

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Friday, July 18, 1986 10:00 a.m.**

[The House met at 10 a.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

MR. SPEAKER: Members of the Assembly, 75 years ago on this date, July 18, 1911, there was founded the Empire Parliamentary Association, which later became the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The coronation of King George V in 1911 was considered an appropriate occasion on which to invite representatives from the parliaments of the self-governing Dominions to London. Members came from Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, and Newfoundland, and a joint committee was set up from the Commons and the Lords to arrange the program.

Of the initial meetings Sir Howard wrote:

By the entertainment of the Representatives of the Dominion Parliaments at the Coronation of His Majesty King George V, it may justly be said that the weakest spot in the combination of sister-nations has been, to a large extent, removed. It was the lack of personal contact and association amongst the Parliamentarians of the Empire that has sometimes given rise in the past to misunderstanding and lack of appreciation of each other's points of view.

The meeting of delegates on July 18, 1911, approved the formation of the Empire Parliamentary Association. Membership of the association has grown steadily since that time as more and more members of the Empire and then of the Commonwealth achieved self-government and equal status.

The report of the Imperial Conference in 1926 referred to the Dominions as "autonomous communities within the Commonwealth of Nations," a description which still applies to Commonwealth nations today. The Statute of Westminster in 1931 formally recognized them as self-governing communities with equal status and comparable structures.

Today there are 110 member parliaments, with more than 8,000 members within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The CPA adopted its present name in 1948 when the Commonwealth was officially recognized. It is as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association that we now celebrate our 75th anniversary on this day. Over the entire period the association has played a most valuable role in promoting and sustaining fellowship and understanding among Members of Parliaments from Commonwealth countries and in so doing has contributed significantly to Commonwealth understanding and stability.

I take great pleasure today in presenting to each party leader and to each House leader the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association pin, which was struck especially to mark this 75th anniversary. Additionally, I take special pleasure in presenting to the House one of my predecessors, a former president of the Alberta branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, who was at the same time the Speaker of this Legislative Assembly of Alberta. As

well I am pleased to welcome some of the past Deputy Speakers of the Assembly. I ask them to rise in the Speaker's gallery as I say their names, and I invite my colleagues to join me in welcoming today these special guests: Art Dixon, Lucien Maynard, Bill Diachuk and Mrs. Diachuk, Frank Appleby and Mrs. Appleby.

head: INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce to you, and through you to members of the Assembly, seated in your gallery today the new Ambassador to Canada from Japan, who is visiting Alberta having just taken up his responsibilities in our country. His Excellency Mr. Okawa is accompanied today by the Consul General in Alberta, Mr. Funakoshi. I would ask that they rise and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

head: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**Bill Pr. 5****Alberta Native Business Summit
Foundation Act**

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Bill Pr. 5, Alberta Native Business Summit Foundation Act.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to incorporate the Alberta Native Business Summit Foundation and to provide for its constitution.

[Leave granted; Bill Pr. 5 read a first time]

Bill Pr. 8**City of Edmonton and
Northwestern Utilities, Limited
Agreement Act, 1986**

MR. HERON: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill Pr. 8, City of Edmonton and Northwestern Utilities Limited Agreement Act, 1986.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to provide for an extension of the franchise for the provision of natural gas for the city of Edmonton by validating an amendment to the original agreement between the city and Northwestern Utilities Ltd.

[Leave granted; Bill Pr. 8 read a first time]

Bill Pr. 7**The Calgary Research and Development
Authority Amendment Act, 1986**

MRS. KOPER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill Pr. 7, The Calgary Research and Development Authority Amendment Act, 1986.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to remove the five-consecutive-year limit on holding office, alter a reference to the title of an ex officio appointee, and to clarify the power to hold land on lease.

[Leave granted; Bill Pr. 7 read a first time]

Bill Pr. 11
The McMan Youth Services Foundation Act

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill Pr. 11, The McMan Youth Services Foundation Act.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to provide for the incorporation and constitution of the foundation.

[Leave granted; Bill Pr. 11 read a first time]

head: **TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS**

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, I have two tablings today. First, as required by statute, I wish to table the Gas Alberta Operating Fund financial statements for the year ended March 31, 1985, and the supplemental report of the Gas Alberta Operating Fund for the year ended March 31.

It's also my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to table the annual report of the Department of Utilities and Telecommunications for the year 1984-85.

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the reply to order for return 134.

