which gave us the ability to deal with the specific company, it provided for the fact that any company in business in Alberta that would be storing wastes would require an authorization. We felt it was a courtesy in terms of normal business practice that they be allowed to wind up any contracts they had in place. As I said, those contracts would have to have been in place on April 4. Any contracts would be honoured until May 15. After May 15 they would no longer be authorized to import wastes into the province.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the health of Albertans should come first on this issue, my question to the minister is: would the minister now consider ordering a halt to importation of hazardous wastes into Alberta, especially PCBs, at least until the Swan Hills disposal facility is operating?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, currently I'm aware of only one company in the practice of this type of business. With the authorization the Special Waste Management Corporation has offered to them, that will cease on May 15.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. Is the minister saying that after May 15 there will no more importation of hazardous wastes into this province?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, in terms of the authorizations the Special Waste Management Corporation has under their consideration. I understand they will not authorize any further import of wastes into the province after May 15. In my

March 20 response in the House there was the proviso that in terms of developing the Alberta special waste management system, we did not favour importation of wastes, but when the facility was in place, we would consider on a request and need basis from other provinces whether or not we would allow that facility to treat wastes from outside the province. That would be some time in the future, obviously.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. Could the minister give us a ballpark estimate of the total volume of PCBs now stored in Alberta, awaiting disposal? How serious a problem do we have?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not in a position to give that ballpark figure. I don't have that figure at this time.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. I think this is a fairly important issue, Mr. Minister. Could the minister undertake to try to find this information and report to this House, so we can have an understanding of how serious the problem is?

MR. BRADLEY: As I indicated to the hon. member, the department and the Special Waste Management Corporation have been in discussion and negotiations with the companies which are currently in the practice of storing wastes in the province. We'll have that information in due course.

MR. MARTIN: A final supplementary. Could the minister now advise when the Swan Hills facility is expected to commence operations?

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, there is good progress being made toward development of the facility at Swan Hills. We believe we should have some facilities in place at the Swan Hills site by this fall, particularly in terms of fencing the site, some preliminary site clearing, and administration and other buildings. The Special Waste Management Corporation feels that in a period of between two to three years the facility itself will be in a position to actually treat wastes. In the meantime we'll be looking at various storage options.

Canadian Commercial Bank Support

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the second question to the Treasurer. It has to do with the Canadian Commercial Bank. Can the Treasurer advise why dividend payments of some \$637,500, I believe, are to be paid on April 30 to preferred shareholders in the bailout agreement? I understand these were supposed to be suspended until the support group was repaid.

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is there has not been a definite decision taken with respect to that matter, but the agreement originally entered into by the various parties, wherein Alberta is one, to 25 percent of the arrangement, stands and will continue to engender confidence in the province and in the country.

MR. MARTIN: I'd like to know the answer to the specific question. What steps is the Treasurer taking to prevent payment of that \$637,500 in preferred share dividends to Canadian Commercial Bank shareholders, so they will follow the agreement?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, our objective will continue to be to ensure that this important western Canadian institution continues and is viable, as was the objective of the exercise, and that confidence continues to be built in western Canada and Alberta.

MR. MARTIN: I've never heard such a bunch of claptrap. Mr. Speaker, I'm asking specifically about the \$637,500 that is supposed to be paid out. Is it not the understanding of the Treasurer that this is in direct violation of that agreement?

MR. HYNDMAN: That is a legal matter. Mr. Speaker, and there are a number of legal interpretations. When those are sorted out, whatever is the result, we will be involved.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question to the minister. Is it not true that in that agreement there were to be no dividends paid out until the support group was paid off? Is that not the intent of that agreement?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, it's not up to me to interpret what the agreement says. That's a matter of public information.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. Did the Treasurer sign the agreement or didn't he?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, the agreement has been entered into by four parties: the government of Canada, the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, six of the Canadian national banks, and the government of Alberta. All parties have signed the agreement.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. Is the minister aware of what's in the agreement, and could he indicate to the House whether or not dividends were to be paid out until the agreement was paid off? That's a simple question. Is it his understanding of that agreement, for which the Provincial Treasurer is responsible?

MR. SPEAKER: It seems to me that we're just going around in circles on the same ground. I had some misgiving about asking about the contents of the agreement, since it's a public document. Of course, there would have to be further misgivings about asking about legal interpretations, whether they be by the minister or anyone else, as to the meaning and purport of the agreement.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, it's not a legal agreement; it's an agreement that was brought to this House, and there was a statement. Let me ask a question. What assurance is the minister able to give to the Assembly that the government is acting to prevent any future violations of that support agreement?

MR. HYNDMAN: That's hypothetical, Mr. Speaker. I believe there is an understanding between the various parties, and I think the objectives were valid at the time and still are. We will proceed, as we have in the past, in the best public interest of the province of Alberta.

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

MR. MARTIN: That's very nice. I'm sure the taxpayers of Alberta are very appreciative of the Treasurer. My final

question: has the government finally figured out where the money for this bailout is going to come from? One time the Treasurer said it might be the heritage trust fund. The next time it was general revenues. Have they made that decision yet?

MR. HYNDMAN: There are a number of options, Mr. Speaker. In consideration of the estimates of Treasury, I'd certainly be happy to explore that in some detail. At that time there would probably be more focus on that issue.

Sugar Beet Industry

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Today a large delegation of southern Albertans is in Ottawa with regard to the future of the sugar beet industry. Could the Premier indicate whether he has made any contact with the Prime Minister with regard to this issue?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, there wasn't direct contact, although there was a general discussion in the limited time we had on Thursday, April 4, with regard to agricultural issues and the significance of their priority relative to the discussion that occurred in Regina in mid-February.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Would the Premier accept an undertaking to contact the Prime Minister today or tomorrow, in terms of the urgency of the issue, and attempt to assist this delegation in Ottawa in its pursuit to get assistance for the sugar beet industry?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we're monitoring the situation. If a communication like that would facilitate the matter, we would be prepared to send it on.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Would the Premier undertake to do that today or tomorrow, while the delegation is in Ottawa making its presentation to various ministers and MPs?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we're awaiting a response to the events that are occurring in Ottawa. As I said in the previous answer, if a message of that nature is considered to be helpful and useful, we'll send it.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Could the Premier indicate the timing of that message? Are we talking about today, tomorrow, this week, or next week? What kind of message has to come from Ottawa to indicate the timing of the message? The timing of the message is very important.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the situation would be that if such a message is to be sent, it should be sent this week.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question with regard to the sugar industry. Could the Premier indicate whether the government of Alberta is in favour of a tariff being placed on sugar cane that comes into Canada? This tariff could be used to supplement or assist the sugar beet industry of southern Alberta.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I refer that question to the Minister of Economic Development, perhaps supplemented by the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Speaker, I believe the sugar beet industry only provides something in the order of 10 percent of the sugar consumed by Canadians, so a tariff is not a practical answer for imports in a global sense. I don't know how I could answer it any differently than that.

What we really need is a national sugar policy that precludes Canada from being a dumping ground for distressed sugar prices around the world. What we're attempting to establish is support for a period of time while a national sugar policy that's well considered is put in place. I don't know of another developed nation that allows sugar to have the free access to the domestic market that Canada allows.

Aid to Little Buffalo Area

MR. GURNETT: My question is to the Minister responsible for Native Affairs. I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the minister has been quoted on more than one occasion as saying that the food caravan which is travelling today to the Little Buffalo area from the United States is a publicity stunt and that the food would not be needed because it's now springtime. My question to the minister is whether it's the official position of this government that there is no food problem in the Little Buffalo area and no need for the food being brought there.

MR. PAHL: Mr. Speaker, in responding to the member's question, I simply indicate that I have been quoted quoting the organizer of the drive, who has stated that it is a publicity stunt. This is the Episcopalian minister in Spokane, Washington, I think. I simply indicate that there has been no indication to me or through my colleagues to me that there is any demonstrated need for a food drive.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I will say that it is somewhat unfortunate that there would be such use of this technique as a publicity stunt, because there are people in the world who are indeed in need of the food. That concerns me, and I have been on record as saying so.

MR. GURNETT: A supplementary question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. I have a press release from the organizer of the food caravan in which he indicates that he's distressed about being quoted as calling it a publicity stunt, so I question where the accuracy is there. And I think we should feel some shame when we think that citizens of another country...

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps the hon. member could come to the question.

MR. GURNETT: My question is whether the minister has asked his officials for any detailed assessment regarding the traditional food sources for the band. Can he confirm that moose and other game have essentially disappeared from the hunting area of the Lubicon Band since oil and gas activity began in the area?

MR. PAHL: No, Mr. Speaker. In fact, quite to the contrary. Informal reports have indicated that there is a certain amount of taking of game but quite a reluctance to report it.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I will indicate that the hon. member tried to make reference to shame. I remind him that his party's efforts at parroting the words of the World Council of Churches were investigated by the Reverend Dr. Randall Ivory, the independent Ombudsman, who found no basis. That fact remains, and although it has not

been accepted by certain members of the community. I'm at a loss to understand where this attribution should come from.

MR. GURNETT: A supplementary question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. The reports we have about game in the area come from people who are trying to hunt in the area, of course, and should have a fair amount of accuracy. My question to the minister, though, is whether there has been any investigation, since there hasn't been on game availability, of reports that average trapper income in the Little Buffalo area has declined from about \$5,000 a year some 10 years ago to not much more than \$400 at this time.

MR. PAHL: Mr. Speaker, that's a good point, although I indicate to the Assembly and to the hon. member that that has been a countrywide phenomenon. Trapping incomes tend to be down because of the cyclical variations in wildlife and also because of the very disastrous impact of the antifur movement and the Greenpeace movement — aligned with certain parties in Canada — who have been so concerned with the welfare of the animals that they've forgotten about the native Canadians who very much rely on hunting and trapping for their traditional lifestyle.

MR. GURNETT: A supplementary question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. Again, my concern is that the question is not being properly answered. The people in Little Buffalo want to sell their furs. It's not that there's not a market for them; it's that they're not able to trap because of oil and gas activity.

Last November one of the officials in this government directed a Mr. Auger of the Lubicon Band to tear down fences and corrals, because in the government's view they were unauthorized improvements in his area. My question is: can the minister advise what progress is being made in forcing the Lubicon Band people to destroy fences and corrals, improvements they need to be able to carry on independent livelihoods in their area?

MR. PAHL: Mr. Speaker, perhaps my colleague the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife would comment, not on the way the hon. member phrased the question but on the situation with respect to improvements on Crown lands.

In answering the earlier part of the question, Mr. Speaker, I remind the House that we have a trappers' compensation board, which operates throughout the province. It enables trappers whose income has been either factually or allegedly affected by other developments such as oil and gas to make application to the trappers' compensation board, which has their peers on it. If there is a loss of income, it can be compensated through the board. As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, the improvements suggested by the Ombudsman in that regard have been implemented, and I'm not aware of any complaints about that mechanism not working.

MR. GURNETT: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, trappers' compensation is an involved issue. The people of the band know that if they submit claims to the trappers' compensation board, it jeopardizes their outstanding land claims and .

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps we'd better get back to the question.

MR. GURNETT: My question is related, Mr. Speaker, like to ask whether the Minister of Social Services and Community Health can confirm that at this time 90 or more percent of the Lubicon Band members are receiving social assistance, compared to a figure in the range of 10 percent 10 years ago?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker. I'm not able to confirm or deny that at this time. I will take it as notice. I haven't received any indications of concern out of the ordinary lately, so I will only say that I'd have to check on the numbers. Social assistance numbers in the province are recorded on a regular basis, but I'm not sure we have it narrowed down to specific reserves or specific areas.

MR. GURNETT: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GURNETT: I'd like to address this question to the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife, in connection with the business of the fences and corrals. Can the minister confirm that a 15 percent penalty has now been added to the tax assessments that the Lubicon Band people have been indicating they won't pay until their land claims are settled?

MR. SPARROW: Any assessment of penalty on any taxation has not been brought to my attention.

Fertilizer Price Protection Plan

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister any safeguards in place to ensure that the benefits from the fertilizer protection plan will now through to the farmer and not be siphoned off? At this time of year fertilizer prices generally change, but that's a traditional change, and I think we all recognize that.

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, we have been concerned about the program and making sure the benefits stay with the producer, and an agricultural input monitoring system is working within the department. At the present time we've established nine regions in the province where we're monitoring the price of fertilizer at 45 separate outlets. If fertilizer prices get out of line, we certainly will be having discussions with the relevant fertilizer company.

MRS. CRIPPS: Is it clear that the price protection plan is available regardless of the origin of purchase?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure it is. It was part of the communication when we announced the program, and the reason for it is really to allow producers to buy their fertilizer in any location they see fit. For example, in Saskatchewan, knowing that if there were that caveat and recognizing that there isn't a program in Saskatchewan, it would have a — I wouldn't say a depressing effect, but it would hold down the prices of fertilizer within the province of Alberta. So, yes, they can buy fertilizer in other locations.

MRS. CRIPPS: Is there a contact person or area someone should phone if they have a complaint?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Of course, Mr. Speaker, they could phone their MLA or the department, and we'll be happy to check into it.

MR. FISCHER: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question on this farm fertilizer protection plan. Is the minister aware that our Wainwright region has had a \$12 to \$15 a ton increase in the price of fertilizer?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that it is normal for prices to rise somewhat in the spring, after the fall discounts. But if the hon. member would bring that specific example to me, I'd be happy to check it out.

MR. FISCHER: A supplementary. Are we monitoring each company, or are we monitoring the dealerships? How do we do that?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Speaker, we're monitoring in communities, in towns, and I know Wainwright is one of the communities on the list.

Ambulance Services

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care. Approximately 11 years ago this Legislature passed a resolution directing the government to take some action on a provincewide ambulance service. Is the minister in a position to indicate if the government is seriously giving consideration to moving ahead with a provincewide ambulance service at this time or in the very near future?

MR. RUSSELL: We've dealt with that issue in the House on many occasions, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the member wasn't here. I'll go over it again. We took the decision some time ago, and announced it, that the Municipal Government Act gives municipalities authority to provide whatever kind of ambulance service they wish. That's their responsibility until the legislation is changed, and they've been dealing with it.

We did have plans at one time, several years ago, to give support to a provincewide ground ambulance system. We had to stop at the stage where we extended all the service to interhospital transfers. That, together with the full financial support to the air ambulance program, is the extent to which the province is prepared to go at this time.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, to the arrogant minister of hospitals and medical service. I'd like to ask the hon. arrogant minister if the arrogant minister would like to indicate to the Assembly what steps are being taken by this government to introduce legislation to provide minimum ambulance standards for the ambulances in this province.

MR. RUSSELL: Again, Mr. Speaker, I say with respect that I think the hon. member has missed the point, because the permissive legislation is there. The municipal governments can provide whatever type of service they feel their constituents want. There is a variety of services across the province with respect to ambulances: the volunteer, the privately run for profit, and the municipally owned and administered. As one could expect, there's a variety of levels of service. But in this day of local autonomy we have to assume that the local councils are responding to the wishes of their constituents.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, the question was as to trying to pass regulations or legislation to provide minimum standards right across the province. At a recent meeting the vice-president of the AUMA stated that Alberta has better regulations for moving cattle than it does for moving sick and dying people. The question directly to the minister is: are there going to be any steps taken to provide a minimum set of standards so that when people are put into an ambulance, they can understand if they have paramedic or no care whatsoever when they are being transported from the scene of an accident to the local hospital?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, surely that is a decision that is better left to the local level of government. There are dollars that go along with any level of standards. It's interesting that the hon. member would quote the AUMA. The AAMDC said exactly the opposite: "We hope you're not going to get into the business of setting ambulance standards." So there's a divergence of opinion out there at present. We recognize it, and we've said to municipalities. "You listen to your constituents and provide the service they want."

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary, just in case I missed something. At this time this government is saying to the people of Alberta that it will not provide a uniform ambulance service to the people of this province. Is the minister saying, "No, we will not provide that?"

MR. SPEAKER: It seems to me that's repeating the question that was asked, either the first or the second question.

DR. BUCK: I want to make sure I understood, and I think I have the right to ask that, Mr. Speaker. Is he telling the people of Alberta that they will not provide an ambulance service for the people of this province? Yes or no?

MR. SPEAKER: He answered the question once. It would seem to me that if we're now going to start a custom of taking the answers of the ministers and saying, "Do I understand what you said?", where is it going to end?

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is a little slow. I don't mind going over it twice.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, then let's have him go over it again, if he's willing to provide that. Are you going to provide ambulance service to the people of this province. Mr. Minister? Yes or no?

MR. McPHERSON: Mr. Speaker, a supplemental on that question. Can the minister confirm that ground ambulance service is an insurable service for groups in excess of five people in the private insurance sector?

MR. SPEAKER: We're back into the question of asking for interpretations of public knowledge.

Income Tax

MR. McPHERSON: Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Provincial Treasurer, and it follows the flat-tax proposal by the government of Saskatchewan in its recent budget announcement. I noticed they mention in their comments that it is imposed on a trial basis with a view of assessing its accessibility by the public and other governments. Is the

Provincial Treasurer now considering, or has he given any consideration to, a flat tax and its implications in the province of Alberta?

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, this appears to be a novel and interesting initiative by the province of Saskatchewan, and the hon. member is correct that it has been announced as a temporary initiative, I think 18 months. Of course, the white paper of the government of Alberta deals specifically with the issue of personal tax simplification and incentives that would create jobs. To that extent, that is out in the public of Alberta under debate and discussion, and policies will flow at the appropriate time.

I note with regard to the Saskatchewan tax that even though it's reduced by some amount, the Saskatchewan personal income tax basic rate is almost 15 percent higher than the Alberta personal income tax. They have a high income surtax of 12 percent, and we have none.

MR. McPHERSON: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary on that very point. I note that the announcement also included an additional surtax of 1 percent on net income, effective July 1, 1985, and through to 1986. I'm wondering if the Provincial Treasurer has assessed the deleterious effect of a surtax on those people who endure investment and risk, forgo consumption, and all those things on risk and employment in this province?

MR. SPEAKER: It would seem to me that the hon. member has successfully made a fairly clear representation, and perhaps it doesn't need a question mark at the end of it.

MR. McPHERSON: One quick supplemental, Mr. Speaker. Is the Provincial Treasurer giving any consideration at all to a surtax in the province of Alberta?

MR. HYNDMAN: No, Mr. Speaker. Unlike British Columbia, which has a 10 percent surtax, and the province of Saskatchewan, with a 12 percent surtax, we have no intention, in order that we can encourage entrepreneurs in the province.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

head: COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the Committee of Supply please come to order.

Department of Economic Development

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

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be more appropriate to leave till the end of the question period any comments that might be important, stemming from the kind of questions I get. Before I defer to my colleague the hon. Minister of International Trade, I would like to pay public tribute to the dedication, tenacity, and hard work of all the folks in the Department of Economic Development. They spend an awful lot of weekends on the road. I think it's

important that the people of Alberta understand the kind of service they give, and I'm proud to have that kind of department.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman. I would like to join my hon. colleague in expressing the same kind of appreciation of the work of the International Trade branch. When they travel, they literally travel seven days a week, work seven days a week from early in the morning to late at night, attending meetings and setting up meetings for the private sector. It should be said that there are files and files of letters of appreciation from the private sector of Alberta to the staff of Alberta's International Trade branch.

Speaking of appreciation, Mr. Chairman, sometimes we are asked how the officers, ambassadors, high commissioners, trade commissioners, and public affairs officers representing Canada and other countries help international trade in Alberta. I can only say that we have nothing but the best of co-operation and again want to also express, in this case publicly, my appreciation to all of them. Wherever we go on trade missions, they help us not only in setting up appointments but also with the follow-up, and, of course, are always very happy, especially when a mission from Alberta happens to come to their respective territory.

Speaking of appreciation, Mr. Chairman, much has been said recently about the problems for incoming foreigners at Edmonton International Airport. I think I would be remiss in this case if I didn't mention the special assistance, cordial co-operation, and outstanding courtesy someone like Mr. Stewart out there has shown and given us and incoming visitors and businessmen at all times. Hopefully others in that office out there are doing the very same. I am saying that because that gentleman is an experienced senior officer. Usually, we can count on his help when we have people coming in.

Under the circumstances, Mr. Chairman, I should also mention that not very long ago we had a tragic event at the office of the ambassador to Pakistan. Ambassador Charles J. Marshall passed away, and hopefully without any problems I would like to express here in this House our condolences to his family. This ambassador always gave us and incoming investment missions the best of co-operation for anyone who cared to trade or, for that matter, offer any kind of equipment or services in Pakistan. We shall all miss him very much. Saying that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to be open to the questions of my colleagues,

MR. MARTIN: A point of order. Are we just dealing with International Trade now and coming back to Economic Development or are we dealing with both?

I'd like to go back into some things in Economic Development to begin with. I have a number of things, and one has to do with discussions I've had before with the Minister of Economic Development about a high-speed train link between Edmonton and Calgary, I understand that in today's *Journal* Ron Thompson of the Department of Economic Development slated that a four-year preliminary study indicates the track is justified. I've just been told this. He also said that the train could generate revenue of about \$55 million by 1993, I think.

If I could, I would like to get some details of this report from the minister, if he has it updated. For example, would this not be an excellent public job-creation project — some of the things we've discussed in here. Perhaps now is the time to get on with it if it is going to be feasible in the future. Because of unemployment and with construction

companies coming in with very low bids, this might be the time to look at it. Is there any indication as to how many people this project could employ? If it does look positive in an economic sense, I would like an analysis of the most up-to-date thinking from the minister and his department, if I could. There are other areas I would like, but perhaps I will start off in that area and make it a little less disjointed.

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Chairman, the idea of an intercity high-speed rail has been considered by the department for some years now. We were always of the view, particularly with the escalating prices of oil, that it wouldn't be very long before short hops in jet airplanes were going to be at an unacceptable fare level. Because of the unique association between the two cities, I think it's well recognized that an inexpensive, dependable, quick intercity mode of transportation besides the highways is essential to the commerce of Alberta.

In order to develop a proposal, some assumptions had to be made about fare levels, speeds, and ridership. The fare-level issue really was that it's got to be low enough to attract people from aircraft, and it's got to be high enough to service the kind of debt that would be caused to get the speeds that would be comparable to aircraft downtown to downtown. In terms of ridership, you had to pick a given time and do a lot of assessments about who drives between the two cities for business and for pleasure — directly between the two cities, not ongoing from either one, not towing any kind of recreational equipment, not joining into the traffic stream from any place but just the originating and terminating cities. Then you had to determine how many of those might be willing to give up their automobile to ride on this kind of vehicle. Then you had to determine how many people would prefer this kind of transportation to aircraft, understanding that there would be some longer term in the train, but you have to take into consideration the deplaning, the waiting for departure times, and the time involved getting to and from the airport.

I'm not familiar with the comments made through the newspaper today, and I have to go on memory. I think the fares were established at something in the order of \$35, and the ridership presumed to be 4,500 a day on average. I think those are pretty acceptable numbers. They were done for us by some fairly talented people. As I recall, it involved about 25 percent of the folks that presently use a car for business. I'm now talking about a car from Edmonton to Calgary, or vice versa, not stopping at either place but originating and terminating at those two, not hauling recreation trailers, and not more than one in the car, because families change the kind of economics you'd be talking about. Then there was the issue of how many would come off the bus traffic and pay more in order to pick up a little extra time and how many would come off air traffic.

At the time this thing was initiated, we also tried to establish whether or not it would be possible to run the train down the median of Highway 2 between the two cities, to ameliorate the cost of accessing new land. It was determined that in order to get the speeds we needed, including the slowdown in speed from the city limits into Calgary and the city limits into Edmonton, and to get downtown to downtown in about one hour and 40 minutes, which is the average time we determined you presently require from office to office by intercity air, it would be necessary to have a different configuration than the Highway 2 median allowed us not only in terms of grade but in terms of radius of turn. The next problem became: if we approached

it on that basis, how would we handle the two-level intersections that, from a hazardous point of view, would be apparent on a new right-of-way? The preliminary planning revolved around a right-of-way that would be west of Highway 2 but effectively on the same two-level intersections east-west that are now on Highway 2, so you've eliminated your every mile two-level intersections simply because the east-west road is closed because of Highway 2.

When we got involved, there was also the question of how to access the towns, whether to access them on an LRT right-of-way or whether to access them on the VIA right-of-way, and all the problems those presented. You would know, Mr. Chairman, that in addition to its configuration, which precludes high speed, the present Calgary-Edmonton CP Rail link also carries a lot of freight traffic. In order to get the speeds we need between the cities to be competitive, it has to be a dedicated passenger traffic line. There simply cannot be a competing freight segment.

Having said all those things, we then forecast what it might cost at a certain rate-base and ridership-base to put this thing in place and whether or not it in fact made any economic sense. In order to progress through the next series of studies, you had to carve out the infrastructure cost versus the cost of traffic. Almost all modes have a fixed cost and a variable cost. In the airline business most of your fixed costs are not recovered. Most of your air traffic costs revolve around airplanes and fuel, not necessarily around amortizing the runways, terminals, and all the infrastructure. For roads, we recover something under 20 percent of every dollar we put in over the life of the road in licences and other things that are associated with road income. In the rail mode, however, historically you recover 100 percent of your capital costs for fixed and variable costs. If we were required to be competitive with the rail mode, the economics in this thing would not be so good. But if we were required to be better than the highway mode, then you start to see a very new sort of scenario.

For the purposes of this study we carved out the costs of the right-of-way, ballast, ties, and track and put that down as one item that probably would require a government investment, very much like highways. The issue of terminals and rolling stock was one which, providing that the government put the infrastructure in place and that our ridership numbers and fares are right, could be an attractive economic reality. So the first thought is that you would carve out the fixed costs. That would be a government responsibility, and the variable costs and costs of the rolling stock and terminals would be a private-sector responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, it is also important to notice that across the country VIA inter-rail is providing good interurban service in most of central Canada where it is now in place, but it is not at all in Calgary and Edmonton. We are of the view that VIA Rail as it presently exists probably is a loser no matter what you do with it. But it seems to us that the same responsibility lies with the federal government for their participation in an improved interurban high-speed rail system as would apply in VIA interurban in other parts of Canada. So we are looking to the federal government to supply part of the fixed costs that would be in the infrastructure part. That's the first part, and that may be where the numbers in the *Journal* came from. But those are extensions of assumptions, and it's about a seven- or eight-year proposal from approval to go-ahead to the fruition of the thing. So there could be a great many changes in those assumptions before you were done. The assumptions we presently have and are using tell us that it's an economically viable thing to do.

In terms of job creation, there is no question that it would create jobs. But it isn't necessarily true that the kinds of jobs it would create would cure those who are unemployed. As you put it out to tender, you may find, in fact, that the dirt movers and the ones that clear the right-of-way are busy in the oil field business, so all you would do is escalate prices in those and perhaps bring in out-of-province players. It wouldn't necessarily take care of those who are unfortunate enough to be in the construction trades — not being trite with the issue, just simply saying that it is not a great producer of jobs for all those who are unemployed, but no question that it would be a producer of jobs. The jobs generally would revolve around dirt moving, ballast, engineering, protection of the right-of-way, and two-level intersections. The track and rolling stock presumably would come out of the province, and there would be some construction of the terminals at either end.

MR. MARTIN: Just to follow up on what I think is a very important possible development for the province. I recognize some of the problems the minister is alluding to, and part of the problem is the perception of the way we do things now. Whether we drive down in a car or not, we're not used to the idea of even using a train. Some of us are used to the plane because it's there. Some of us are used to cars because they're there. I think there has to be somewhat of a rethinking in terms of the populace to make something like this viable.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that in this country, as wide as it is, and in this province we have to have a total rationalization of the transportation system. I agree with the minister that VIA should be a player in this, because it's certainly a player between the major cities in central Canada. I think the traffic between Calgary and Edmonton would certainly compare to some of the areas they're already involved in. The trains, buses, and planes all have to work together and be timed together, very much like the European model. I know the minister has travelled there. Trains would be involved for medium travel, planes for longer travel, and buses for shorter travel. It is rationalized and working together. In this country and this province, of course, we know that hasn't happened; the main player has been our major railways. I hope there would be an ongoing study with the federal people about this possibility, because I think it makes a lot of sense in the long term.

The minister talked about some of the problems and some of the benefits, but it seems to me that over the long haul, on a medium distance between Calgary and Edmonton, it would make some sense for trains to be involved, especially when we have the airbuses we're all used to. They just get up and have to come down again. It seems to me there's a tremendous waste of energy at that particular time. If we could somehow get from city centre to city centre in approximately the same time as the airbuses get there, that seems to me to make a lot of common sense and economic sense over a longer period of time. I was interested that the minister said that in the study it would be roughly \$35 if they had it. Of course that would be very favourable. I think all of us would look at that rather than the airbus. I forget what the latest cost is, but I expect it's around double that at this particular time.

I guess I will come back and say to the minister that there's obviously — I'm not saying it's a cure-all to all unemployment; obviously not. It would be just one project, but as the minister says, it would certainly have some impact in terms of unemployment. It seems to me that if the

government is thinking this might be a good idea for the future, perhaps now is the best time to start doing it. I believe the minister said there is some seven years' lead time. We think it's a good project, and if we wait and a megaproject comes on in the private sector, it will cost us an arm and a leg more to go into something like this. I'm sure the minister would agree with that.

I think this is a good proposal and, as the minister says, it requires a lot of thought. There's no doubt about that. I would like to know from the minister: where is the final thinking of the government? I've sort of felt that the minister is saying there are some good parts and some bad parts, but I didn't really get a feeling about how seriously the government is considering this at this particular time. Is it something that we might look at in the next year or two, or is it something that's permanently in abeyance? Taking all the pros and cons the minister alluded to, is there any thought that this might go ahead in, say, the next couple of years?

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Chairman. I'm not a great forecaster of how things go together in governments. The fact that my hon. colleague agrees with the concept may cause some of my colleagues to consider whether or not it's valid. But all kidding aside, it's a very large bill. It's going to approach something in the order of \$700 million for the infrastructure. We still have the difficulties of access from city limits to downtown, particularly in Edmonton, where you've got to cross a very major river with very considerable expense because of the topography. So you can see there is a lot of negotiating to be done with the present players, both in LRT and in intercity rail, and that is taking place. Those negotiations take a great deal of time, because you're dealing with a concept that doesn't have financial approval, so there's no sense of urgency in that context. But I can assure the member that I think it is something we are going to have to do, that we are progressing with our planning towards a presentation with all the agility we can muster within the budget restraints, and that we will continue to.

In terms of timing, it probably isn't something that will be decided on by members presently in this House, but I think it very well could be the next ones. If fuel prices for jet aircraft continue to escalate and if the waiting times for PWA increase at the runways, in Calgary particularly, adding to costs, then that will be a very strong driving force towards an alternate mode.

It is our initial thinking, of course, that the first offer to run this activity would fall to those who are presently moving people between the two cities on some kind of prorated basis. The member might be interested to know that Lufthansa, for instance, already uses intercity rail as part of their aircraft "service" in a global sense. I believe that if you go from Frankfurt to Dusseldorf on a Lufthansa ticket, you will go by surface transportation.

MR. MARTIN: One follow-up along this similar line. I'll be quick. The minister alluded to the federal government and the fact that there seem to be some of these types of services in central Canada. Has there been any discussion with the new federal minister, Mr. Mazankowski, about the possibility of the federal government's being involved in looking at this between Calgary and Edmonton in a serious way?

MR. PLANCHE: Not exactly in the way the question was put, Mr. Chairman. There has been a preliminary conver-

sation with the federal Minister of Transport, so he's up to speed on where we're trying to get to and our assessment of the difficulties that need to be handled. On the question of federal participation, we're not really ready to talk numbers yet, because we haven't got all the problems in place in a quantitative way. But that's not very far off, and we will make that part of our initial submission on the issue of whether or not VIA should remain between Calgary and Edmonton.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, I want to dwell on international trade, because the questions I want to ask the Minister of Economic Development about transportation have to do with the overall transportation strategy of the province and the importance of transportation, especially to our ability to put products in an export position. To the Minister of International Trade. I would first like to comment on what a tremendous job I think he and the department have done in promoting Alberta products worldwide and in informing the rest of the world that we are indeed here and willing, ready, and able to trade and provide the products. I'd like to ask the minister if he could give us a rundown of the kinds of recent trips he has had and the results of those trips and if there's anything that we as Members of the Legislative Assembly and members of our respective communities can do to promote trade and investment in our own areas.

MR. SCHMID: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Oh, somebody behind me? Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I didn't know if the minister wished to take all the questions and reply to them all in a group or . . .

MR. McPHERSON: Mr. Chairman. I wanted to get in. I should have put up my hand. I'm sorry; I guess we're losing our custom. I wanted to get in on the comments to the Minister of Economic Development with respect to the high-speed train and VIA Rail. The sense I'm getting is that if there is going to be continual progress towards developing a high-speed train between the two metropolitan cities in Alberta, it pretty well puts the VIA Rail situation between Edmonton and Calgary, which stops in Red Deer, on a sort of back burner. I'd be interested in the minister's comments with regard to what I think is really a chicken-and-egg situation out of central Alberta vis-a-vis the VIA, if that's an appropriate way of putting it. The timetable is an atrocity and the connections are an atrocity. The rolling stock scene is bad; it is 1950 stock. It's a bad service and consequently people aren't using it. One wonders if people would use it if it were a better service. I guess I'm inclined to think they would, but I haven't been able to see any evidence that would substantiate that.

[Mr. Purdy in the Chair]

I have to note, Mr. Chairman, that there has been a considerable upgrading of railway service interconnecting between centres in eastern Canada. What we have in central Alberta between Edmonton and Calgary is a service that services the busiest corridor in all of Canada. For some reason the federal government has chosen not to participate perhaps as fully in Alberta as they have in other areas, which may come as a surprise to some members. I'm concerned with that. I guess the question to the minister

is: in view of his comments relative to a high-speed train, would he care to elaborate on what he views may be the fate of the VIA Rail passenger service between Red Deer and Calgary and Red Deer and Edmonton?

Just briefly, one other question on the subject, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the high-speed train, I was most interested in reading a couple of the comments in the report. I wonder if the minister might now like to allude to whether or not Red Deer would also be at least considered as a stop for such a high-speed train between Calgary and Edmonton. I'll look forward to his comments on that.

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Chairman, first of all. I'm not particularly burdened with any knowledge of railroad economics. But I think it would be fair to say that if you're going to attract the kind of ridership that a high-speed electric train needs, it has to be a dedicated line. The Calgary-Edmonton line that CP uses is essential for intercity freight and, indeed, for any considerations we might have for an inland container port. It's an integral part of that. As to its configuration for high speeds, the best information I have is that it's just not satisfactory. You're talking about an incredibly level, parallel, even track to give any kind of comfortable ridership at the speeds contemplated for downtown to downtown in an hour and 40 minutes.

In terms of stopping at Red Deer, my inclination would be to say no. I say that because of the time span involved in the stop. If we're going to attract ridership between the two cities, speed is of the essence. It may very well be that as this progresses, it might be possible to include some trains going in the middle of the day outside the normal early morning/late evening business. I didn't want to get into all the politics of the thing until it was established whether or not it was an economic likelihood. But if we are to stop at Red Deer, a case could be made for stopping at several other cities, and then we are into it. The experience in England was that a stop between London and Bath created an enormous distortion in land prices and bedroom community taxation policies, as well as filling the train up for the short haul and leaving those who wanted the longer haul to wait for the next train. I am still persuaded that the best way to approach this thing, certainly in the planning stage, is to have a train that's dedicated to high-speed service, passenger only, between the two centres.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Barrhead. Or did the minister have a supplementary?

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman. I noticed that the questions are being answered. Maybe we should answer the questions that have come up rather than having to wait for the next speaker to put them. In reply to the hon. Member for Drayton Valley, in summary, my only comment would be that we have sent, actually because of requests from some members last year, quarterly reports on our international trade activities. In fact, at this time I would like to file them and make them part of the record of this Legislature, and also to report that, for instance, our last quarterly report incorporated the numbers of sales assisted by our international trade sector in manufactured, value-added products or, for that matter, service contracts.

The reason I mention them, Mr. Chairman, is very simple. First of all, thanks to the attention given by the former Minister of International Trade for Canada, Gerald Regan, we finally succeeded in having the point of origin and point of lading definition included in our Canadian

statistics. It will take a number of years yet, but up to now, for instance, it happened that even sulphur which is being shipped from British Columbia is loaded from there as sulphur from British Columbia rather than from Alberta. Right now that, plus wheat and especially machinery and equipment, is in fact still listed in the Canadian statistics as point of lading. Without any question, that means, of course, that provinces like British Columbia, Ontario, or Quebec, according to statistics, ship much more overseas than they really have shipped. For example, let's take a gas compressor. The block comes from Hamilton, Ontario, but the machining and, of course, the assembling and all the other work are done right here in Alberta. In other words, it's clearly an Alberta product. But because it is shipped across the Atlantic from a port in Ontario or from Montreal, it shows up in statistics as from Quebec and not from Alberta. So our exports of manufactured goods, engineering services, and even commodities are always incorrect until we finally have our statistics according to the point of lading.

In summary, what I want to say, proudly in fact, is that our international trade directors, capably led by Assistant Deputy Minister Erv Lack, helped to export to other countries \$131,225,000 worth of manufactured goods or value-added products in 1983 and \$347,735,000 worth of value-added manufactured goods or other products in 1984. Of course, that still excludes a number of commodities. For instance, in this case it definitely excludes natural gas, coal, and sulphur. All it really represents is the \$347 million in value-added products or, for that matter, any products that have been assisted by Alberta government personnel, through our missions or through contacts with sectors in other parts of the world and our private-sector companies, where we have actually helped to arrange the sale. That, Mr. Chairman, would pretty well answer the question.

On the other hand, though, the hon. Member for Drayton Valley asked what members can do. I would suggest, of course, that we would be very happy to work even more with the members than we have in the past, because only the members know of the available resources, factories, manufacturers, and expertise in their respective areas. For instance, only last Saturday I was in Vermilion. I was very much aware of the grain dryer Vertec is building there, but I did not know they had a pump which not only lifted more water compared to the capacity of other pumps manufactured in the rest of the world but also is much more capable of being driven to emergency and/or flooding areas and then pumping. I think it is, 6,000 gallons of water per minute. That in itself is something we could be informed about through co-operation with members — or for that matter any other information we can get about contacts they have in other countries or anything else along those lines. Mr. Chairman, I think this would answer the question of the Member for Drayton Valley.

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, every opportunity this Assembly provides to make comments on the 1985-86 government estimates should be welcomed by all members. I am particularly happy today to have an opportunity to say a few brief comments to the Minister of Economic Development on a number of items that may or may not be directly within his portfolio of responsibility but that, certainly from an economic development point of view within the context not only of the province of Alberta but the government of Canada, should be raised at this time.

It seems to me that the most important domestic national transportation issue we have in this country is how we deal

with the movement of Alberta goods out of this province to markets within Canada — not necessarily markets outside of Canada but markets within Canada. I ask all members to go back to the debate that occurred in the Legislature on Wednesday, April 3, when the Minister of Agriculture brought forward his estimates and we all talked about the importance of a Canadian national market for red meats emanating from this province. I now would like to make a suggestion or two to the Minister of Economic Development, because I know he has in times past spent some time looking at the type of issue I want to draw to his attention.