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this Assembly, two true tourists from Vancouver, British Columbia. This gentleman retired in July of this year after a distinguished 26-year career with the Boy Scouts of Canada, Vancouver region. He happens to be my older brother. I say that because there may be some doubt when he stands up. But it's my pleasure to introduce Mr. and Mrs. Jack S. Adair, and for *Hansard* that's Jack, one word, and S. for Samuel. I would ask them to stand and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

head: **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

Department of Manpower

MR. ORMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce today that the government will implement additional initiatives to provide more employment opportunities for students seeking work this summer.

This government recognizes that youth employment, particularly during the summer months, is an immediate problem requiring immediate action. Therefore, these new funds for summer job creation will be made available through two existing Alberta Manpower programs: the wage subsidy program and the summer temporary employment program.

As part of this initiative employers in the private sector can now take additional advantage of the wage subsidy program to create further employment opportunities for students this summer. Approximately 1,800 students are now employed under the wage subsidy program. Under this program the government, matching funds with the private sector, will create a potential for 500 more student jobs this summer. Should the demand increase beyond this level, necessary funds will be made available.

With respect to the summer temporary employment program, employers can receive wage support for jobs under

four elements: summer farm, community employment, career opportunity, and provincial government department. Employers eligible under the summer temporary employment program may create new positions or keep employees already hired under the current program. The summer temporary employment program deadline has been extended by 30 days to the end of September 1986. Additional funding provided today creates a potential for 1,200 new STEP jobs for students looking for employment this summer.

It is particularly difficult for young people to get meaningful work experience. Over the past 14 years STEP has provided many young Albertans with an opportunity to get a solid start in the job market. STEP also allows students to earn money for continuing their education.

The government expenditure for STEP to date is \$31.7 million. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that this government's commitment to summer job creation represents the largest per capita initiative in the country.

Under STEP's summer farm element Alberta farmers have been able to give 900 young people farm employment. The community employment and provincial government element have created 11,000 positions. Eligible employers under these elements include provincial departments, nonprofit organizations, hospitals, municipalities, Indian bands, Metis settlements, and agricultural societies. The career opportunity element has provided over 1,300 Albertans with work closely related to their field of study. This year to date some 13,000 Albertans have benefitted from STEP.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the government of Alberta will today put in place expanded student programs that will create an estimated 1,700 new jobs for the balance of this summer. This government is committed to encouraging employment opportunities for young Albertans. These additional funds for job creation will enable public- and private-sector employers to create jobs for students still searching for work this summer.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, just a few comments in reply to the ministerial statement. Certainly any time there's any government initiative to create employment, especially for our young people, we obviously welcome it, because it is a very serious problem. We on the opposite side have said that many, many times.

I would be interested in knowing — it's not in here — what sort of wages, especially for students. If it's a minimum wage that people are going to get, that's better than nothing, but it's not going to allow people to save much money for university, college, NAIT, SAIT, or whatever institution they may be going to.

The only caution I would make — and I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that there has been a lot of money spent by the government in temporary projects. I would hope at some point that we would take time to evaluate the bang for the buck. The unemployment rate is still considerably high. We know the reasons for that, but perhaps there is a better way to come at it than many of the temporary programs we have advocated over the last few months. I wonder about that if we create employment for a few months, and then people are back on unemployment insurance. Perhaps we should be taking a look at it.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, if 1,700 young people are going to be employed, certainly I'm not going to be one that would rain on that, because it's desperately needed. Thank you.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****Labour Legislation Review**

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct the first question to the Minister of Labour. During his estimates last night the Minister of Labour revealed that the review of our labour laws promised in the throne speech will now not begin until after the session is over, I believe. Flowing from that, my question to the minister is: what assessments have his officials provided him on the effect this unacceptable delay will have on tensions at picket lines in Slave Lake, Fort McMurray, and Gainers in Edmonton? Is the government somehow under the impression that this procrastination will be helpful?

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, I've been talking about the review of labour legislation since I was appointed. It's been mentioned several times in this Legislature. We have not decided upon the exact process, as I indicated last night. But the process will obviously have to involve at least myself, and with the sitting progressing — it is difficult to start that process while the House is sitting.

I've indicated before it is our intention to review the labour legislation on the basis of its long-term effects, not in relation to any specific occurrences. For that reason the review will address not only current labour disputes but the whole operation of the Labour Relations Act over a long period of time.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. The minister didn't answer the first one, but we'll go into it in some more detail. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, there is some urgency. I believe this is one of the worst social crises the province has faced. Will the minister outline in more detail what factors are preventing them from getting their act together in order to develop a review mechanism that will allow this Legislature to look at some proposed changes before adjournment?