I think it's savage — and "savage" is not too strong a word — and particularly destructive to the meat packing industry in the province of Alberta to have whole sides of beef and pork transported to other parts of this country for manufacturing through packing plants, be they in downtown Toronto, downtown Montreal, or downtown Vancouver. Those jobs could just as easily be retained in the province of Alberta if we had a fair transportation rate that would allow manufactured, processed beef or pork produced in this province — and heaven knows the best quality agricultural products anywhere are produced in the province of Alberta — to be shipped to a market within Canada and if that freight rate was dealt with fairly by either the railroad company or the transportation company. Or perhaps there is need for a new mechanism, and that mechanism might very well be a postage-rate approach that this Assembly might want to take a look at.

My first point of reference, my first question, to the Minister of Economic Development is: has he undertaken any review of what the impact would be on, number one, our producers in the province of Alberta; number two, our meat packing processors; and number three, the Canadian domestic retail meat market within all of Canada? Further to that, to extrapolate, what could be the impact on our meat market within the province of Alberta if a freight rate that allowed Alberta producers to send manufactured meat to other parts of Canada at a competitive rate — what might the implication be for the long-term economic improvement and benefits to not only the agricultural sector in our province but the labour sector as well?

The second area I would like the minister to bring the Assembly up to date on is the latest news he may have ascertained from Ottawa as a result of the very negative approach of the previous federal government, the one that was thrown out on September 4. What rethinking has been going on in Ottawa with respect to the negative that came out of the Crow rate debate, particularly the negative with respect to the payment that would go to railroads rather than to producers? All members will recall that the position put forward by this Assembly and this government was that the payment should go directly to the producers, not the railroads, and I wonder if the Minister of Economic Development is in a position today to bring all members up to date on that particular matter.

Thirdly, I believe that in the second or third week of May 1985 one of the most progressive and important developments this Assembly has ever committed itself to, the Prince Rupert Grain terminal, will be officially opened. Obviously, we're now in a position to see the Prince Rupert Grain terminal officially opened, because it must be in the process of production. Perhaps the Minister of Economic Development might bring all members of the Assembly up to date on the latest news with respect to that very important project.

But not to forget my most important question to the minister today: what has the minister been thinking of with respect to the concept of a postage-rate transportation system that would allow Alberta producers to find ease of access to and competition with other domestic food markets within Canada? The minister's thinking with respect to that matter would be most appreciated.

MR. PAPROSKI: First of all, to the Minister of Economic Development. My remarks deal with a couple of areas. I too, like the Member for Barrhead, am very interested in the Prince Rupert Grain terminal. I wonder if the minister has any current forecasts with respect to the impact this terminal will have on the province of Alberta once it is officially open. Could the minister comment as well as to when that terminal will be officially open?

Secondly, on April 2 in this House the minister announced three new initiatives in the field of advanced electronics. Could the minister be somewhat more specific in expanding on this announcement in two areas: first of all, the telecommunications research centre in Edmonton and, secondly, the electronics industry information centre. Where will this bank of information be situated, and when and how will interested people be able to access this particular information?

I wish to commend the Minister of International Trade and his department for their tireless efforts in marketing our goods and services throughout this world. Although export sale contracts seem to be up in all regions of this planet, does the department have any specific sections of the world where he believes there should be more in-depth initiatives to market our products, and what might those locations be? Finally, could he be specific in commenting with respect to South America? What is happening there with respect to international trade from our province?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to echo the remarks made by the Member for Barrhead. I think it's very critical at this time in the history of Canada when we have agricultural subsidies by provincial governments in other parts of Canada that destroy the natural advantage here. Of course, we recognize that we have high freight rates in this part of the country in order to get our food to market. Mr. Minister, I remember a few years ago when you brought up the idea that perhaps the government could subsidize the freight rates so that the beef and pork produced and processed in Alberta could probably be put on the market in eastern Canada with a rate that was FOB Toronto rather than FOB Edmonton or Calgary. I think it's imperative that we try to restore the competitive position we naturally have in the raising of livestock in Alberta. When this is being undermined by other provincial governments, I think it is cause for alarm to every Albertan. Mr. Minister, I can well remember your quotes, and I wonder if any thought is being given to revitalizing the idea you had. If so, when could we expect to have some action on this?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Would the minister like to respond to the various questions?

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Chairman. I'll try. Postage stamp rate — when Economic Development tackles a problem, we generally try to isolate specifically what it is and then try to fit a variety of things we are able to do into a solution that makes some kind of economic and political sense. If within Alberta, there was one cow to be killed and the people eating it lived in Ontario, the people that were

investing in killing would have to make a decision based on whether it would be cheaper to kill it here and ship it there, understanding that after you kill an animal part of it doesn't ship, or whether it would be better to ship it there, kill it, and distribute it, having paid for all of that which you don't sell in terms of freight when you move it. Obviously, if the thing was left to its own ends, it would be more appropriate to kill the animal here. That's coupled by the fact that we have a lot of rangeland and we have some world-renowned excellence in animal husbandry. In short, we know what we're about when it comes to raising red meat.

If you start there and then overlay it with things like anomalies in feed freight, so that it's cheaper to ship feed to Ontario than it normally would be to grow it in Ontario, if you get into the difficulty of getting barley effectively to our feedlots at competitive prices because of federal government regulations and laws, if you look at the multitude of subsidies that have come up to encourage the farm vote with what in a real market would be uneconomical animal production, you end up with the natural advantage we have being distorted.

My colleague the Minister of Agriculture and his predecessor tried many times to have a common stabilization program, if you will, or a reversion to the natural economics of cattle raising and meat slaughter without the anomalies and distortions that tend to take away Alberta's natural advantage. Clearly, in the middle of 1985, that hasn't been achieved. It may very well be time to say that if we are not able to cause a national stabilization program that takes care of regional anomalies, if we are not able to take advantage of the fact that we can grow feed here cheaper than anywhere else and that that should be an integral part of the fattening and killing process, perhaps we should look at bringing the others to the table.

There are many ways you can do that. If the other provinces across the country want to become involved in a war of treasuries, finally the only one that loses is the taxpayer. It may very well be that that's what this will come to. One of the ways you could approach that is to say: fine, we will deliver meat at the same price across Canada, and that way we'll exert our natural advantage as being a producer of meat. Maybe it's worth bringing to the table again.

Since we talked about it some years ago, there has been a terrible loss of meat packing capacity in Alberta for a variety of reasons, not all of which you can lay at the table of regional disparity and subsidies. There has been a rethinking of the whole meat packing industry. There's been a very dramatic drop in the consumption of red meat. There's been an enormous impact, particularly from Ireland and New Zealand, in terms of meat coming in at distress prices that our agricultural folks can't compete with and couldn't be expected to. Maybe the idea is worth reviewing again, and I'll undertake to do just that.

On the issue of pay the railroad/pay the farmer, the logic of paying the railroad escapes me completely. I simply can't understand why the Alberta Wheat Pool continually makes the case that it's good for the Alberta agricultural community to do that. It may very well be good for the Alberta Wheat Pool, but I would have some serious reservations about its merits in terms of returning maximum income to our broad agricultural community. I'd just like to say that we have made that presentation again to the Hall commission, whose hearings I think end this year. We expect the results sometime later in 1985. We think we

made an unassailable case for paying the producer. We don't think the economics of transportation can prevail at all unless there is a competitive compensatory rate published so that alternate modes, variable rates, unit trains, and key elevators can be used, and the farmer has the right to decide on the basis of gross economics whether he should truck to a terminal and get a better price or whether he should have a terminal right in his backyard and get a poorer price.

We also did a survey of the Alberta farm community which we thought was kind of interesting, and I believe everyone in this Assembly had a copy of it. Essentially it said that the majority of the Alberta farm community that was asked for comments supported paying the producer, but the anomaly to that was that they thought the Alberta Wheat Pool best presented their case. So we were sort of at a loss as to where we were, other than we were prepared to admit that our communications effort was indeed lacking.

The update on Rupert. The first grain was shipped shortly after the new year. The formal opening, as my colleague from Barrhead mentioned, is coming up in May. It's essentially completed. It will be the most modern, well-computerized wheat terminal in the free world. It's always useful to have an alternate to the Fraser Canyon route for a variety of reasons. We think this is going to diversify our opportunities to ship. We think the railroads need to be congratulated on the way they've accommodated both terminals; certainly this gives us better marine economics to Asia. Finally, I think it's important to say that we're very proud of the consortium that went together at Rupert and the way they've accommodated it when you consider that they could consider what goes through Rupert as a take-away from their Vancouver facilities which are in place. So all in all, I think it was a very good combined effort.

We're doing pretty well in a budgetary sense. I think our total investment as a province in Rupert is some \$236 million; \$106,250,000 will be commercial debt coming out of the Alberta heritage fund. The rest will be performance debt, and how they are recovered will depend on the profits of the terminal. There is a \$6 million overrun that's partly offset by a variety of other claims we have out. But in terms of the way the budget was presented, we think we're essentially right on target and right on time.

The telecommunications initiative, if I got the question correct, is an initiative between Northern Telecom and the University of Alberta and includes studies of fibre optics. It goes a long way towards having our postgraduate and doctoral students and, indeed, our electrical engineering and other disciplines involved in the actual marketplace through Northern Telecom's auspices. Northern Telecom has been very helpful to us in giving us a direction as to what infrastructure we might prioritize to bring along our electronics and microelectronics industry. This is one example of a co-operative effort between those good people, the University of Alberta, the government of Alberta, which will be putting in a cash contribution, and the Alberta Research Council, which has endorsed the project as very useful for the future of our province.

I hope that answers the questions that have been asked.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could be permitted to pose a couple of brief questions to the minister. I very much appreciate his comments on the Prince Rupert Grain terminal. An area that many Canadians, certainly many western Canadians, have been concerned about is security of labour with regard to the grain handlers. My understanding

is that with all the technology and computerization involved, the number of physical bodies with regard to moving or handling the grain is very minimal. Can the minister give the committee some assurance — I don't know whether he can; obviously, it's not particularly his jurisdiction. In order to get the grain to the customer, an integral part of that is obviously the grain handlers. Does the minister have any concerns, or has he discussed with other people in other jurisdictions how we can avoid any further tie-ups for those tremendous demurrage charges that the minister has referred to in the past by giving some assurance that the grain handlers — I don't know the number — will in no way. It would be interesting if they could conclude an agreement that was concluded recently by certain other people, that there will be no labour stoppage till 1991. Mr. Chairman, the question in a nutshell is: could the Minister of Economic Development give the House some indication of the assurance that there will not be work stoppages by grain handlers?

Being the member for Lethbridge, we had a long-term desire, as the minister is well aware, with regard to the Canadian long-baseline array, to which the University of Lethbridge, in concert with the city, has been prepared to contribute \$5 million. That's about 8 percent of the total. This has been on-again, off-again with the previous government. Quite frankly, we're now at the point where we sincerely feel that with the almost billion dollars of federal money and some half a billion dollars of our money here in Alberta being geared almost exclusively to getting people either trained for work or back to work or creating jobs for them to go to work, it would almost appear to be ideal that this CLBA be established by unanimous resolution. The Member for Calgary Egmont sponsored a resolution that Alberta would be the site for such a project as the Canadian long-baseline array. Could the minister give us an update and perhaps a personal view as to whether or not he's prepared to continue to urge the federal government — I understand it's still in limbo — to perhaps alter their priorities in such a manner that this Canadian baseline array project could be established at the University of Lethbridge?

Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: I'd just like to follow up on some more areas. I don't know if anybody has asked — I had to go out — about the recent announcement on advanced electronics. I know the minister would like to give us a little more detail than he was able to in the ministerial announcement. As I said, on principle I agreed with it, but we could get some more detail as to the funding of these projects, particularly from what budgets the funds are coming from and what protections are built in to assure that these funds are going to do what we say they are going to do — create the jobs. I think it's important to get into high technology, but as I mentioned after the ministerial announcement, Mr. Chairman, it's become a buzzword for many different things. Certain countries are probably far behind in certain areas; for example, we're not going to compete with the Japanese. But could the minister allude a little more to the areas he sees us going into in the province, in which we could in fact compete?

The other area I would like to bring up with the minister has to do with planning again, and we've had this discussion from time to time. Eventually, as we know, the government came out with the white paper. But is there any suggestion that the government would look at a long-term mechanism? Don't even take our word for it, the name "economic council of Alberta". Most industrialized countries have some

arm's-length group advising them, and of course most companies are planning five or 10 years. Is the government looking at any ongoing mechanism to determine types of industries that are going to be viable in this province in the future?

The other area I would like some comments about from the Minister of Economic Development has to do with diversification. We have suggested this from time to time, and I know the government has denied it, but we think they've gone off the principles enunciated by the Premier back in 1974 in a very famous speech to the Chamber of Commerce in Calgary, when he talked about a decade to turn the economy around, that we were basing too much of our wealth on a nonrenewable resource and that basically a decade would turn it around. I know the high technology falls into that, and as I understand it, I think that's the purpose of Vencap. There are some mechanisms. Could the minister indicate what other diversification things the government is looking at right at this time?

The third area has to do with the Minister of International Trade. I might as well throw it all out. Mr. Chairman, it has to do with the new round of international trade talks. As I understand it, Canada and 23 other members of the organization have agreed to hold exploratory meetings this summer in an effort to set up a new round for GATT. Other than the minister's travel, which we're well aware of, could the minister indicate what steps are being taken to ensure that Alberta's input reaches the federal level with regard to these talks? What discussions have already taken place between the provinces and the federal government in determining a Canadian stance on this issue? I know the Premier has talked about free trade, but I'm more interested in the ongoing discussions between the federal and provincial governments.

MR. GURNETT: Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Development to comment a little bit for us about another railroad. It's a subject that's very important to people in my part of the province. That's the idea of a rail link that would join Hines Creek, which is now the end of the rail in northern Alberta, with the British Columbia Railway system. We know from talking to people who farm in that area that depending how far west of Hines Creek you are, having a railroad like that operating could make anywhere from a few cents a bushel to perhaps over 20 cents a bushel difference in the farmer's own transportation costs for grain. This is before the amount they have to pay the railroad as well, so it's something a lot of people in northwest Alberta feel is an important thing to see happen.

I note that on a couple of occasions we saw some statements indicating that this is something the government would probably like to support. For example, in the white paper we're told that transportation of agricultural products is a major problem that needs to be looked at. Then on page 638 of Hansard in 1984, the minister himself said:

The joining of BCR with an Alberta outlet to tidewater from our northwest is extremely important ...

So I'd be interested in the minister's comments on whether there have been studies done on jobs that would be created by this project, if there's information available on the long-term economic benefit to northwest Alberta of something like this, and basically on the key question — given the recognition by people in the area and by the government of the importance and value of this project — of why it's not being proceeded with. Why do we not hear that anything

is going to happen on a rail link between Hines Creek and the British Columbia Peace?

MR. HIEBERT: Mr. Chairman, my remarks to the minister relate to container ports. As the minister is well aware, some private investors on the old Turbo site in northeast Edmonton have invested in a research facility related to container ports. This group has taken the initiative as a private-sector group to see if they can get something started with regard to a port in the Edmonton region. I note that there has been some concern with respect to the development of other sites by the railways in the cities of both Calgary and Edmonton. Since there is a great deal of potential for the northeast site insofar as its proximity to both railways, along with the fact that many of the petro-related industries are in the northeast region of Edmonton, I wonder if the minister could update the Assembly as to where we are with the concept for Alberta and what progress has been made with regard to negotiating with the two railways. Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, I would like to have some observations from the minister with regard to the concerns the truckers' association has expressed with regard to the container port and how it would impact their industry.

DR. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, a number of quick comments and a number of questions which relate to both ministries. First, representing a Calgary constituency, in terms of door-knocking and meeting with people not only at the doors but in businesses, I'm greatly encouraged to note that the business climate has taken a turn for the better with respect to the Calgary area. That started to happen even before the signing of the new energy agreement, and that in addition has meant a new spirit of optimism. Members of the Assembly know that Calgary, with its concentration of oil and gas industry head offices — it's very essential to the province to have that kind of positive attitude being generated, which in turn will have the spin-off effect throughout the whole province as well as to the rest of the country.

One of the places where I noted this spin-off effect is with regard to the Social Care Facilities Review Committee in Medicine Hat. Sheltered workshops for the handicapped were having difficulty in getting subsidiary employment projects such as the making of sample bags for the oil patch. In difficult times the oil industry was doing that in-house. But in the last four months there has been a very significant turnaround with respect to these minor projects being farmed out to sheltered workshops. They are not minor projects to the handicapped people working in those facilities.

I hope the minister will indeed comment on the long-range baseline array, that radio telescope project. I know the University of Calgary in particular is very appreciative of the fact that the supercomputer is in place, and that has meant a tremendous number of spin-offs. I hope the Minister of Economic Development will make some comment with respect to what ramifications that has meant not only in terms of the oil and gas industry but also with respect to a special project, which I understand is coming into the province — if it hasn't already arrived — and relates to the film industry, which I know comes under his portfolio.

Another thing happening in a number of facilities in the province, in particular on the architectural and engineering side, is that some of the firms have been able to get into computer-assisted design and modelling. Some very sophisticated equipment has been put in place. I know of at least one architectural firm which has offices in Calgary and

Edmonton, and also of some of the engineering firms in my constituency in Calgary.

In terms of spin-off, I hope the Minister of Economic Development will make some comment with regard to the so-called incubation facilities associated with the Calgary area and the kind of positive developments that are starting to take place there. I assume that the incubation type of facilities are in place in Edmonton and other centres as well.

I wonder if the Minister of International Trade would make some comment with regard to the attraction of entrepreneurial immigration to the province. I know there's been a concentrated effort in our relationship with South Korea, and I would like to have some kind of update on that. I'm in contact with at least two groups of people who have been very aggressive indeed in bringing over businessmen from South Korea. There have been some businesses purchased or large equity in some businesses purchased within the Calgary area in particular. It is my understanding that some spin-off is starting to happen with this entrepreneurial immigration concept, which relates to some of the smaller communities throughout the province as well. I wonder if both ministers might comment on this and on whether it's focussed in one narrow area or if there's a broader spectrum involved.

I hope the ministers will comment on a final question. With the new federal government in place, I know there's a much more positive attitude there, and I would like to be updated on what kind of relationships have developed in terms of communication between the provincial and federal governments. In particular, have there been fairly aggressive attempts made to get more contracts from the federal government to be placed with various types of businesses within the province?

MR. BATIUK: Mr. Chairman, the member from Lethbridge enticed me to ask and express a few views when he asked about demurrage concerns. As a member of the Alberta Grain Commission, I have a really good view of the past terminal and also the observation of the location and so forth of the new one. There were things that did impress me, but I also had some concerns. Even though the old terminal had maybe served its purpose, it was providing a good service because it was very capable of unloading grain. The hopper cars were opened at the bottom, and it would take a matter of three minutes to unload them. With the other, older boxcars, without the touch of a finger, automatically it took four minutes to break the car, tilt it three times, and get the last speck of grain from that car. So as far as the unloading of grain, I could not really see a reason for the delay in shipping or cause for demurrage.

I think the biggest problem was with the cleaning of grain. There were five floors there, and on each floor there were several cleaners. They cleaned for about half an hour, then it would take about three or four minutes to load that grain on the ship and shut down, and then they'd be cleaning for another half hour. I think this is totally wrong. I believe the grain should be cleaned on the prairies, and the dockage there could be used for feed.

I remember well just a couple of years back I had to address the annual meeting of the Seed Cleaning Plant Association. I had researched and found that out of every 100-car unit trains going to the west coast, 8 percent was dockage. I figured that's eight cars out of every 100, but that's not so. It would be closer to 11 cars, because dockage is lighter and takes so much space. I believe that is where

there is a big waste of car space and so forth. I strongly believe with the seed cleaning plant service in the province that that grain should be going directly to the boat and that it should not have to be cleaned. I was just wondering whether the minister would be able to advise whether that's going to be a holdback in the future.

Another area of concern I had at the terminal was the way they used to load the boat. There were four men standing with ropes tied to the spout, directing it to certain areas of the boat where the grain could go. Now with the technical things there are, one person should automatically be able to handle and direct the flow of grain. I spoke to one of those fellows, and he told me that he had already worked there holding the rope for 21 years. As I said, I think there are several areas we have to look at.

Another thing is the labour. At that time nobody worked more than 37 and a half hours, and anybody who worked more than that worked on double time, yet he had no shift. They could have had three shifts. You provide more employment, but their union was that strong. Again, it's the farmer who has to pay the bill in the end. With a number of things like that, I think there could be a great improvement. I am aware that there isn't very much, but there is drying at Prince Rupert. With the humidity as high as it is, it is so much more costly and takes longer to dry grain in Prince Rupert than it does on the prairies. With 4,500 grain dryers in this province any place north of Red Deer, there is no reason whatsoever that damp grain should be going to the terminals and that drying should take place.

With these few comments, I think the minister will want to give his comments also.

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions for the Minister of Economic Development. I'd like to make him aware that in Camrose we have a proposed private school. The teachers have visited Hong Kong and have discussed with a number of colleges in Hong Kong the idea of educating Hong Kong students in English and their finishing high school in Camrose. The minister is quite aware that there are a certain number of businesses that are looking for reinvestment outside Hong Kong. It would appear that when it comes to North America, these citizens are aware of only San Francisco and Vancouver. In a sense they know nothing of what is on this side of the mountains.

I would like to point out that this school has already signed 20-some students from Hong Kong. We're going to need all the help we can get from your good offices. Mr. Minister, and from other departments. We have in Camrose the Camrose Lutheran College, and it's now offering a dozen scholarships for Asian students. They have also cleared with External Affairs in Ottawa and the Chinese government the financing of a chair in Asian studies in honour of Dr. Chester Ronning. The parents of students from Asia, especially from Hong Kong, being educated here in the province of Alberta would normally follow the students. I think there's potential for quite an industry.

I would also like to bring to the minister's attention the policy of twinning Alberta cities with our province in northern Japan. The city of Camrose has been twinned with a city in that province. I'm sorry; I cannot pronounce the name of the city. However, the mayor and his officials visited Camrose last year. The city put on quite a show for them, took them on tours of the farms, barbecues, et cetera. However, they're expected back. This is going to be a financial burden for the mayor and perhaps his industrial development officer and two or three of his officials. If

your department goes out and twins cities, in a sense without the city even knowing they're being twinned with someone in Japan, if Camrose does not go back... [interjections] Somebody has twinned them. If Camrose does not go to Japan, I think it's going to be a loss of face. I think we'll have egg on our face. I think what is needed is perhaps a little financial obligation.

Mr. Chairman, I have a third question to ask the Minister of Economic Development. I read in the cabinet report the agenda of where cabinet ministers were last week. I see he was out on the west coast. I would like to ask him how fishing was.

MR. PLANCHE: It was fantastic.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make one or two comments. First of all, the hon. minister responsible for international affairs and I quite often disagree, but there are times when we do agree. At this time I would like to say publicly to the minister that he's doing a good job on our behalf I know how hard he works at it, and I wish to compliment him on that. We have to realize that there are potential markets in Pacific Rim countries, in China, and we have to develop those. We're close enough to tidewater that we should be able to take advantage of these things. We're really a small country compared to some of the large countries in the world, but we have to take advantage of all the opportunities available to us.

I would like to know from the Minister of Economic Development what our trackage situation is. I know that five or six years ago when we met with CN and CP they were worried about having sufficient trackage and the capacity to move stuff from the prairies to the west coast. I want to know if the minister can give us an update on what has happened in that area. I'd also like to say that when we're looking at economic development — I've said it before in this House, and I will say it again — I'm so proud of the Shell group for having the foresight and basically the guts to proceed with their refinery at Scotford when things looked like they were going to be tough. They went ahead and did that project, and from the reports I'm receiving, they're very, very happy with their refinery. They had to make a decision, and they were brave enough to do that. That has meant a lot not only to my constituency but to this province as a whole. I guess the benzene plant was the last large project we had in the province.

We all know how difficult it is for any company that's involved in the mining sector, but Sherritt Gordon is doing well with their fertilizer plant in Fort Saskatchewan. Of course, all of us in western Canada have to be optimists to survive, but we hope there will be a turnaround in mining.

I would like to say to the government that they were very prominent by their absence when we opened the Northwestern Utilities gas salt cavern outside Fort Saskatchewan. It was on Monday morning. When there are 79 members on the government side. I know it's very difficult to get someone out, but the government should have had an official representative at the opening of that new facility.

While we're talking about economic development, Mr. Chairman, I guess we can throw in a little bit of everything and make it a budget speech at the same time. I'm glad to see that the government moved up the development of the new jail in Fort Saskatchewan. Historically that's where it was, and I'm glad to see the government made the decision to go ahead with a new facility. That's got something

to do with economic development, because in a time of high unemployment and a downturn in the economy. I think it's incumbent upon governments to be involved more than they normally would be. I welcome that escalation in the timetable.

I would like to say to the Minister of Economic Development that I am glad to see that the government has finally discovered tourism. For many, many years I have said in this House that we're not any place close to taking advantage of the tourist potential in this province. When Americans come to Alberta, I know they're quite appalled at the price of gasoline and the cost of lodging and food in this province. I'm also pleased to see that some of the commercial entrepreneurs are waking up to the fact that maybe by having package tours for people coming up from the United States, by giving them a rate a little lower than what they were used to before, you can entice them into coming up here. Our lack of good service in the food-service industry always bothers me. I see we're invited to the restaurant association, and I said that to them last time. I think they know that even though they feed and wine us well, there are some real shortcomings. I've said to the minister of tourism, "Let's get together with the industry and develop a program so our waiters, waitresses, and all the people involved in the tourist sector are better trained." It isn't good enough to just take an order and say, "What do youse guys want?" and stick your thumb in the soup.

I've made this comment in the Assembly before, but I think it should be reinforced. I was in Quebec last year and was very, very impressed with the program the Quebec government has in Montreal to train people, from being a bellhop to running a restaurant and running a hotel. I think it's past time that we have better training facilities than we have in this province at this time.

I'd like to bring one other point to the attention of the Minister of Economic Development. He's been lobbied by our mayor of Fort Saskatchewan about taking out the tracks in Fort Saskatchewan. Mr. Minister, I think anybody who makes that kind of statement, that they should take the trackage right out of Fort Saskatchewan, can't see past the end of their nose. The city of Edmonton is very, very fortunate to have trackage right to the heart of the city, many tracks coming from many directions. I would like to see a rerouting of the CNR tracks around Fort Saskatchewan, but don't ever take away the right-of-way, Mr. Minister. Maybe it will not be in our lifetime, though I think it will, that we'll be looking at running people from Lamont to Fort Saskatchewan to north Edmonton, or from Fort Saskatchewan into the heart of the city. Let's not get rid of that trackage. Let's look at some forms of utilizing it, because when gasoline goes up to \$2-plus a gallon, we then have to look at other systems that are more efficient. We have rail liners sitting in mothballs all over the country, I'm sure. With the trackage in place, we should be looking even now at moving people from Fort Saskatchewan to Edmonton, from Stony Plain to Edmonton, or from Leduc to Edmonton possibly on the rail liners. I want to know what initiatives the minister and his department have provided to look at that type of thing. But I say as sincerely as I can. Mr. Minister, that it would be absolutely criminal if we were to take the trackage right out of Fort Saskatchewan. Even though it divides our community, don't take the trackage out. You know we're not always going to be small communities in this province. We have 2 million-plus people now. All you have to do to find out that you don't move people by automobiles is go to some of the major cities in

Other parts of the world, the exception being Los Angeles, but it has some problems too. So I would like to say that if possible the trains should be diverted around Fort Saskatchewan, but maintain and retain that trackage because we will need it for moving people in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say to the Minister of Economic Development and my good friend the minister of international — whatever that big title is, Horst — that you're doing a good job. I guess it's only fair that when you're doing a good job, we should acknowledge that fact. If you're doing a lousy job, that's our responsibility too. With those few remarks, I would like to say that I just thought the minister would like to be able to provide me with some of that information.

MR. GURNETT: Mr. Chairman, I want to add one more question to the growing list of things for the minister to respond to. It relates to the international assistance section of the estimates. I note that there's no change there, that the \$7 million in last year's estimates is going to continue this year. My question is about whether or not that's the money used to provide, for example, matching grants to nongovernmental organizations that are involved in development and assistance programs in other parts of the world and, if so, to express some concern about that figure, which is less than .1 percent of the budget. At a time when things are very good here compared to many parts of the world, it seems a little bit of a concern that that figure remains unchanged and that no more money will be spent than has been spent in the past. I ask the minister to comment on that figure: what the \$7 million involves and why it remains unchanged.

IMr. Appleby in the Chair]

DR. ELLIOTT: Mr. Chairman, I just have one very short question I'd like to introduce to the Minister of International Trade. It's concerned with trade missions coming in from other countries. We're particularly interested in those trade missions and visiting groups from the Pacific Rim. With communities like Grande Prairie where there are manufacturing organizations and programs under way and a very active industrial trade operation, I was wondering if plans or procedures are set in place to have these trade missions visit other places in Alberta on a more regular basis, including places like Grande Prairie.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions or comments? Does the minister wish to make some comments?

MR. PLANCHE: Mr. Chairman, listening to the questions gives me some sense of the scope of the portfolio as it's perceived. It's a fairly challenging and interesting way to spend your time in politics.

I'll go through these questions as best I can, and if I've missed any, perhaps somebody could jar my memory. Some are duplicates of others. We'll start with Prince Rupert: the issue of cleaning and weighing, which the Member for Vegreville raised so appropriately, and work stoppages, which the Member for Lethbridge West raised. If the Canadian federal authorities in charge of grain had the same parameters for cleaning and weighing as the Americans do, who compete with us in the international market, things would be very much easier than they are for us at Prince Rupert. I'm not persuaded at all that the Canadian Wheat Board gets a premium for all this extra exercise we have

to go through, but we continue to have to lift one kernel of grain as many as 15 times before it gets on a vessel. So while we've got a lot of computer activity, we still don't have the protein three or four classes of grain thing that the Americans do, and we're still saddled with some 40-odd different grades. We still have to go through the cleaning. I think we still weigh within five pounds per car, which requires off-loading to weigh. In my view, this is another issue of marketing boards that are not faced with the realities or market signals that are so essential to our being competitive in the international market.

With the work stoppage thing, unfortunately the same group that is involved in stevedoring in Vancouver is involved in stevedoring in Prince Rupert. I think there is coming to the ports, and my sense of it comes from the WESTAC meetings, a mature accommodation of Canada's relative position. While I don't have an assurance that work stoppages won't happen in the future, it still takes two sides to have work stoppages. I think there is a growing awareness that dialogue in a confrontational way between labour and management, labour and industry, railroads and labour, and one thing and another is perhaps going to be a thing of the past, and we can only hope that's true. In any event, it gives us the opportunity to have an alternate port if there should be some geographical difficulty, landslide, or weather conditions that close the Fraser Canyon. So from that point of view, strategically it gives us an alternate. I don't think we've overcome the issue of whether or not a work stoppage which began in Vancouver could be precluded from spreading to Rupert.

The Canadian long-baseline array is the Scarlet Pimpernel of high technology. When this thing began, as you remember, it was coming at us every way but from the federal government and the National Research Council. That continues to be the case. In at least two meetings with the Hon. Tom Siddon I have pressed the case, explained how we perceive it, explained our distress at being the only province in Canada without a National Research Council presence, that it fit us so very well in terms of frontier and hostile environment activity, the exploitation of minerals, surveying and staking claims, and all those other things. That's all been done. I think that in their view it has fallen down the list of priorities, certainly from its genesis as a multitelescope thing down to a very much more modest facility. Both Calgary and Lethbridge have continued to press for it. Both have made the case, and I have made the case to the federal government on behalf of both of them. As late as within a month we were into another exhaustive letter exchange on the merits of the issue. We continue to press it, but I don't seem to find a home for it. It's like punching a balloon: nothing happens in way of response.

I can only say that we will continue to push it, to look for an opportunity to explain to and encourage the federal government to make Alberta a part of their activities. I was interested to see that in their broad statement as to where they're active, for Alberta they included Edmonton's environmental and meteorological activities, the activities at Suffield, Primrose, and Wainwright, none of which are accessible by Alberta businesspeople. I'll get into that a little bit later. I'm like a pup with a root on this issue; the federal government is going to become involved in high technology activities in Alberta. The siting and the critical mass caused by their investment decisions is absolutely crucial if we're going to be relatively competitive with other jurisdictions across the country. I appreciate your bringing

it up and I am not about to quit, but that specific is really an enigma in terms of the kind of response we're getting.

The question of whether or not we should have an economic planning council for the province in terms of research, as I understand it — or is this in terms of straight economics? We have an economic planning council; it's the 75 members of the PC caucus. In an elected sense they represent very well the ambitions of their constituency. I think we listen carefully and try to select what we think is best, and they all sit in Judgment on that. From that come some quite remarkable things that I'm going to give you a little list of later, which leads into the question about diversification.

We were always of the view that diversification in the province had two components. The first was that it would likely continue to be dependent on our natural advantages. Since the Premier's 1974 speech, it's clear that we have an almost inexhaustible source of synthetic crude and certainly a much bigger gas reserve to build on than he anticipated at that time. It's also true, of course, that as last-barrel recovery technology increases, there is a tendency to flatten out on our reserve levels. As a matter of fact, I think that in 1984 Alberta's conventional reserves did not fall for the first time. But that aside, we now have more people employed in manufacturing in the province than we have in agriculture.

When the question comes at me about what we are doing to diversify, I'm going to read you a little list of things I have that may help to consolidate your thought process, because the province as it exists in 1985 is very different than it was in 1971. I want to start by talking just a bit about the petrochemical industry so you will know that the petrochemical industry as it exists in Alberta is entirely high technology. It is a world-class, contemporary, highly technological industry employing some 6,500 people. In the petrochemical field, aside from Saudi Arabia this is going to be the biggest competitor of any in the world. Someone else alluded to the Shell Scotford refinery. That's not just a simple kettle; that is a high-technology facility designed to refine synthetic crudes, the first one of its kind in the world.

In terms of diversification, I'll just walk you through a list of individual companies — I'm sure they won't mind — all of whom have become involved in investments in high-technology activity in the last little while. They include Celanese; Dow, which is still building a linear low-density polyethylene facility north of Edmonton; Joffe, which is just completing one; ABC Packaging in Edmonton; Manville in Fort Saskatchewan; Canada Packers in Wainwright; Armstrong cheese in Bashaw; Banner Gelatin in Olds; Kawneer in Lethbridge; George Nick's in Calgary; M A Steel Foundry in Calgary; Pelican Spruce Mills at Edson, which is going to be the first oriented strandboard using Alberta's hardwood and which is able to compete with a superb quality product in all our traditional board-consuming areas; and Alberta Energy, with a fibreboard mill.

Financial services: we have three major regional class A chartered banks in Alberta, and I want to touch on that just a little bit. Surely we have learned in the last three years that there are three important components to where we've got to be. The first is that we are largely exporters and commodity shippers. That means that we don't control either the price or the demand for what we do and that we've got to direct our activities toward the economics of supply. The second thing is that we've got to diversify our economy as far away as we can from dependency on

commodities without artificially stimulating it so that when the stimulation is taken away, it can't stand on itself. Thirdly, we can't exist in the commodities market on demand loans. We are going to have to have in Alberta an infrastructure of finance and decision-making in finance, and it's probably going to be a forced move to a large extent. We can't continue to exist with decisions being made 3,000 miles away that affect all our infrastructure and all our locally owned industry. We can't have a balanced economy here without decision-making in banking, in trust, and in insurance; it simply isn't possible. We will be directing our efforts to that. We're going to have some disappointments, but we're going to hang in because without it we simply aren't going to be a whole economy.

We're getting a little better in the film industry around here. Surprisingly enough, the Alberta Motion Picture Development Corporation has had an early involvement in 25 motion pictures, which generated approximately \$75 million. That's not bad, and it's coming. We've got a lot of very talented people who are giving their time to that activity, and we're delighted with that.

High tech is a sort of catchword, but I'm talking now about electronics and associated communications and microelectronics products. I think our sales in high tech last year were in the order of \$400 million in exports out of the province. We have Bell-Northern, Global Office Automation, Idacom Electronics, Myrias Research, General Systems Research, Global Thermo, NovAtel Communications, Keyword, and several others, all of which are employing a great many people. It is fragmented, and as I said earlier, it isn't the kind of industry that is ever going to displace the oil and gas industry in terms of its impact on our treasury. But in terms of employment it's growing very quickly, and I'm greatly encouraged. Not only is it growing but it's growing in a balanced way across the province.

The railroad in the north is a question your colleague raised that I think is an important one. It will grow in importance as grain shipping rates become compensatory. It's almost impossible to make any moves that make economic sense when there are no distance-related freight rates and when you can move a product for half a cent a ton mile. There simply isn't any economic recovery for agricultural shipping. That will change over time, and it will grow in importance. You have a commitment from us that not only have we been watching it but we will continue to, and as soon as it makes economic sense for B.C. Rail and someone on this side of the border to become involved, we will be doing whatever is necessary to encourage that.

It remains a mystery to me precisely what the Container Port Research Corporation is doing. One thing is clear: they are not attacking the issue of rates. They may very well have taken their mandate to be improvement in the technology of stuffing and destuffing or in some kind of logistics of transferring and loading and handling containers. But we saw none of those as reflecting into benefits for our shippers in a competitive rate sense. We have done nothing but attack the rate issue. Essentially the issue is this: we are determined that we will have the same rate for the same number of containers as is afforded for the same distance, which is Montreal-Toronto-tidewater in the east. We think it is equitable, necessary, and essential that we have the same Edmonton-Calgary-Vancouver rate structure with the same volumes. We're going to undertake to ensure the volumes — to guarantee the volumes, in other words — in order to achieve those rates.

In terms of the trucking industry, the Alberta Trucking Association has been involved, and there really are only

three major truckers that will be affected. They will be the long haul carriers of materials that could travel by container. They will not be people who haul liquids, like Trimac and Economy, who haul a lot of that. Bill Sokil will be one who is affected, and he and I will be meeting shortly on the issue.

The other side of the coin of course is that if our projections are right and if the more attractive rates will cause siting to occur here and will cause us to be more effective competitively at tidewater, then we think there is going to be an enormous growing potential for truckers, not only in terms of gathering containers to the central ports in Alberta for on-shipment but also for the destuffing travel into Saskatchewan and Manitoba, which they are not now participating in. So there may very well be more net trucking volume because of this than there is now. That's to be established. One thing is sure: the key to this whole issue is our ability to get to tidewater. If the truckers have thrived under an artificially high rail rate, they're going to have to change just like everyone else has to change when economics change. This is not a subsidy. This is simply a thrust for equity. The stick we have now that we didn't have before is that if the railroads will not respond, we will use Burlington Northern to Seattle. That's a deregulated rail system. That is an alternate mode that we have not had before. I'm just as sorry as I can be for the trucking industry, particularly those three who are inter-continental bulk carriers. We will do whatever we can to ameliorate their problem. We will do whatever we can to encourage them to take advantage of the new opportunity. But nothing is going to stand in the way of our shippers being competitive, particularly being competitive at tidewater for the growing opportunity in Asia. That's the thrust, and we intend to pursue it and to bring forward very shortly a plan that will accommodate that for our shippers.

The issue of incubation facilities is a little more complicated. Some people take umbrage with the word "incubation". Others think it should be a greenhouse facility. Suffice it to say that it needs the following things. It needs to have proximity to a university. It needs to have space for a variety of clients who will quickly outgrow it but who don't at the present time have the wherewithal for the space of their own for the kind of activity they're involved in. It needs to be structured in such a way that it can draw on the expertise we're generating in our universities. It needs to be a catalyst to keep our very best students here, particularly in science, when they're now being lured away by the enormous expenditures of the U.S. space and defence administration. It needs to be accessible by entrepreneurs who can finance. It needs to have an involvement by folks who understand patent law, who have some well-founded business connections, who have some legal background, who have an array of associates in enterprises that can become customers and joint venturers.