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, I've had several meetings with senior members of the staff of the department to address the best way to put together a process to review the Labour Relations Act. Those meetings are not complete as yet, and I therefore cannot indicate the exact process that will occur. The recommendations I get from my staff members will of course have to be taken to my colleagues for their input. As soon as we know the exact process, I will notify the Assembly.

Of course, in relation to the current disputes, if we want to go through them one by one, we can describe where they are in the process. But I don't think that's necessary for members of the Assembly today.

MR. MARTIN: A supplementary question. The minister doesn't seem to feel there's any urgency; we on the opposite side do. He recalls the demonstration here with people demanding changes. My question leading from that is: would the minister reconsider this latest announcement and bring some proposed changes before this Legislature prorogues?

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, I've said to members of the Alberta Federation of Labour when I met with their executive, to the Building Trades Council, and to the Construction Industry Advisory Council that rather than have some major responses to the immediate situations, which may in fact

aggravate any difficulties that may exist with the Labour Relations Act, we intend to do the job properly on the broad picture rather than on specifics.

MR. MARTIN: That's very nice. We've had lots of knee-jerk proposals from this government before. My question is to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, and it has to do with the throne speech which says:

A full review of labour legislation will be undertaken by my government and necessary amendments will be proposed to assure that the laws of the province ...

That was in this throne speech. My question: could the Premier elaborate on the value of throne speech commitments under his administration? Are they worth anything, or do they just occur to take off the political heat of the time?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition read the statement, and this government stands behind the statement.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary to the minister, Mr. Speaker. Will he undertake to ensure that the review will be done by a public task force and provide for interim amendments?

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, I've stated several times that it is the intention to involve representatives of both management and labour. Obviously, if one's reviewing the Labour Relations Act, that's a necessity. Whether there are any interim reports or interim recommendations that come during that process is not up to me to hazard at this time. That's speculative.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister with regard to the structure of the review, panel, committee, or whatever it may be. The minister indicated in his answer that the structure was being designed internally by the department in consultation with the minister. Has the minister made contact with labour and management representatives in getting input towards the structure of that review?

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I was working with my staff on recommendations. The actual decision as to the makeup of that committee will be made by cabinet.

Energy Industry

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Premier, and it flows from the friendly little chitchat he had yesterday with federal Alberta MPs. My question is: what position did the Premier put forward to the MPs on natural gas deregulation? For example, did he finally say to the federal people that the November 1 deadline is unrealistic?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, we had a good discussion on a variety of matters for three and a half hours. I didn't in any way consider it a friendly little chitchat but a very serious discussion on problems that are facing the people of Alberta.

In terms of gas deregulation, Mr. Speaker, as I've said before in the House, that is covered in an agreement that involves the federal government and the governments of Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. It has a wide-ranging impact on the industry, the people of Alberta and

their resources, and of course on other provinces. Therefore, the matter needs to be reviewed in some depth.

There is presently an agreement calling for deregulation to start on November 1, 1986. There have been some changes in the conditions facing industry, and there have been some conditions imposed by the National Energy Board, all of which have caused industry and governments to feel that it's necessary to take a second look at that deregulation date. It may be that assessment will lead to a decision not to deregulate, but there are many, many who are recommending that deregulation go ahead. It may be on balance that all the people who have signed that agreement will decide not to change it. As I've told the House many times now, those are matters that are being assessed.

MR. MARTIN: Time is running out, Mr. Speaker. I might remind the Premier that it's July 18. But to make the Premier's position very clear because he feels that he's often misquoted, at this point the provincial government wants to move ahead with the natural gas agreement on November 1, even though the price of gas is at an historic low. Is that the position of this government?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, he will have to read *Hansard* again, because I just stated the position of the government.

MR. MARTIN: I guess it's gas deregulation if necessary but not necessarily gas deregulation. To come back to this chitchat that he had ...

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. MARTIN: Yes, you can ask a question if you like.