We are of the view that the best way to approach it is probably to lease the land to the university, with the exterior architecturally approved by the university authorities. The builder of the facility would return it to the university at the end of some period to be fixed. Because of the curious kind of available clientele for the building, the government may have to get involved in guaranteeing the rent in the early years so the thing can be properly amortized. It needs to have a function that welcomes the business community, the academic community, and the banks and venture capitalists in a common building.

The issue of whether or not we're getting along well with the federal government: the consultation process is 180

degrees different than it was before this government in Ottawa was elected. Harvie Andre is going to have a public works purchasing presence in Alberta that was never here before. We are now going to be very much more active in terms of trying to access business in offsets for our Alberta folks. We hope to gain access into Suffield, Primrose, and Wainwright, for the kind of work we do well. We think that's an important thing that we can do, and we have hired a senior man on a contract to do just that, to help us establish what the impediments are in terms of our relationship with Ottawa.

My colleague will address the issue of the Hong Kong people that was brought up by the Member for Camrose. The one thing that's attractive about having those people here, aside from the economic implications on the school district, is that people tend to buy from their friends. I have a great deal of sympathy for the concept. We will try to do it through an international business school exposure, where relationships are established in an academic environment at the postgraduate level, but I encourage my colleague to investigate it thoroughly. I'm sure the Hon. Horst Schmid will have some other comments to make on that.

There is great progress going on in tracking. As you know, the Crow benefit being paid to the railroads afforded them a cash flow to get involved in the enormous capital costs of not only doing the tunnel on the CP but the twinning of track from Red Pass junction on into Vancouver and Rupert. With the exception of the difficulty with the natives in the Thompson valley, I think it's on time and on schedule. The urgency of it isn't what it was in 1980, when we were looking at such escalating tonnages of coal, but in my view the issue is as crucial. The time line has just been set back a little bit.

In Fort Saskatchewan we are working, as you know, with the city on the issue of rail relocation, the criteria being that the land recovered will amortize the cost of the rail relocation. We have insisted before that the old rail right-of-way be maintained. I'm not certain that it was in this negotiation, but I'll check it because I tend to agree with that remark. The issues that continue to confront us are: who is going to take care of the old bridge when the new one is built, and what is the price of the old bridge in terms of the railroad's contribution to the negotiation? Rail access will not be out of Fort Saskatchewan in that sense. It will come in from the northeast, but it will not continue right through. I don't have any trouble posing the question, and I appreciate the comment because we had done that before, particularly in the early stages in the Red Deer one. So I'll take that advice and follow it through.

I was a little startled to get the question on the international aid program. The new member might know that our aid program is more than the total of all other provinces in the country. I don't know whether you know that or not, but that's a fact. Last year it was not \$7 million. In fact, there was an extra \$3 million in aid to celebrate the presence of the Pope in our province, and we've had a letter thanking us for that initiative. We don't match funds; we are constrained by trying to keep our add and subtract and treasury under control, to a \$7 million number, and that's prorated against net contributions. In other words, we deduct the cost of their collecting funds, so those who do it themselves get more dollars matched than those who pay people to do it. I have some discretionary money I am able to give to smaller groups who aren't able to arrive at a figure necessary to buy a unit — an ambulance or a truck or whatever shortfalls come up. There is some discretionary there. The

money is used every year. What isn't used, if any, at the end of the year is given to whatever nongovernmental organization is prepared to take in kind from the province. We are going to try to involve our agricultural products and other things that make economic sense to ship from here, rather than just sending money. We continually encourage them to think that through.

The only other thing I want to comment on is microchip design and fabrication facilities and whether or not that money is going to be properly used. If you're going to have the kind of activity I envision as diversification in that sector, you're likely going to do it with homegrown people. I can't imagine companies based in other major cities around the world using their subsidiaries here primarily to develop R and D. We're of the view that it will be homegrown. We're of the view that the most crucial ingredient to that homegrowing is going to be the kids out of university, and to that extent they need exposure to the design and fabrication of microchips. The government will have a representative on each of the initiatives to be certain the money is spent in a way that's appropriate for meaningful employment after graduation.

The only thing I would like to comment on in closing is that we trouble ourselves with the issue of directing funding into the universities. We have established as inviolate the fact that they are a unit unto themselves, and their integrity as to the deployment of funds within their institutions is not going to be damaged by political decisions. The only way we can approach that is to encourage the funding of chairs or to develop institutes that cause that activity to happen outside the university proper. We have elected to begin with institutes. We'll address the funding of chairs at a later date. This is one more. It comes prioritized from the advice of Northern Telecom, the approval of the Alberta Research Council, and comments from the industry at large. We're delighted with the progress we're making with the institutions, and I'm greatly encouraged in terms of the directions it is taking and feel certain the money will be properly and well spent.

MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chairman, in the reply to the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway. I would only say that trade is a moving target inasmuch as our manufacturing capacity in Alberta is about 4 percent compared to Ontario, which is 52 percent. So what we have to sell in value-added products, which is farm equipment, electronic equipment, oil, petroleum, and natural gas equipment, is really targeted toward the areas that produce petroleum or natural gas. For example, from a loan to Africa last year our sales in that equipment area tripled. China is a good example. Just in the last few weeks we had reports that Nova, an Alberta Corporation, signed two contracts for the engineering of 600 kilometres of pipeline. Dyer Equipment from Calgary signed a contract in excess of \$7 million. A basic manpower training company signed a contract of \$3.6 million. Dresco sold a number of drilling rigs to China, and for the past two years Canterra has been selling seismic drilling rigs to China as well. So we can say that our trade with China is well under way.

Even our trade with India increased by 187 percent last year. In fact, last year we sold equipment or value-added products of approximately \$53.5 million to India. Our trade increased to Indonesia by 73 percent, and in '83 we sold \$7.5 million worth of products to Latin America and, in 1984, \$40 million worth of products. Mr. Chairman, much is said about Latin America, that some of the countries are

literally on the brink of bankruptcy and that others cannot afford to pay. But I want to say this much: countries like Venezuela and Mexico may have tough times as far as their economy and international balance of payments is concerned, but since they produce petroleum and natural gas, they need equipment, engineering services, and technology to do so. That is really what we are here for and also why we are trading with them and have had excellent shipments to those countries in the past.

Another one I should maybe mention is the grain handling facility in Brazil, which was designed by ABL Engineering and helped by the Alberta Wheat Pool, and has officially been opened. It is one of the finest grain storing facilities in the world. We have sold slant-hole drilling rigs to Latin America. We have sold truck-mounted rigs. We have sold all kinds of commodities down there: sulphur, wheat, metallurgical and thermal coal, and other merchandise. I say to the hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway that without any question we really have specific targets, but on the other hand, we have to make sure the value-added products we have are offered to the countries that are in need of them.

The Member for Calgary Egmont may want to ask more about entrepreneurial immigration when the estimates for the hon. Minister of Manpower are up. In this context, though, my hon. colleague the Minister of Economic Development is responsible for investment overseas. I should mention that we are trying to get entrepreneurial immigration into Canada through programs like, for instance, the investment seminar we just recently had in Cologne, Germany, where people like our assistant deputy minister. Ken Broadfoot, did an excellent job in interesting a number of members of the Cologne savings bank in coming to Alberta to investigate what they can do here in joint venture investments. In fact, I'm reminded that just recently the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce paid a visit to Cologne and met Mr. Fritz Hermanns, the executive director of the Cologne savings bank. Again, that was set up through the efforts of Mr. Ken Broadfoot.

I'm very proud to state to the Member for Edmonton Norwood that through a submission I gave during the meeting of the ministers of international trade last December, James Kelleher, the hon. Minister for International Trade for Canada, has agreed that the provinces can participate in the round of negotiations that are being held in Geneva. How the formula is going to be worked out and what the participation will involve is still going to be discussed. I'm very sure that this decision by the Hon. James Kelleher is very much appreciated by all provinces.

I should also mention to the Member for Edmonton Norwood that the team that we have in the department — Brian Sullivan, Ed Shaske and Bob Fox — has been working just about continuously on development of the policies and discussions that were held with Ottawa. I understand that the new rounds of negotiations will for the first time include agricultural products. The European Economic Community was very much against it. Of course, just recently we found out why. On the other hand, the United States wanted to have it included, and Canada is very strongly behind them.

Hopefully, we will also include trade in services to make sure that entry of this item of international trade into countries that may not want that kind of trade to have access is not being hindered. Trade in services is also sometimes called invisible exports or may be better expressed as engineering contracts and/or other technology where there is really no exchange or sale of goods but only services in, let's say, reservoir engineering, architectural services.

or similar kinds of services rendered. I should also mention that in the last round of negotiations. Alberta definitely didn't benefit as much as other provinces in Canada. I will mention in this case petrochemicals and agricultural goods, which I'm very sure will be pushed much more at this time than they were last time.

To the Member for Camrose I only say that I'm very much aware of what Camrose has done. In fact, there were some other institutions or schools that went to Hong Kong and found the students to send up. There is some question internationally that the country, the products, and the equipment you know are the ones you will buy. Therefore, this kind of educational program can only be beneficial to Canada, provided of course that the space is available and is being paid for.

I want to say to the Member for Clover Bar that Sherritt Gordon Mines in his constituency is a typical example of what one could say is really high technology. How much higher can technology get than to be able to ship coins for respective nations all around the world? If you're able to send their own money to them, I think that is one of the best kinds of exports you can have. They have been doing a rather fantastic job but a very successful one at that. I appreciate the expressions the member made about the department and me, but I say that it is not only important to go out there and sell Alberta — by the way, I again mention what the federal government in Ottawa is saying, what the ambassadors and high commissioners are saying: Alberta has done a really exceptional job in that area compared to others.

On the other hand, as a result of those outgoing missions, we have also had numerous incoming missions — in fact so much so that sometimes we receive as many as two or three delegations from other countries in a day. They've come from all kinds of places over the last couple of weeks alone: a softwood lumber mission from Korea, a mission from Japan looking at furniture to be bought from Alberta, a mission from Yugoslavia to establish a joint venture project in Africa with an Alberta company. We have had business editors from Europe and people from Peru purchasing equipment. In fact, as was already mentioned a few times in the paper, we even had high technology electronics experts from the United States showing our companies in Alberta how they can best export their product to the U.S. Last week we had people from Africa purchasing two drilling rigs from Dresco. A week and a half ago we had the public affairs officers of the federal government's embassies and high commissions from Africa and Europe. We had a delegation here last week from East Germany, and it could go on.

Of course, all these incoming missions mean that they have come as a result of invitations and finding out as far as they're concerned what kind of technology and availability of products we have. Without any question that of course means that additional sales will result.

To the Member for Grande Prairie I want to say — and maybe I should alert all MLAs to the fact — that in the department we have what is called a BOSS system. That system lists every company in Alberta that is interested in exports and also what kind of product they manufacture. No matter what it is or what kind of service they offer — an engineering company or a company that manufactures widgets; it doesn't really matter — all that is listed in that BOSS system. When someone comes, or when we go overseas, or when we ask people to come along on trade missions or to take part in exhibitions — and I should

mention that in the exhibition area. I commend them for their outstanding work — then we push a button, so to speak, and all those companies that have the specific item come out, no matter where they are. Grande Prairie or Spruce Grove or Lethbridge. We then give the choice and encouragement to the incoming missions or, for that matter, to outgoing missions, to the respective interested parties. So I suggest to every MLA that hopefully you have in your bag or in the trunk of your car a few application forms or information forms for the BOSS system so we are aware of companies in your area that are interested in exporting and we can contact them. For instance, I was contacted about two weeks ago about someone from Europe who is coming here. I was asked what kind of products they could purchase in Alberta, and when we asked the BOSS system, out came a total of three companies out of all of Alberta. I know we have more than that, but you can get out of a computer only what you put into it. So I encourage all MLAs to ask me for those forms. In fact, maybe I should send forms to each member of the Legislature to have filled out by those companies so we can do better than we have in the past. As far as the BOSS system is concerned, I see Mr. Herman Young and Mr. Terry Eliuk up there, who are here today to help us in our estimates. They heard what I said. They are responsible for the area, and I'm sure they will send me at least five times 79 BOSS application forms, which they already look forward to processing.

Mr. Chairman, this is about all the remarks and comments I was asked to make. I would like to thank all members for their active participation. Thank you very much.

Agreed to:

1.1 — Program support	\$3,243,100
1.2 — Planning and Services	\$5,008,000
1.3 — Development of Industrial Programs	\$5,739,300
1.4 — International Trade	\$5,400,200
Total Vote 1 — Economic Development and International Trade	\$19,390,600
2.1 — Railway Relocation	—
2.2 — Grain Handling/Storage Facilities	—
Budgetary	\$25,000
Nonbudgetary	\$400,000
2.3 — High Technology	—
Budgetary	\$5,629,000
Nonbudgetary	\$5,836,156
Total Vote 2 — Financing — Economic	—
Development Projects	\$11,890,156
Total Vote 3 — International Assistance	\$7,109,300

MR. PLANCHE: I move the estimates be reported.

[Motion carried]

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

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

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

Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986, sums not exceeding the following for the Department of Economic Development: \$19,390,600 for economic development and international trade, \$11,890,156 for financing — economic development projects, \$7,109,300 for international assistance.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, as to business this evening and tomorrow evening, I want to apologize to hon. members for having indicated that a department which is not available tonight would be called. The Department of Public Works, Supply and Services was to have been called tonight. The proposal now is to call it tomorrow night. Tonight we propose to call the Department of Culture at 8 o'clock and, if there's time after that, the Department of Recreation and Parks. I should say that because they are being called with less notice than I would have wished, if there are any concerns over specific items the votes could simply be held by common agreement and the department and that vote recalled at a later date.

Mr. Speaker, as the Assembly should be in Committee of Supply at 8 o'clock when the members reassemble. I move the Assembly now adjourn until the Committee of Supply rises and reports.

MR. SPEAKER: Do the members agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: It is so ordered.

[The House recessed at 5:27 p.m.]

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

head: **COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY**
(continued)

[Mr. Appleby in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the Committee of Supply please come to order. We continue with our study of the '85-86 estimates, and this evening will be commencing with the Department of Culture. However, this afternoon I neglected to present the total amount to be voted for Economic Development, which is \$38,390,056. Are you agreed on that?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Department of Culture

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman. I would like to start by saying a very special thank-you to my staff, who are very dedicated, who have certainly made my life much easier, and of whom I am very proud.

The year 1985-86 promises to be an exciting year for Alberta Culture because it will see the culmination of a number of major long-term projects. First of all will be the distribution of the first ever *Canadian Encyclopedia*, which will take place in July in Ottawa. This encyclopedia, which is being produced in Alberta, will be distributed as a gift from the people of Alberta to every school and library in Canada as part of our 75th anniversary celebrations.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, four new capital facilities will be opened in 1985-86, commencing with the Frank Slide interpretive Centre, which opens a week this coming Sunday, followed in August by the Eon McMurray Interpretive Centre, the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in September, and of course the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts this fall. The two interpretive centres and the Tyrrell Museum will provide a lasting interpretation of three important aspects of Alberta's history.

The construction of these world-class facilities has generated a high level of expectation among local business communities for increased revenues, and tourism is now recognized as a growing industry in Alberta. These four new, exciting facilities are expected to offer many opportunities for new jobs and increased private-sector revenues for the surrounding communities.

Mr. Chairman, the new Cultural Heritage Act, which was recently passed, reaffirms our government's commitment to a policy that encourages the expression and recognition of a cultural heritage of Alberta and the contributions made by our ethnocultural groups to that heritage. Increased grant funds will be provided for heritage development to support the cultural heritage initiatives approved by cabinet in the new legislation. Increased funding to municipal and community libraries will also be provided in the new year in recognition of the increased public use of libraries during these very difficult times.

All funding increases in Alberta Culture's 1985-86 budget have been initiated with the intention that the funds will be directly channelled to the private sector in the form of either direct grants or contract payments. To minimize the increase in size of government by hiring additional staff we are attempting as much as possible to increase our reliance on the private sector and, of course, the volunteer participation, which has always been excellent, to maintain Alberta's high level of cultural development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions or comments?

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make just a few comments and then ask a few questions of the minister, if I may. I'd like to take a slightly different tack. I expect the minister agrees with me on this, but I think it's worth tying in. We talk a lot about economics, of course, and often tend to think of art as not having anything to do with economics. But when I start to take a look at some figures, I think it's rather interesting when we look across Canada. I haven't been able to break it down in terms of Alberta figures, but we find that the arts industry is the 11th largest industry in Canada in terms of revenues, the sixth largest in terms of salaries and wages, and the largest in terms of employment. It contributes some \$7 billion annually to Canada's GNP. I notice that artists constitute 4 percent of Canada's labour force, nearly as many as in agriculture and more than those employed by all levels of government including Crown corporations. In 1971-81 Canada's labour

force grew by 39 percent while the arts labour force in Canada grew by some 74 percent.

Then we get into some other areas. Average salaries are less than half those paid in the manufacturing industry, for example, but arts spends six times as much totally on wages and salaries as does the manufacturing industry. For instance, manufacturing spends 20 cents on the dollar and arts spends 66 cents on the dollar for wages. And I notice that across Canada, arts workers are the second lowest paid category in society, second only to pensioners.

I would suggest that these are rather interesting when we take a look at the economic factor of the arts industry and talk about diversification in some degree. The area the minister is in charge of plays an important role in that area. I notice that artists are net generators of revenue for all levels of government, more than we can say for any other group in the society. The multiplier of the arts is a phenomenal 10 — for every \$100 invested, \$1,000 is generated in spin-off economic activity in the community, and these spin-offs mean more tax dollars for the government. Artists have been notoriously quiet in the past. I notice now that they are coming out and trying to make an economic case as well as a case for arts in itself.

I guess my point to the minister is that I think this is one department that perhaps could have used an infusion. I think arts is important in itself but when I look at the economic spin-off variants, it seems to me that this would have created a lot of jobs. For funding the arts, I notice a 1.1 percent funding increase last year, and this year it's only .9 percent. My point, Mr. Chairman, is simply that we can make the case for arts in the province, but I think we should look at it in terms of an economic investment too. I hope the minister would be taking a lead and making this case when it comes time to deal with the Treasurer because, as I said, I think there is also an economic indicator here.

The other general area I would like to talk about — and the minister and I have talked about multiculturalism from time to time, certainly with the Bill that was brought in. I'm not being critical of the minister's work, but it seems to me that there is not enough money put into this area. I go back to the speech I made earlier on the Bill. Culture is more than celebrating multiculturalism once a year and looking at colourful dances, because the groups that are suffering the most in a recession are new immigrants. I know the minister is aware of this. This department could be serving as a catalyst to other ministers. There is some serious suffering in that area, and I hope the minister is making that case to her colleagues. I know she has talked to people about that in the past.

I have some specific questions dealing with the votes. I notice, Mr. Chairman, that vote 2.8, cultural facilities development, is down some \$10 million. This is to provide financial assistance for improvement at senior citizens' centres. I am wondering about the cuts. Is it because we have a high vacancy rate? I know this is true in Edmonton, at least in some of the senior citizens' homes. Or is there another reason? If there is no logical reason, I push my pet project: now is the cheapest time to build them. But if there is a vacancy rate, I'd be interested in this.

The other one is vote 3.2, historical facility development. I notice that is down 53.7 percent. I'm curious about that. Have we run out of historical sites, or has this just gone lower in the priority of the minister's department?

I see in vote 2.2 that the only increase in the visual arts is administrative support, none for direct financial

assistance, workshops and development, or exposure. Going back to my original comments about the economic spin-off of what's happening in the art world, I think this is an important area. I know the minister has been lobbied by various groups, as we all have. I think they make a legitimate case, both in the need for arts in our culture to begin with — that's an end in itself — and in the economic aspect of it.

The other question I have, and I'm just referring — the minister and I have traded letters and I haven't had a chance to get back on it, but I felt tonight was a good chance. Has the minister knowledge now — if she doesn't. I know she'll get back to me — about the funding for the history of Italians in Alberta, from Mr. Tony Baccari. If she has any more updates on that, I'd be interested.

The last thing I have — I see in Theatre Network. I wonder if the minister has got this, where we're supposed to become artists. I may have a little difficulty with this, although I go to a lot of Theatre Network presentations, because they are in Edmonton Norwood. I think the minister would agree they do excellent work. I'm wondering about them trying to get a masterpiece from me. That would be rather difficult with my art ability. Maybe the minister can do up two — one for her and one for me.

I'd just like to raise those points with the minister, and there are about two or three specific questions I'd like answered.

MR. ZIP: Mr. Chairman, as I did last year, I rise again to compliment the minister and this government on the remarkable enhancement of the quality of life in Alberta that this government has achieved in terms of the diversity, the awareness of different cultures, the richness of other cultures, and the degree to which this government has succeeded in transplanting and implanting into our Canadian and Alberta mosaic the fine points of other peoples' heritages. To a remarkable degree I notice the minister has been very sensitive to the richness of other peoples' backgrounds and heritages.

My experience with Alberta goes back to 1949. When I look back to the early '50s, it was quite a different environment here. In a sense it was a fairly sterile atmosphere, a fairly barren cultural atmosphere in terms of what we have today. I compliment the minister for the initiatives she has mentioned in placing the onus on the private sector and on the volunteers of this province, the people who are committed to retaining the best aspects of the cultures of the different peoples who have come to this province and made it their home, to make an effort to retain and pass on to our children the best parts of their heritage. I certainly feel this is important, because the government can't do everything. The government service, as good as it is, certainly can't place in the hearts of the people the desire to perform, to retain, to enhance, and to become familiar with the heritage of their forefathers. I speak very well from experience, the degree to which, in my own life and involvement, my knowledge of my particular culture has been enhanced.

I notice how very actively the Department of Culture is encouraging groups to participate, particularly senior citizens' groups. Help has been given to them since they have not only the experience and the knowledge but the time to engage in special activities. In my own constituency, the St. Vladimir senior citizens' group has benefitted very significantly from the help the Department of Culture has given, and it has certainly promoted a lot of activity far

beyond what the department has given in actual funds. The work that's been produced has been quite impressive. It's certainly well on its way. It's been launched in a very effective manner, and a lot of things are being accomplished. I urge that your department continue this very worthwhile, new approach that's been taken.

In another area regarding young people, who have the greatest amount of energy and have the time. I urge the minister to encourage choral, dancing, and other artistic groups to look towards performing not only in our various communities throughout the province but more and more towards touring abroad, to bring to other countries and to the world a greater awareness of our cultural diversity and to give an incentive to our young people to become involved and to participate, because the world is a stage to them. There's that opportunity, and I think something young people need very much in this particular area is the incentive. I know some incentive and help is being given in this area, but I urge that it be expanded to a greater percentage — somehow get them to raise their own money, to show initiative in that respect. We can't fund them completely, but I would say we could fund them more than we are funding them at the present time.

The other thing I would like to bring to the attention of the minister is that in particular activities, there now are people in this province who are becoming very expert and have developed a high degree of expertise in particular art forms. I am thinking in particular of one lady northeast of Edmonton who makes very beautiful Easter eggs. She has a tremendous market for these. She can sell all she produces. They are of extremely high quality. I've seen them from all parts of Canada and from Europe, and the quality of her production is as good as anybody's. So I urge that in these particular areas we give these people all the encouragement we possibly can. From that we can start to derive not only cultural benefits, which are very important, but also economic benefits, because it's a significant and very worthwhile economic activity.

In the area of the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts. I know we have a beautiful centre coming up. I guess there is a significant problem as far as having the population base in Calgary to support that ambitious a project. I certainly look upon it as a great challenge to all of us in southern Alberta, and Calgary in particular, to see to the success of this project. I would like some comments from the minister as to what is proposed to help out in this very significant project that's in the last stages of completion.

Overall I'm extremely satisfied. One of the crowning achievements of our administration is the extent to which it has encouraged the development of cultural activity in this province.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PAPROSKI: I want to commend the Minister of Culture first of all for her continued caring and sharing for the cultural and artistic community throughout the province and specifically in the Edmonton area. The constituents of Edmonton Kingsway I know have benefitted in a very direct way through numerous financial grants and also through the assistance of the minister's various departmental officials. Over the last short period of time. Mr. Chairman, a number of grants have been provided to constituents in the area of Edmonton Kingsway. To show the diversification of assistance that comes from the minister's department. I'd like to share with you a few names of individuals and organizations that receive grants in the constituency: the West-Ingle Com-

munity Development Association, the Teatro Libero Productions Society, the Edmonton Machu-Pichu Cultural Society, the St. Andrew's Centre Residence Association, the Family Life Education Council of Edmonton, the Pentecostal Assemblies of Edmonton, the Vasa Order of America Skandia Lodge, the Babar's Children's Centre Society, the Villa Voices Tenant Association, the Edmonton Musical Theatre, and numerous individuals who received individual grants for upgrading their artistic and cultural skills.

But, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe we should be complacent with the beautiful strides we have been making. If one looks, for example, at a recent rally for the arts that was held in Edmonton, there is no question that fears have been expressed by members of the cultural and artistic community with respect to present and future funding. As an individual MLA I stress that I would like to see continued funding for culture and the arts in this province and in the capital city. But I would ask the minister to comment, if she would, on the rally that was held in Edmonton not too long ago. I'd be interested in hearing her comments about some of the fears and comments that were expressed by members at that rally.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman. I would like to say that I think the minister is doing an admirable job as far as the cultural concept in Alberta is concerned. I'd just like to raise a few comments and a couple of questions in a very quick manner this evening.

First of all, as has already been mentioned, the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts is going to come on stream this year. As such the costs of the user groups are going to rise considerably. I'm sure she's well aware that they are requesting considerably greater amounts of funding for the assistance to cover the costs of their leasing and renting space within this facility. I guess I'm just inquisitive as to how we might achieve this end, considering that we have a facility that has to be operated now that it's built. It can't just be left in the cold and shut down, realizing of course that the user groups have a commitment themselves that they have to raise certain funds without trying to bleed the people of Alberta or the government dry every time something happens. At the same time, it's a facility that needs to be supported in the fullest to ensure that it is utilized; otherwise it is a white elephant. Some of those user groups are Theater Calgary and the Philharmonic Orchestra, to name two, that certainly have given rise to concerns about additional costs they cannot meet at this time.

The various programs in the province that have been supported by the minister and the department relating to the many ethnic groups within the province certainly have to be second to none within the country. I think the new Act that was proclaimed and the attitude of the Legislature and the legislators in Alberta to our many ethnic friends have to be recognized, because we give every opportunity for our new friends and members of our community to participate in the fullest and also to give us the benefit of their many cultural diversities that we certainly do not have in our country. In attending many of the cultural events within the province, especially in the city of Calgary. I know that I appreciate the various interesting concepts I see. It certainly can be very exciting and is a learning experience.

In saying all that. I would like to ask the minister a couple of questions basically relevant to the budget that has been presented in the estimates. Knowing that the government is trying to ensure that we operate efficiently and we're

trimming the budget and manpower needs and what have you. I'm interested in this area of the summary of the manpower authorization for the total department, where we've got an increase of 10 full-time positions but an increase of 35 man-years within that budget. I'm just wondering if the minister could outline how that happens and how we're increasing at such a great rate. I know that the two increases are basically in two areas of the budget, in the historical resources development area and in heritage development. But I'm a little concerned that we're increasing our manpower in that department rather than possibly examining the areas I've already outlined that needed additional funding, especially in the cultural areas directly rather than within the bureaucracy itself.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ALEXANDER: Just an observation and a question that's been a bit of a worry to me for some time. I should start, however, by saying that I think the minister has done and does do a fantastic job on behalf of the citizens of Alberta, particularly in her alertness and flexibility in accumulating outstanding works of art or facilitating same. She also happens to be a fine golfer, and that must mean she can't be all bad.

My question has to do with her earlier comment about the distribution to every school and library in Canada of the, to be published, *Canadian Encyclopedia*. I wonder if the minister has satisfied herself as to the contents of those volumes and whether such contents might be suitable for such a broad distribution.

I ask the question for a number of reasons. It's my information from public sources that some of the authors who have been asked to contribute to that encyclopedia are authors whose views I admit the right to be published but that I wouldn't necessarily ask the taxpayer to support on a broad basis. I note, for example, that the publisher's views are narrowly nationalistic. He has recently attacked the federal government for being too right wing, of all things, and continentalist, if you can imagine that. He is opposed to free trade, which we currently continue to feel would be in our best interest.

I think this is a very important distinction, and I want to be clear about the distinction. I, like everyone in this House, I am sure, am in favour of free expression and everyone's right to free expression and everyone's right to publish if he can be so clever as to get his work published. But I think that's a different thing from saying that I would take these publications willy-nilly, buy a trainload of them, and distribute them at public expense all across the country.

Mr. Chairman, as an example, I personally recall being very excited by the book *Wealth and Poverty*. When that book was first published, I was on the list and received it hot from the publisher. I was so excited about it that I rushed out and bought six more copies and sent them to all my friends, because there were people I thought really should read that book. I remember sending one to the Premier; I later found out that I was one of six people who sent a copy to the Premier. But it was a matter of personal excitement because I wanted to see what was in the book distributed, and I undertook it personally. [interjection] That's precisely what I was trying to do. But I was very careful to say that I did that personally and would not request, nor would I necessarily feel justified in requesting, that the government ought to undertake that project. I might think it, but I don't think I'd be justified in suggesting it. If, for example, the Member for Edmonton Norwood

happened to write a book. I might read it but I'm not sure I'd rush out and suggest the government should widely distribute it.

MR. MARTIN: Why not?

MR. ALEXANDER: We'll talk about that later.

Many interesting things happened in this area. I read just the other day of a very embarrassing and, I thought, interesting incident that happened to *Oxford Dictionary*. The *Oxford Dictionary* is probably one of the most hallowed institutions in the English-speaking world. But about two years ago, I gather, the editorial board got a little bit careless and allowed a Communist member of their editorial board to rewrite certain political definitions in the *Oxford Dictionary*. Those redefinitions caused considerable embarrassment to the company, not only in the academic community but among readers of dictionaries. I guess the confusion was sufficiently widespread that the publishers and the editorial board had to return and retract and change some of the definitions that had been published in the *Oxford Dictionary*.

I've noticed also that recently our own Department of Education has undertaken fairly significant projects in re-editing history; for example, such things as removal of stereotyping. I'm not in favour of rewriting history books either, but in the current mentality if someone is stereotyped in a history book, then I guess the book should be edited or rewritten.

I suppose that's enough to make my point. My point is simply: has the minister satisfied herself — does she know whether anyone has satisfied themselves — about the content of this encyclopedia which we are endorsing with fairly substantial public funds on a very broad scale? Is there any way of assuring ourselves that embarrassments similar to those I am speaking about may not occur and embarrass my good friend the minister?

MR. BATIUK: Mr. Chairman, there have been a few members who have expressed their opinions in various areas and I am not going to try to repeat, but I would like to commend the minister in several areas of her interest and contribution that I am particularly interested about.

First of all, I would like to mention that I think an honour and a privilege were bestowed on me by the minister in appointing me as chairman of the advisory board of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. I have to mention that this is situated about 50 kilometres east of Edmonton. When we look back into history, the first Ukrainian immigrant who migrated to Canada, in 1891, was Wasyl Elyniak, who farmed and spent all his life only a few miles from the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. I think it is very important that the location is very significant. I would also like to pay tribute to the founding members of that society to see the preservation of the community. The first president of that association in the late 1960s was the late William Hawrelak, who was a descendant of one of those pioneers in the area and who served as a mayor of Edmonton.

I think back to 1980, when the province celebrated its 75th anniversary and the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. I acted as chairman of the commemorative society to celebrate and pay our tribute to the province. We had our celebration in the village, and it was very interesting to have the Premier of this province make his first visit. I can remember, as the president, inviting him to come to that. The first thing he said was, "Well, John, I like to

spend Sunday with my family." Secondly, "How many people are you expecting?" I said, "It could be 10,000 or 12,000." It may have sounded like a joke, but I really felt that we were going to have that many people. And we had approximately 15,000. When the Premier was there, I remember as well as today when he stated, "I've talked to many people, but this is the first time that I remember talking and 15,000 were listening." He may have spoken to many more on radio and television.

At that time the Premier sat, the Minister responsible for Culture sat, and immediately the Premier said, "What is needed to keep this place going?" I said, "A dollar sign." I can well remember when the Premier said to the minister, "Well, we'll just have to look at this." And he goes ahead.

I'm really enthused with the progress of the village. About a year and a half ago a good number of MLAs had the opportunity to visit in the evening. I hope that opportunity will be in very shortly again, because what a change. I would say that in the last two years, the progress of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village has been enhanced so that many would hardly be able to recognize it.

Another area I am very deeply appreciative of is the Friends of the Village. A group was formed that was interested in seeing the promotion of the village, not only looking for the demand of dollars from the government. It was really surprising to see that within less than a year, there were a good number of members who volunteered to go along to the village to offer their expertise and knowledge. Who is the president of this? A sister of the fellow who was the first president of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Society. So I can say that there has been an interest, and the people are very anxious to make their contributions. Not only am I referring to this because of the Ukrainians, but there are many others who have been getting an incentive for the same initiatives as the village has had. Even with the Friends of the Village there are a few people who are Anglo-Saxons, and they have joined because they saw the function of it. So I really feel it is a pleasure and a privilege to have this opportunity to serve.

Another area I would like to mention is the library and the library support we have received from the minister over the last number of years. Sitting on the education caucus committee, we meet with the library association annually, and sometimes there are criticisms that maybe not enough is done. But I must say that the library associations in the constituency of Vegreville are functioning very well. When I look at Two Hills — and here is a quote, Mr. Chairman, an invitation I received two weeks ago:

A special opening of the newly acquired facility of the Alice Melnyk Public Library will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 1985, at 7:00 p.m. As a significant contributor to this project we would appreciate your attendance.

Mr. Chairman, this is the second official opening I have attended in Two Hills of the Alice Melnyk public library. The tribute is paid to her. She is a teacher and a librarian, and her husband lost his life a number of years ago in a car accident, but the things go on. As I say, this library has done exceptionally well, and they have had to expand.

I look at Riley, a community of 500 people in the constituency. In the last 10 years they have opened two libraries. They had opened one, and in due time they opened another one because of the size and the need, which is an indication that the community has to get involved; you can't just look totally for the dollars to come from government.

The same with Vegreville. I've got a letter here. I won't read everything, Mr. Chairman, but it says:

Please find enclosed . . . the Annual Report for 1984 for the Vegreville Public Library Board.

I would reiterate the closing [remark] in the Report, in that we of the Library Board very much appreciate the support, both in library skills and financial, that is provided by the Government of Alberta. The assistance offered to the smaller libraries, such as Vegreville, by Alberta Culture. Library Services Branch, is a tremendous help; we could not possibly provide this type of expertise and support within our own organization. Further, the support of the library by yourself is much appreciated. Perhaps you would like to meet with the Library Board [to discuss our future needs]?

It's signed by Michael Prior, the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, when you see three libraries in three different communities in the constituency expressing their views and appreciation, there must be an indication that people appreciate what is being done, but at the same time they are getting involved themselves.

I noticed that the Member for Edmonton Norwood mentioned multiculturalism and new immigrants. I can agree. They are all very important, but they all have to get involved. There is no way that anybody is going to sit down and wait for the government to do everything. I think some of the examples I have given are a clear indication. Just two months ago, right in Vegreville, we had a real presentation of the Ukrainian dance groups. There are two of them in the community of Vegreville. There were 600 at that. One of the minister's deputies was there, and I wish she was around today to be listening. But 600 people, out of a community of 5,000, were there. So it shows that people appreciate and support what is going on.

Mr. Chairman, there are several other areas I could probably go on to — the Ukrainian festival in Vegreville, which is the largest and has a real history, but I don't think there is a need for any repetition. So I would just like to say that I really support and thank the minister for her contribution to the province of Alberta. Thank you.

DR. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, like others I would like to extend my congratulations to the minister for her hard work. She follows in a fine tradition of workaholics in that department. I'd also like to extend my thanks to her deputy minister for the contact I've had with him with respect to a number of issues. I appreciate his openness, his sincerity, his hard work and, above all, his sensitivity.

In the general comments I would like to make, we have the community recreation/cultural grant program, reinstituted under this new name with increased funding. I know that the minister works well, in co-operation with her colleague in cabinet the Minister of Recreation and Parks. I would urge both ministers that under the new program, contact is made with — in particular, in my case — the mayor of the city of Calgary, to remind him that there are minimum and maximum amounts that could be used for cultural purposes. Since one of the other members for Calgary mentioned the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts, hopefully these various groups, municipalities, might see their way clear to make certain that cultural money is going to be used and not just in minimal amounts but that larger amounts are put over into the area of cultural funding.

The Calgary Centre for Performing Arts is an interesting matter. Hopefully the federal government might come through with respect to funding on the capital side of the project.

Perhaps the minister would be good enough to update us on that aspect of that very interesting project, which is indeed calculated to serve not only Calgary, but all of southern Alberta.

I'd like to comment for a moment with respect to historic sites. I for one am very appreciative of the work that has been done with regard to the number of historic sites throughout the province, in particular, while I haven't yet visited the Stephansson site near Markerville, I look forward to doing so this year. I would like to compliment the minister and her department, especially the historic sites service, on the work they have done in certain esoteric areas such as the printing of the Occasional Paper No. 9, based on the life of "Stephansson: the Poet of the Rocky Mountains". When I sent one of the pages down earlier, she couldn't come back with one of the books of poetry of Stephansson, but I know I picked up my copy over at the bookstore at the Archives. Hopefully, the Legislature Library will correct that within the next week or so. But that's a very valuable service that we as Albertans really don't fully appreciate: the wealth of cultural expertise and experience that we have in the province. As in most cultures we fail to really give adequate thanks to our composers, our poets, our authors, our playwrights, and all the rest of it. I know the minister is very appreciative of her department and the areas of sensitivity that are required, and indeed is very responsive when she does go out to meet with the various groups, whether it be in the cultural areas, in the ethnic communities, or any of the other kinds of challenges that are in the department.

I would like to put in a plug for the department and compliment it on its work at Dunvegan. Last June I was privileged to tour that site with the former Member for Spirit River-Fairview. It was very interesting to see not only that constituency through his eyes but also to be down at the Dunvegan site and to go with him, because he was on a First-name basis with the people working on the site. In actual fact we sat inside the old mission church there and watched the presentation together, and that was a very special day in terms of my life. Again, the involvement of the department is there in trying to save these out-of-the-way locations, to have the interpretive centres and the refurbishing of the various sites.

Along that line, I know that some time ago we had a program for the restoration of abandoned cemeteries throughout the province. It's my understanding, and I stand to be corrected, that that program has come to an end. It hasn't? Well, that's good. That's the way to get a fast answer in the House. As I've gone throughout the province doing other kinds of work for other departments, it's interesting to come upon various abandoned sites, how some of them have been restored and others are still awaiting restoration.

In the matter of capital works, I know that some time ago it was projected there would be a new Archives building built. I assume that project is on indefinite hold, but perhaps the minister could give an update.

I would also like to give a brief comment, a commendation on an example of Alberta artists who have achieved national and international renown. Of course, in this regard I would like to mention Violet Archer for her work at the University of Alberta and the way she uses Alberta poets. As a matter of fact, I met a fellow last Friday afternoon who is associated with Alberta College, and she has now taken some of his poems and will be setting some of them to music. That's a rather interesting aspect, that she takes other Albertans involved in the arts and uses their material in her musical

expression. As we know, she has achieved both national and international acclaim, and I wish her well. She is but one example throughout this province of various people who are involved and encouraged by the work of the Department of Culture.