The Deputy Prime Minister was on television last night noting that as a province we receive billions of dollars in energy revenue, sort of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* line I might say, Mr. Speaker. My question: what reason has the Premier to believe that even our Alberta MPs, let alone the rest of the federal Tories, understand how dependent this government is on energy royalties and how seriously this energy crisis is hurting the province?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I feel they have had the message passed to them by both our government and the people of this province, and they are aware of the serious nature of the instability in energy prices. I might say that we have had a greater problem dealing with this instability of energy prices on this province because we were so badly weakened by the national energy program that was supported by both parties opposite.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, whenever they can't answer a question, they go back to the '60s and '70s. I was talking about the Deputy Prime Minister. But the MP for Athabasca said on CBC Radio this morning that the issue of loan guarantees for Hibernia was not even mentioned during yesterday's meeting. To me that's rather an amazing admission. I ask the Premier: is that right? Did the Premier not even mention the unfairness of Hibernia possibly receiving loan guarantees while our upgrader guarantees seem to have disappeared? If he didn't, why not?

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair is very concerned when it comes to supplementary questions as to the fact that we're having two and three supplementals plus comments being thrown in. In addition, with respect to this supplementary

question, hon. Leader of the Opposition, please make reference with respect to what happens in the Assembly rather than asking a comment with respect to the meeting. Perhaps you could just rephrase that question succinctly.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is straightforward. Was the Hibernia situation raised? If not, why not?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I can't account for what the hon. member hears on the CBC. Nevertheless, my recollection, which is clear in my mind, is that the Hibernia matter was discussed.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Premier. Speaking of the NEP, it was his genius that kept the PGRT and dropped the floor price from the agreement. This is a very easy one: will his government respond favorably to the small Alberta companies' requests for relief from the provincial freehold mineral tax?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, we have many discussions with members of industry, and we seriously consider all their representations to us.

Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, also to the Premier. On July 7 the Alberta Minister of Energy replied in this Legislature to a question from me that he had given no consideration to the consequences of eliminating the PGRT. Perhaps the Premier has taken the initiative to give this important matter the consideration it deserves, since he said yesterday that it's PGRT or nothing. Has the government undertaken a study to determine what percentage of the \$700 million PGRT, if it is returned, will go to Canadian-owned oil companies as opposed to foreign-owned oil companies?

MR. GETTY: First of all, Mr. Speaker, with the comments leading up to the question, I think the hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon is very inaccurate in saying what the Minister of Energy replied.

Secondly, there's considerable speculation as to the amount of the PGRT. He has said \$700 million; it obviously fluctuates a great deal depending on the price for energy. It could be considerably lower than that; it could be higher than that. There's no magic about his \$700 million. There are now only some 52 companies who pay the PGRT. I don't think that's important. I don't think it's important that they be Canadian or American companies. The important thing is to have it removed.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. I think it indicates his naiveté if he doesn't think it's important.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. TAYLOR: You can ask. You'll get your turn. What precautions will be taken by the government to ensure the amount of money returned — let's not argue about the amount — will be spent in Alberta when the tax is dropped?

MR. GETTY: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I didn't say the PGRT was not important. I said the important factor was to have it removed. I believe the federal government is

considering the problems as to whether just the removal of the PGRT is the way to do it or whether they should have incentives in some way tied into it to have the funds spent in order to have the tax removed from companies' books. I don't know how they are going to resolve that matter. Nevertheless, we want it removed.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. If the Premier is waiting for the wisdom of the federal government to bail him out, he's going to wait a long time.

A change of pace here. Has the government checked its files to determine whether an agreement was actually signed before the last federal election between the federal and provincial governments for the Husky upgrader project? Was there a signed agreement before the last election?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't here, but I can recall some of the reports regarding it. I'll first give my impression, and then I will give a commitment to make sure the document is produced. My impression was that an agreement was signed, and the federal government, the government of Saskatchewan, the government of Alberta, and Husky signed that agreement.

MR. TAYLOR: The last supplementary, Mr. Speaker. There has been some impression given by federal MPs that there was no agreement, or if there was, it was on the back of an envelope. Did the Premier compromise the original Husky upgrader agreement, if there was one, letting the federal government off the hook in order to get the short-term funding for the engineering studies he now has in place? Did he let them off the hook by getting his engineering study?

MR. GETTY: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARTIN: Just to follow up on the PGRT, and we all recognize it should come off I believe what happens after is important, Mr. Premier. My question is: does the government have any studies that would indicate that because of that extra money going to the majors, there would be an increase of buying out smaller Canadian independent companies, that that's what the money would be used for?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't study that. It's possible that companies will use it in a whole variety of ways, and you would think the Leader of the Opposition would know that as well. They may well use it for stepping up their exploration and development programs. They will possibly use it for paying off bank loans or for buying companies. Those are individual decisions that companies would make. We believe in the system of having the private sector make those decisions, not in having regulation take away freedom from people, as proposed by the members opposite.