I'm a bit curious about vote 4 when it comes to the matter of the *Canadian Encyclopedia* project. Number one. I hope this is our last year of the funding, that we can wipe this one off the books this year, so to speak, by publication and distribution of the books. I trust that no additional funding is being sought by the publisher, Mr. Hurtig, other than what we have already been prepared and committed to put into the project. I think all of us need to have some measure of caution. We cannot say that this is the only Canadian encyclopedia ever published. In 1957, Grolier of Canada published a 10-volume *Encyclopedia Canadiana*. The only reason I know that is because I've got it tucked away in my library in Calgary. But I think we need to watch how we define what we're really saying as to this. I know it is a unique publishing venture because it's combined in two volumes. I understand, and it's certainly the first one since 1975. I look forward, as do other hon. members of the Assembly, to viewing that publication when it arrives.

Finally, Mr. Chairman. I hope the minister might feel free to comment as to the relationship she has with the federal government. Hopefully it's on a more positive basis, with the change of government. I hope she might comment on her dealings and the speed of communication and co-operation, especially with the Hon. Marcel Masse.

DR. ELLIOTT: Mr. Chairman. I too would like to make some comments about this particular set of estimates. Like the other speakers before me. I wish to compliment our minister and her department for the progress made in the many areas of culture and programs of that type throughout our Alberta communities.

The Grande Prairie constituency is certainly not alone in being blessed with a great deal of culture and art. We have people there that have made considerable progress over the years in the visual and performing arts. We have writers and musicians, and the list goes on. The government has provided considerable grants and guidance in support of these arts and cultural programs. We say thank you.

The most recent activity we had in our particular area was the restoration of an historic site. It was an old high school building. For this we say a very special thanks to the minister and her department, because they not only restored this old high school but they helped convert it into a beautiful art gallery. I say "helped" because the people of the community did it. The leadership was there, the talent, the effort, but the support and funding from the minister and her department was absolutely vital — help that they could not have done without. When I say help I mean help, and how. We had the minister there plaster-bashing, as we called it, getting this old building ready for its new project.

The question I have for the minister this evening, though, is: with increased costs in many areas, how does she propose to cope with activities like libraries, one particular area where costs are increasing at a rate that is almost unbelievable? Does the minister have a special plan to continue support for library programs in the province and with particular reference to establishing new libraries?

MR. WOO: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to respond to the minister's budget and certainly some of the comments that

have been made here this evening by other hon. members, perhaps more in a philosophical way. After listening to some of the comments by hon. members, I like to think that I, too, have an appreciation for the fact that the Department of Culture truly encompasses a number of elements and disciplines. I believe certain activities are important to the scheme of things in terms of our society. I also agree that perhaps there's a need to document, from an historical point of view, the history of the immigrant societies in our province. At the same time, Mr. Chairman, it raises in my mind the values of those types of activities in terms of where we are today. I have some difficulty trying to make an assessment as to the type of value that might be relevant to, for example, the new immigrants who have come into the country over the course of the last 10 or 15 years.

The comments made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition and other members with respect to multiculturalism is the area I really want to speak to and, in speaking to it, raise a couple of questions I hope the minister might be able to respond to. Perhaps it runs parallel to the comments made by the hon. Member for Edmonton Whitemud, who probably takes the position that he questions the purposes of some of the things we do. I like to liken multiculturalism or cultural activity to what I term a cultural equation. You look at a mathematical equation of two plus two equals four. When I look at the cultural equation, I look at grants plus programs equals what? To me it leaves a huge question mark. Somewhere along the line, when we look at cultural programs, I think we have to make a determination as to what the future intent of these programs is. Are they to remain static or are they to lead into something that might provide a much broader benefit to us as Albertans and Canadians as a whole? I guess what I'm asking the minister is when these programs turn a specific corner and we see the beginnings of the answer to that particular equation.

I attend numerous citizenship courts, and to the people I talk to there, who perhaps have spent three to five years in this country, and in some cases a little bit longer, I raise the question: what prompted you to become a Canadian citizen? Surprisingly, a number of responses were to the effect that immigrants coming to this country come with a perception that we are seriously an entity. They have the perception that we have a social history, an economic history, a political history, and a cultural history, I have the feeling that they have run into a brick wall in the sense that they come to a rude awakening that, at both the federal and provincial levels, we as a country have departments whose purpose appears to be that we want to slap people as immigrants in a particular framework and hope that they will stay there. I hope that in the final analysis, the ultimate purpose and intent of the cultural programs we talk about today will not in fact pigeonhole people. In that respect, I ask the minister to perhaps give an indication to hon. members as to the role of the heritage council that has been established with the inauguration of the new Act and what sort of role that council might be playing in terms of advice and program co-ordination that will take the types of programs we have now to a higher level.

Mr. Chairman, regardless of how we might look at culture within the provincial context. I think it is important that the manner in which we formulate and deliver those programs will in fact create social and political consequences. I have some concern about using cultural programs for immigrants who come to this country to seek Canadian citizenship and

saying to them, "This is the program for you to make a place in Alberta as a Canadian." Or are we actually saying, "This is a program to make you a Canadian as an ethnic within our Canadian society"?

The other thing I am concerned about is that our cultural programs perhaps do not go far enough in terms of making immigrants comfortable in this country as Canadian citizens. I believe that the manner in which some of the programs are structured, and because we have a tendency to pigeonhole people, diminishes the importance of the immigration process in terms of people coming here to be good Canadians. I think there's perhaps a tendency in some aspects of our programs to perpetuate some of the problems that people as immigrants are trying to escape from. It concerns me to some extent that some of the cultural programs are being used as a vehicle to promote those problems that people have left back in foreign countries. I do not believe for one moment that either through the context of our cultural programs or as Canadians, we should place ourselves in the position of resolving other countries' problems. I think we should be working together as Canadians in resolving Canadian problems.

I will leave it at that, Mr. Chairman, and hopefully the minister can make some response to what I term a philosophical statement.

MR. SHRAKE: Mr. Chairman, I also would like to briefly speak on this. In fact I would be quite remiss if I didn't, as most of the cultural facilities and their organizations in the city of Calgary are in the constituency of Calgary Millican. I hear somebody laugh there, but it's quite true. I presume the reason may be that we're a little more cultured than some of the other constituencies.

First of all, I really would like to congratulate our minister and the previous minister for the job they've done. Maybe I could extend to them a thanks from some of the mime troupes in my area of Calgary. They've received assistance and encouragement all the way from the Minister of Culture, and that's been good. I just found out that one of my mime troupes is going over to Japan. We're not paying for it, by the way. They're going over to perform in Japan, of all things. I guess the Japanese like mime troupes, and they will make enough from the trip to pay their own way. The mime troupes in Calgary also go around to the schools, and they're well received throughout the schools in the city of Calgary.

The various dance groups in the city of Calgary, many of which have their little offices in Calgary Millican, have also received good support from the minister. Our theatre groups. Theatre Calgary and Alberta Theatre Projects, which of course have their offices in Calgary Millican, have good support. They're going to need a little more and need a little understanding, and I hope the minister goes a little easy on them, because this coming year is going to be a rough year for them if they move into the new Performing Arts Centre, which is also, I might mention, in Calgary Millican.

I don't think many of the marching bands in the city would have been able to carry out some of the projects they did without the help they got from the government. Many of the artists and many of the aspiring authors have received assistance and encouragement, and I say this has been good. Of course our big ones, the ballet and the philharmonic in Calgary, have received some very good support, and of course the Glenbow Foundation.

One other little group that I know would like to say thanks to you, Madam Minister, is the seniors. This little program of yours last year was very well received. I hope you have the money in your budget to carry on that program again. I hope you let us know, when you're making your address, if there's money for that program, because a lot of senior citizen groups got that little shuffle board or that pool table, and the senior citizens' drop-in centres were able to have another activity.

I guess the coming year may be a rough year. The Performing Arts Centre will come on stream, and it's something that will require a lot of funding. I'm sure we'll hear some badgering about it, because not everybody goes to the ballet or the theatre. But I tell you that if you go to the places where they have a good performing arts centre — and I don't care if you go to Vienna in Austria, to a new country like us, or to Sydney, Australia — once it's in place they would put out of office a government that ever tried to shut down such a facility.

So for these things I'd like to say thanks to the minister. There's one other little group which I know would like to send good wishes and thoughts to our minister. They appreciate this minister and they also loved the previous minister. That's the cultural groups in Calgary. Madam Minister, thank you very much on behalf of my constituents.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions or comments?

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Chairman, in the last year I've had numerous opportunities to be involved with the Minister of Culture in the constituency of Barrhead, and I simply want to say that I very much appreciate her empathy with the concerns my constituents have brought to her attention. In particular, I want to thank her for coming to Barrhead to participate in the opening of an elementary school library that I think is second to none in the province of Alberta in terms of quality. I just think she's doing a super job. I want you to know that, as her part-time representative as well, as she is a part-time resident within the constituency I represent.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. minister wish to respond?

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the hon. members for their questions. Starting to address the questions with the hon. Member for Edmonton Norwood, the arts don't rank number 11; I think they are number 8 and that more people attend art functions, whether the performing or visual arts, than sporting functions. So I'm glad you have those facts, because I think it's a very important piece of history.

You were questioning a couple of votes, especially vote 2.8. The reason for the decrease is that in last year's budget there was \$12 million in capital funding for the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts, which is not occurring in this year's budget. That is one of the reasons for that 60 percent decrease. The capital funding consists of senior citizens' grants and the elimination, as I said, of the one-time capital grant to the Calgary theatre. So I think you will find where the difference is on that one vote. You were asking about vote 3.2, facility development. The 53 percent decrease is because the capital funding requirements for Frank Slide, Fort McMurray, and Tyrrell Museum will have been completed this year, and therefore that money will not be

required. The rest of that vote is for the Ukrainian cultural village and the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump. But the main reason is that we will have now finished the Frank Slide and the other two buildings.

There was a slight increase in vote 2.2, the visual arts grants. I share your concern. It's not as much as I'd like to see, but the Alberta Art Foundation has received greater funding and will be able to help the artists in that area.

The hon. member was asking about the Italians and your letter. They are under consideration right now with the Alberta Cultural Heritage Foundation and have been asked for more information. Their project will be reviewed in the very near future. Theatre Network by the way, our pieces of art were suppose to be in today, April 15. I looked at mine, and I still have the piece of cardboard tied with a ribbon. I keep looking at it and wondering exactly what I'm going to do with it. But maybe if the two of us put our heads together, we might be able to come up with something that will be very interesting for all the communities.

While I'm looking for the other questions, I'd like to address the question of the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts. I would like to assure the members that it is coming in on schedule and on budget. It is going to be an expensive facility to operate, but the city of Calgary and the government of Alberta will be looking at a proposal, which the city has already accepted if the province will join them, and that is putting in funding for operating up to 25 percent. We have not addressed that as yet, but it is in my budget if our government goes along with that. I know the user groups will find it difficult. I've had much correspondence from them. I have to say, though, that they did know there would be an increase in operating before they went into that building. One of the reasons for giving dollars to the centre is so that the centre itself will not have to charge such a large rent for the user groups, and I think that will be a lot easier for them.

The hon. Member for Calgary Mountain View was mentioning about our young people performing not only in Alberta but throughout the world. As you well know, we do have a program for promoting and helping these young people in their travels. We also have a Performing Arts Foundation that does likewise. The expertise in art forms such as our — I was going to say eggs, but they're not, they're called *pysanka*. We now have an Alberta Crafts Council. They are in a position to work with the people who are in this craft and to promote this industry.

I mentioned the CCPA.

Hon. Member for Edmonton Kingsway: I don't think Culture will ever be complacent. Our budget has grown threefold in the last five years. You asked me to comment on the rally. I think it was extremely well organized. It brought to the attention of many of our citizens the plight of the arts. The feedback I got was not that they were very upset with our provincial funding, because we have not cut back on funding to the arts. What they were really trying to do is make more people aware, and I think they have achieved that goal. But they were also trying to do this across Canada so that not only I as a provincial minister but ministers of culture from across Canada and the federal government would be more aware of the needs of our artists.

The hon. Member for Calgary McCall was talking about the CCPA funding. It will be one of the finest buildings in western Canada, if not in all of Canada. You also asked a question about budget and man-years. I notice that the hon. member is not in his chair. The historical department

will need more manpower to open Fort McMurray and Head-Smashed-In, and to keep the Ukrainian village going. There are six permanent staff and 25 nonpermanent.

The hon. Member for Edmonton Whitemud was asking about the encyclopedia. It is going to be a very interesting book. We have had the privilege of reviewing some of it ourselves and looking at the coloured content and the maps. There is an advisory committee, with representatives from across Canada, to check each article to see if it is accurate. If perhaps they were a little bit too far or too biased, they were asked to either rewrite it or another writer was asked to write on that subject. I think checks have been made to take care of that aspect of it.

I'd like to congratulate my hon. colleague from Vegreville on your role as chairman and the direction you have given this advisory committee. It has been working well. We have nine buildings already finished. Another 13 will be done by May 1986. At this time I would like to give an open invitation to all MLAs. Once again we will take our trip out to Ukrainian village, where last year we were able to have a wonderful meal and some music playing. For those who weren't there last year, please don't miss it. It is a great event and we have a great day.

I know the libraries have grown in leaps and bounds. That is one of the reasons I was able to give an increase to libraries this year. The increase was not done on a matching scale. There is a ratio that is used, but this was on top of that. So the people in the libraries are now being recognized for the work they do, and we're thanking our volunteers, because without them we would not have the libraries we do.

Our hon. Member for Calgary Egmont talked about the CRC, the minimum and maximum amount of dollars. I only hope that you members here will bring home to your mayors and your people who are in charge of our community recreation/cultural dollars, that there is a minimum and a maximum. I think one of the things we have to do as a cultural group is work harder and make our recreation boards, or whoever is looking at the dollars, more aware of the needs of our cultural community. I think we've improved in the last few years, but there is still a ways for us to go.

You were talking about our historic sites. It's 32 percent in visitation at Stephansson House over this past year and an increase of 59 percent in visitation overall to historic sites in the province. So you can see our historic sites really go hand-in-hand with tourism because that's what we're bringing into our province.

You asked me to speak to the federal dollars. I have had communication with the Hon. Marcel Masse, who has indicated that there will be federal dollars coming to the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts in the very near future. To show the co-operation there now is between our new federal government and the provincial governments, he has asked me how I feel it should be done. There is continual talking together on many subjects. It is like a completely new ball game. I must say, not only with Marcel Masse but also with Jack Murta. There has been a two-way street, and it is most refreshing.

We were talking about Dunvegan. The rectory is just about finished on the outside, and now we'll have to work on the inside. The factor's house has some dollars in the budget for this year to try to start to restore it. I'd like to congratulate the advisory committee of Dunvegan because they raised \$25,000 for artifacts to go back into the factor's house, which I thought was very generous. As you heard

us say, cemetery grants are continuing. They have not been finalized. They are not finished.

The Provincial Archives is not included in this year's budget, but I'd like to tell the Assembly that each month we are getting shorter on space. We're using outside warehousing now, but it is something we will be looking at in the very near future.

The Violet Archer festival, which is on October 18, 19 and 20, is one that I'm so happy the organizers will be able to honour a lady who has contributed so much to music in Canada. I'll make sure there is information given to all my colleagues on those dates and on the festival.

You asked about the encyclopedia. The remaining \$600,000 was for the contribution of the encyclopedia to the schools, and that was the last amount for this encyclopedia.

To the hon. Member for Grande Prairie I would like to say that working in that art gallery up at a smasher-basher in August was really quite enlightening, but when I went back in February I couldn't believe they have an art gallery as it is. It is outstanding. The volunteer commitment in that community is to be congratulated. They have worked extremely hard.

The hon. member was also asking about libraries. It's a 6.9 percent increase this year. You were asking how they were going to manage on funding. In the new CRC program, the community recreation/cultural program, operation dollars can now be taken from that, which we had not in the past. I hope the municipalities will realize how important libraries are and make sure they get sufficient operating dollars.

My hon. colleague from Sherwood Park was talking on multiculturalism. I sincerely hope our programs and grants are not static, that they will be a cohesive factor and not a divisive one. The comment was also made that perhaps our programs do not go far enough in making people comfortable. If there is something the hon. member can help me with so I'll be more aware of what he is referring to, I would be appreciative.

To the hon. Member for Calgary Millican, the senior citizens' facility grant program is continuing. You referred to the CCPA, and I believe I've answered your questions on that.

To my Member for Barrhead, the library complex is an excellent one. It takes in a school for the handicapped as well as the school. So it's in the centre of a large complex and one that will be extremely well used.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I've answered the questions. If I've not, maybe someone will ask me something else.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, just to follow up in a couple of areas having to do with the arts. Of course, the reason I was going through some of the figures — it may be 8th or 11th; we'll have to check that. But the point we both agree on is that it's an important industry. I'd see it even as one for diversification. The point I was making was that in a budget where I could cut back in many other areas, I think this is one area where we should perhaps have had more of an increase, for precisely the reasons I'm talking about. That was the point in my raising this.

About the multiculturalism aspect, the point I make is that it's good. I know the minister is concerned and wants the grants and these things occurring. I think it's partly what the Member for Edmonton Sherwood Park is driving at too. A lot of the programs the minister has to deal with in multiculturalism are in other departments, run by other ministers. Certainly the Minister of Social Services and Community Health, the Minister responsible for Workers'

Health, Safety and Compensation, and the Minister of Hospitals and Medical Care would have a great deal of bearing on some of the programs. They could probably go into many different areas. I wonder if there is contact with the various departments from the minister's department to act as an ombudsperson, if you like, for people coming in in new areas. That would be a specific thing we could mention. How much co-ordination is there between the departments? It is difficult, especially in tough times and because of language difficulties in some areas. In tough times people in ethnic communities have a much higher misery rate, if I can put it that way, than perhaps others that have lived here some time, because they're dealing with a new, different culture and often with different languages and all the rest of it. That's the point I'm trying to make.

I hope the minister's department has a fair amount of clout in terms of other areas, because I think her department has to act as an ombudsman as much as possible for ethnic people and new Canadians. That's the point I'm driving at. When I see the budget cut back somewhat, I wonder about the capability of the minister being able to do this in the way she might like. That falls into both the arts and the multiculturalism areas.

MRS. LeMESSURIER: Mr. Chairman, when we're talking about multiculturalism and funding, we do have an inter-departmental. I think that helps a lot by being able to refer and work together to address some of the problems that arise with our ethnic communities. Also, with the increase of funding we have been able to put two full-time and some part-time staff into the cultural heritage branch itself, and we do work a great deal with volunteers in this one area. By this new department being able to go around the province and holding meetings in various communities, I think they are getting much more aware of some of the problems out there than perhaps we'd even realized. In the future — as you know, the new councils will only be formed in October. They'll have an orientation meeting in October. What they've been doing now is the bylaws and working on the various areas, because there will be eight regional councils, working with these people to make them aware of what is available. At the orientation meeting, which will take place in October, as I said, we will all get together, and I think we'll have a better grip at that time on exactly where we're going to go in this area.

MR. BATIUK: If I may, Mr. Chairman, seeing that nobody else is getting up to make any observations or ask questions, I must say that I really appreciate the big ears the minister has and that they listen. I think that is very important. Whether we all agree or are satisfied with the decisions, she has always listened well. Also, I would like to express my appreciation to her staff in the office and in the department. They have been most co-operative in the past, and I'm looking forward to the same co-operation in the future.

Agreed to:

1.0.1 — Minister's Office	\$229,366
1.0.2 — Deputy Minister's Office	\$199,763
1.0.3 — Financial Services	\$765,474
1.0.4 — Personnel	\$299,958
1.0.5 — Communications	\$168,297
1.0.6 — Department Library	\$134,764
1.0.7 — Records Management	\$92,588
1.0.8 — Financial Planning	

and Management	\$569,481
1.0.9 — Field Services and Special Programs	\$731,808
Total Vote 1 — Departmental Support Services	\$3,191,499
2.1 — Program Support	\$253,865
2.2 — Visual Arts	\$1,897,381
2.3 — Performing Arts	\$6,777,006
2.4 — Film and Literary Arts	\$780,919
2.5 — Library Services	\$11,893,463
2.6 — Cultural Facilities	\$1,721,579
2.7 — Film Censorship	\$221,416
2.8 — Major Cultural Facilities Development	\$7,053,329
Total Vote 2 — Cultural Development	\$30,598,958
3.1 — Management and Operations	\$16,031,075
3.2 — Historical Facility Development	\$4,088,723
3.3 — Financial Assistance for Heritage Preservation	\$3,916,890
Total Vote 3 — Historical Resources	
Celebrations	—
Total Vote 5 — Heritage Development	\$1,802,312
Department Total	\$59,629,457

MRS. LeMESSURIER: I move that the estimates be reported.

[Motion carried]

Department of Recreation and Parks

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few comments before we proceed. I want to thank my department staff for the co-operation I've had over the last number of years in providing the programs for Albertans. With that I want to move into a few comments with regard to what we have done and what we plan to do in the forthcoming year.

We're ending a very exciting 10-year program. The MCR, the major cultural/recreation facility development program, which has provided some \$240 million to the people of Alberta and, in addition, has provided close to 4,000 jobs in regard to that program, ended on March 31. We have an exciting new program this year, the CRC program, the community recreation/cultural grant program, which commences on April 1, 1985, and will end five years hence. It is of course public knowledge what the program will provide. I think it's important to note that it's a flexible program where the communities will be involved. The volunteers will be foremost in our minds in co-operating with them in the next five years. That calls for a budget of some \$49 million this year and, according to our calculations, should provide some 700 jobs throughout the province in projects.

Another exciting program we will continue with is the municipal recreation areas program. We have provided some 10 municipal rec areas each year over the last four years. This year I am pleased to advise that we will have 30 such sites approved. We will change the funding somewhat, in that we will provide funding over a two-year period. That

means that with the 30 sites that will be approved this year, we'll provide \$50,000 in this year's budget and \$50,000 next year. That will help them plan, design, and construct in the two-year period, which we've found it takes to do it anyway.

Our urban parks policy is moving along very well, and it should end with this year's construction. During the course of that program, which has provided millions of dollars across the province, some 300 jobs were generated.

Last April 1 we moved with the Alberta Sport Council. It has now been in operation for one year. I'm very pleased with the dedication of the volunteers, Albertans across the province, that have worked for the Sport Council. They're moving quite rapidly in getting the communities in rural Alberta and the urban centres involved in sport associations and activities that relate to just darn good sports across the province. We have provided some \$4 million for what we call the Alberta Olympic search, and that is being implemented in a number of ways. This last winter I was in Calgary at a couple of functions where the Sport Council has provided funds for a community that has involved itself in the nine Olympic sports. I think we're moving towards being greatly involved in the Olympics, with a number of athletes. It's our hope and, according to the Sport Council, we expect that we might reach as high as 20 percent of the national team coming from Alberta in 1988. So I'm really pleased with the progress they have made.

In 1985 the Alberta Summer Games will be held in Fort McMurray from August 7 to the 11. We're all looking forward to that. I understand the program at Fort McMurray is ahead of schedule. They've raised all their funds, everything's fine, and we'll expect to have a number of athletes from across the province at Fort McMurray.

We're involved in something new, Mr. Chairman. I went to Yellowknife in 1984 to take part in their Winter Games. They've invited the province of Alberta to take part in the 1986 Arctic Winter Games, which will be held in Yukon. We will be sending some 65 athletes from northern Alberta, from the two zones in northeast and northwest Alberta, to compete in those games.

Mr. Chairman, all members have the annual report of the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation that I provided for them. I will not get involved in that too much except to say that they're investing the lottery funds in a well-mannered way in every corner across the province and helping wherever they can. I am pleased with the way they are handling that fund.

As I said the other day, the 1988 Winter Olympics are on target. We have our commitments. We are firm in our commitments. The construction is on target and on budget. We look forward to having some of the projects completed somewhat earlier than we expected. According to the information I have projects for the 1988 Winter Olympics have provided some 1,250 jobs for Albertans.

The International Youth Year is rolling along fine. We have an advisory committee of five adults and five youth across the province. They have a million dollars from lotteries, which we are now providing to a number of communities across the province, and I anticipate just great things from our youth throughout the province in 1985.

I expect to come forward pretty quickly with an expansion to William Watson Lodge, which has provided housing in Kananaskis Country. It has a capacity of 40 people. From all our reports and the number of people that are utilizing William Watson Lodge, we now find that we have to expand it. We are looking forward to expanding it to double its

size, and I'll be bringing that forward as quickly as I can. It's a facility that provides accommodation away from home for the handicapped and seniors at very, very reasonable cost, and I think it's just great.

Last year, 1984, we played 55,000 rounds of golf on the 36-hole Kananaskis golf course. It's operated by the private sector, as we are all aware. It employs about 115 people at the peak season. This year, 1985, it's proposed that there will be 80,000 rounds of golf played.

Mr. Chairman, the department has worked itself into a position where we've increased privatization wherever we can, we've decreased our staff wherever we can, and we've done this on a fair and equitable position. We have looked to retirements, and the downsizing of our department has come about without too much laying off of people or letting people go. We have involved ourselves in a great way in privatizing a number of our municipal rec areas. We've taken over 68 of the highway campsites, and we look forward to privatizing those. We're looking at volunteers' work, and I think that will be a plus for all Albertans as we move through 1985.

Mr. Chairman, there are a number of other things I could talk about but I'm sure, as I go through this evening, there will be a number of questions raised. I hope members will take part and ask questions, and I'll get back to them through that process.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to raise just a few points with the minister. One has to do with our provincial parks. I notice that appropriation is down somewhat, from \$37 million to roughly \$34 million. It seems that if there are other parks that might be ready or on focus, this is one area which could be a major job creation area. I wonder if there aren't any other parks that we're looking at specifically. We've alluded to it from the heritage trust fund from time to time. Is the minister's department looking at a major park in northern Alberta? If they are looking at it, would it not make some sense to get on with it at this particular time, when it would be cheaper to build?

I know the Member for Grande Prairie will probably have on the Order Paper a capital park proposal around Grande Prairie. I think that would be more under the other minister, but has this minister had any proposals there? Are they looking at that in a serious manner?

Just to come up with some specific questions to the minister. Under vote 4 I notice there's no more planning support for the famous Mount Allan. Is all the planning done for the mountain at this particular time? I take it they don't see any future problems that they'll have to spend any money on after they've made the snow. But I'm wondering if there are any contingency plans for the hurricane winds.

Also, I notice there's a major \$2 million increase for the athletes' village at the U of C. It's my understanding, and the minister can correct me if I'm wrong about this, that the residences are already there to a large degree. Is this work still in the building stage, then, or is it for some other aspect?

The minister mentioned Kananaskis. I know he loves to talk about Kananaskis, and he specifically mentioned the golf course as being private. As I recall, it is possible we could achieve some money back on this. I wonder if we have. It is my understanding that any profits that have been returned to the Crown — I believe it's something like if they make over \$2 million in a year — there's a revolving

credit on that. Did any money come back to the Crown in the previous year?

The other area I would like to ask him about, and I know he's had some involvement in, is the provincial baseball team that's centred here in Edmonton. An ex-colleague, somebody I used to play sports with, Mr. Footz, is involved in that. I don't know if he's had discussion with the minister, but the problem is not the grants and getting around. It's having a number of young people, something like 14, coming into the city and not having much to do. Has the minister thought about the possibility of jobs out of his department? These people are doing something for Alberta; they're representing Alberta proudly. If there are any types of jobs for people coming from Red Deer or other parts of the province, it would be very helpful — not a giveaway, but to keep them busy. It is difficult to bring that many young people in if they don't have something to do over the summer. I believe, Mr. Chairman, they are here for some three months. I would ask the minister if he has considered this or if he would consider doing something for these young people who are coming to Edmonton and at this point do not have jobs.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to participate in the minister's expense, in particular with regard to the budget of items for minipark areas and certainly support what the hon. Leader of the Opposition has just indicated with regard to a park or major recreation provincial park in the northern part of the province. In particular, I will be following up with a motion in support of the annual Progressive Conservative convention and the fact that there was a resolution unanimously passed in support of this. I will be following up with a motion to that effect as well. Of particular concern, though, with the minipark program is that this program be continued, because it certainly has benefitted many of the small rural communities. Without this type of program they certainly wouldn't have had the benefits of any ongoing programs and would not have been able to make them possible.

I'm concerned, though, with the urban park program. I don't wish to sound critical of the minister and his department, but speaking as the MLA for Lac La Biche-McMurray, I've echoed this concern before and I certainly will once again. I'm certain the minister is aware of it. That's with regard to the city of Fort McMurray not having been eligible for receiving funding under the urban parks program. When a community of some 35,000 does not qualify only because they were under what was termed the New Towns status, I did not feel that was fair and certainly would once again reiterate support for such a program and continuation development. When other communities of much smaller size, in a geographic sense as well as population size — certainly would indicate and bear out that the city of Fort McMurray should be the next community and recipient under the urban parks program.

With regard to the MCR funding and program which has just expired and has been replaced by what I would certainly term a very well-thought-out plan, the community recreation/cultural grant program, I certainly welcome the fact that it's been increased by some one-third. I would like to thank the minister and the department for their review of this need and, particularly, for addressing the operating conditions as well.

I have some concerns about the way the past fund was handled. Hopefully, the new fund will avoid this. Some of the communities, and I say "some", have always felt that

these were funds due to them under their normal funding process and that they were the ones that were dispensing the funds. The province of Alberta received no recognition, and the minister and his department were certainly not given that credit. I feel very strongly about this particular aspect and would encourage the minister to develop such signage and identification or logos that would be supportive, similar to what might be for other projects that were funded similarly under the Heritage Savings Trust Fund program, so that the identification is there for future generations and for the citizens of those communities to be aware that it was and is the responsibility of the departments that the ministers are co-ordinating.

Mr. Chairman, I find it very embarrassing, having walked in and somebody said, "Well, why isn't the government funding or doing anything on a specific project or area?" and yet have found that many dollars had come through the MCR fund in the past. I want to bring that to the ministers' attention and hope they will be able to address that particular problem.

Mr. Chairman, it's been a very pleasant experience over these past few years to go to the various communities and find the involvement not just from the minister's department but from the minister himself. On many occasions the minister has personally been in the constituency of Lac La Biche-McMurray, meeting with the various people concerned. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him for that personal support and for the encouragement that has been given to our constituency and, I'm sure many others as well.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I certainly want to once again go on record that I support the development of a provincial Kananaskis II type park in the northern part of Alberta, as was presented by the speaker before me, the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I would look for support for that later in a motion.

DR. CARTER: Mr. Chairman, just a number of concerns, which I trust I can go through quite rapidly.

The first one is that the community recreation/cultural grant program is just absolutely tremendous. The fact that we have this in place with increased funding on top of it is a testimonial to the advocacy position and the energy of the minister and his colleague in Culture, as well as to a lot of the rest of us here who have been very concerned about what's been going on in terms of funding for various projects. As mentioned under the estimates in Culture, I hope the Minister of Recreation and Parks will continue in his dialogue with city council in Calgary, in particular with the mayor of Calgary, to underline the fact that, hopefully, the funding flow will go through to the communities that are in distress with respect to the facilities which have been built over the last number of years, because a number of these facilities are very much in difficulty. In the constituency of Calgary Egmont naturally, I'm referring to the Acadia Community Association and to the Family Leisure Centre south. Again I say thanks to the minister for his taking the time to meet with the president of the Willowridge Community Association in Calgary, because after all, it's the Willowridge Community Association which is really carrying Family Leisure Centre south in Calgary. Part of the difficulty under the previous program was that the guidelines which were used or carried out by the city really complicated the community situation. So I hope firm direction is being given from the minister himself to the powers that be in the city of Calgary to try to, first, get these communities out of

the difficulties they're in with respect to capital construction and operating costs and servicing of debt.

I appreciate the fact that the minister has been very supportive with respect to the Sport Council and with respect to one of the projects in particular, which I've mentioned before in the House, the Alberta Junior Hockey League, tier 2 hockey in this province. Mr. Chairman, it's interesting that those people who have their youngsters involved in the fine minor hockey system in this province are quite willing to pay the costs for those youngsters, and the costs are considerable in the development of hockey players. But when it comes time to have the young adult involved in tier 2 hockey and tier I, then all of a sudden it's up to community-minded individuals to somehow go out and find the money.

As mentioned earlier in this session, I've had a very interesting experience in deficit financing this last year. If my colleagues in this Assembly would like to help chip in to bail out one team for \$16,500, all donations will be gratefully accepted. I would acknowledge that my colleague the Member for Lac La Biche-McMurray has been involved with the tier 2 team there and has done yeoman service. I think they've been the best organized that that franchise has been in quite some time. Nevertheless, there are nine franchises throughout the province, and these teams are part of the building blocks of amateur hockey in terms of this province and leading to the Olympics and the NHL.

If you go to any of these franchises, at their games on any given night you're likely to encounter eight scouts from United States colleges. Of course, the scouts come in free, so they're not helping to pay at the gate. Hopefully, from their point of view, they'll pick up some student and get him playing for their college in the United States. But there is no flow back of any kind of developmental dollars to help offset the costs of teams in the leagues. For example, this year each franchise is probably having to face something like \$65,000 to \$70,000 in actual costs as a minimum.

I won't go on at great length, although I feel very passionately about this whole issue. I also feel very concerned that the National Hockey League has not really been carrying its full responsibility for player development back to this level of hockey, and to some degree I think this is also true of the Canadian Olympic team. Nevertheless, in all of this it is a very fine brand of hockey. That league is very much committed to the young adult being able to play hockey, develop his skills, but also being able to complete his education.

An interesting shift has taken place with respect to the Alberta Junior Hockey League in that nearly every franchise is now owned on a community basis. So we're back to the volunteers. We're back to committed individuals reaching deep into their own pockets to pay for the hockey teams to function. I was encouraged, in discussions with Max Gibb and with a former colleague and member of the Assembly. Bob Clark, and his involvement on the Sport Council and the encouragement given by the minister, that hopefully we might regard these nine franchises as training centres in terms of the building process for Olympic development. Out of all this, last weekend I understand there were more tryouts leading towards the Olympic team, and I'm pleased that one of the members of the Calgary Canuck franchise was here for that training camp. The development of sportsmanship, the development of skill is indeed what it's all about, Mr. Minister. But as you pointed out in your opening remarks, hopefully when the '88 Olympics roll around we'll have more than our fair share, in one sense, of players in all the sports coming from Alberta in particular.

I appreciate your interest with respect to all of this issue. It's just one item in terms of the whole Olympic picture which is of great concern to all Albertans, to all Canadians. I appreciate your support in it, and I look forward to your continued support, because there's a long way yet to go with respect to that particular topic.

Thank you.

MR. McPHERSON: I would like to briefly participate in the estimates of the Minister of Recreation and Parks, and I do mean briefly, in light of the hour. I want to seize this opportunity once again, Mr. Chairman, to make a couple of quick comments with respect to Red Deer's jewel, the Waskasoo Park — the minister is well acquainted with my laudatory remarks in the past on Waskasoo Park — to simply say on this occasion that I noted the budget calls for the fruition of these parks, at least in terms of capital for the balance of this year. I'm sure the minister will be interested, as perhaps other members might, that the Waskasoo Park in Red Deer will be completed this year. I noted that the full expenditure is estimated to be some \$26 million. They've extended some \$22,000,600 already towards that park. It's going along fine. It is clearly an enormous and absolutely terrific recreational and outdoor experience in the city of Red Deer and in the area of central Alberta. One can hardly say enough about the opportunities that that park presents to people in the area and also with regard to employment in the city of Red Deer over the past number of years.

I'd like to make a couple of comments on the park. I'd like to compliment the management committee and the policy committee, the decisions of city council, who work on a very co-operative basis on some of the very difficult decisions that have to be arrived at in putting together a park of that magnitude. Certainly on this occasion as well, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to mention Cliff Lacey of the minister's department, who has worked extremely well and on a most co-operative basis with all members participating in that park.

A couple of brief words with regard to the community recreation/cultural grant program. Mr. Chairman, Again I applaud the minister's decision, the decision of cabinet, to reintroduce a program to replace the multicultural and recreation program. The Minister of Recreation and Parks as well as the Minister of Culture have obviously indicated to all Albertans that recreation and culture are important in this province, and they've done well with their colleagues in cabinet in being able to allocate, I think, a 20 percent increase in funding for that program — correct me if I'm wrong, Minister, but a considerable increase in funding for that program over a five-year period,

I would also like to applaud the direct emphasis in this program on the volunteer. It strikes me that if there was criticism that could be offered over the years, one might extend the criticism that perhaps government has operated sometimes to move out the volunteer sector. I view that with some regret. It's very positive, in my view, to see that that direct initiative and direct flow of consideration is going back into this program. I think it's important, and I think the volunteers in this province will prove your decision correct.

Perhaps not many people realize just what the CRC grant program will provide. If one looks at the former program, the MCR grant — in discussions in public meetings recently in Red Deer with regard to the CRC program, I know very few people had any real appreciation of the

capital projects that were developed in the constituency I represent that were funded by MCR grants.

My colleague to the left, the hon. Member for Calgary Foothills, along with the Member for St. Albert were members of an educational committee examining the governance of education and the School Act, the Partners in Education document. When they came to Red Deer, they took the opportunity to meet with people from the G. H. Dawe Community Centre and met in the G. H. Dawe Community Centre. As has been mentioned by other members in the House, while they were well impressed with that facility they may not have realized that about \$65,000 of that particular facility was funded through the MCR program. Frankly, I was rather astonished to realize how few people in the community, in Red Deer, really had an appreciation for the kinds of programs and funding for capital projects that existed through the old program, and I expect the same through the new CRC grant program.

My final comments, Mr. Chairman, would be a direct thank-you to the minister on behalf of a constituent who found himself in an interesting situation. Members might know that the minister has designated funding — I haven't been able to directly locate it in the budget — to assist young athletes in Alberta in their quest for the Olympics of 1988. One of venues in 1988 where there will be financial assistance is in the area of freestyle skiing. Because it's a demonstration sport, it was not provided direct assistance until after the announcement made by the minister. All that led to an interesting circumstance whereby a young man in Red Deer by the name of Jeff Viola was selected to the national junior freestyle skiing team but, lo and behold, was unable to receive any kind of funding. Through the minister's generosity and consideration he went into some slush fund or some pot — I'm not too sure where — on a special occasion basis and was able to match contributions made by community groups in Red Deer, namely the Kinsmen Club and the Optimists Club, and was able assist on a funding basis to the extent of \$1,500, which was completely matched. This young man is the only man who was selected to the national freestyle skiing team west of Ontario. Mr. Chairman, I would simply like to extend my appreciation, on behalf of young Jeff Viola but also all

people who are involved in freestyle skiing in Red Deer, for his consideration in that regard.

Thank you very much.

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

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. APPLEBY: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration and reports the following resolutions:

Resolved that there be granted to her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986, sums not exceeding the following for the department and purposes indicated: the Department of Culture, \$3,191,499 for departmental support services, \$30,598,958 for cultural development, \$24,036,688 for historical resources development, \$1,802,312 for heritage development.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain other resolutions, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can give a brief overview of the other two evening sittings this week. It is intended that both Tuesday and Thursday nights be used in Committee of Supply. The hon. leader has designated Wednesday afternoon for the Department of Agriculture. That would mean that tomorrow night, Tuesday, we would begin with the Department of Public Works, Supply and Services in Committee of Supply. If there is time after that, we would return to Recreation and Parks. I will have a further indication about Thursday night as soon as possible.

[At 10:11 p.m., on motion, the House adjourned to Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.]