Prince Rupert Grain Terminal

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Provincial Treasurer with regard to the Prince Rupert Grain Ltd. terminal. In terms of operating funds the terminal is presently running a deficit and is requesting a break in repayment terms. The Alberta government is involved with some \$220 million in loans and guarantees through the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. I'd like to ask the Provincial Treasurer what actions have been taken by the government?

Are negotiations proceeding at the present time with regard to this condition of the Prince Rupert Grain terminal?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, that is in fact an accurate update of some of the problems which the Prince Rupert terminal is experiencing.

Through a variety of ministries the province of Alberta is seeking ways to alleviate at least the short-term cash flow problems which the terminal is experiencing. I know my colleague the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs has been involved with discussions with the province of B.C. on the question of input costs surrounding a property tax assessment. I know the minister of economic development and the Minister of Agriculture are also reviewing on a very broad policy basis ways to stimulate cash flow assistance in the short term.

Of course, on the Treasury side we are concerned about seeking ways to assist on the cash flow requirements for servicing the debt which have been provided by the province of Alberta. Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, this project is important to the farm community and the farm sector in Alberta in terms of accessing the Pacific Rim countries, and we will stand behind that decision and make sure that terminal continues to operate.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Provincial Treasurer with regard to the interest rate. The cost of interest is some \$24 million to the plant. Is one of the items being negotiated at the present time the current interest rate on the Heritage Savings Trust Fund loan or guarantee to the terminal?

MR. JOHNSTON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that would be one of the possibilities. We must keep in mind, certainly in the context of these discussions, the fact that the private sector is operating these terminals. I think it would be somewhat irresponsible from our side if we were to simply recognize all the charges assessed against the project by the private grain companies. I'm not suggesting there's anything in terms of mismanagement or anything wrong with the charges, but we would not want to give up our revenue to the heritage fund simply to allow the private sector to run up additional costs. That's the difficult balance which we have to play here.

Of course, we are concerned about the investment in the heritage fund. We do not want to lose that revenue because, as you probably know, Mr. Speaker, we are using the income flow from the heritage fund to assist the General Revenue Fund and in part reducing and maintaining a very low income tax regime here in this province. So it all comes back to the heritage fund. We're concerned about the cash flow with respect to the terminals, and as I've indicated, we're looking for ways to assist the terminal, short of providing implicit income transfers to the private sector.

MR. R. SPEAKER: A supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. In Alberta we currently have elevators plugged where quotas cannot be delivered because of a lack of hopper cars, as I understand it. At the same time, we have the Prince Rupert terminal indicating there's not an adequate flow of grain through the terminal to bring about necessary revenue. I was wondering if the minister could indicate what actions are being taken with regard to those specific problems to assist this problem with the Prince Rupert terminal.

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the hon. minister of economic development would wish to supplement this, as it falls under his jurisdiction. We have taken a number of actions, and maybe I should share with the hon. member and with the House that for those farmers having difficulties in getting their grain to the elevators because of blockage, I have been informed this morning that Alberta Terminals Ltd. does have space. In the event that farmers do wish to travel those few extra miles to get rid of their grain, they can take it to Alberta Terminals, whereby they can have it distributed to the grain company of their choosing and receipts will be issued.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, the throughput of Prince Rupert grain has been somewhat less than anticipated, and there are a number of factors that have contributed to that. One of the major ones is the drought that has occurred in western Canada during the last two years. Before the end of the current crop year, though, we expect an additional 1,300 cars to be unloaded at Rupert.

Another factor in terms of the throughput is the unloadings for export that occur at Rupert as opposed to other ports. That has an impact in terms of the throughput of the terminal. The Provincial Treasurer indicated there were some costs that were unanticipated as a result of a very high property tax assessment. Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs has had some success with the appeal, but there is further work being done in that regard.

MR. R. SPEAKER: A supplementary question to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade relative to the grain handlers in the facility. Could the minister indicate whether there are any problems relative to the grain handlers? I understand they're in a strike position. Will that position create any problems relative to the flow of grain in the facility?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, we're aware that negotiations are going on between the grain handlers and the consortium. It's not clear to us whether the negotiations that are going on have interfered with the throughput of the terminal.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. This is back to the Provincial Treasurer and the heritage trust fund financing of the grain terminals. If it appears that the heritage trust fund is expected to bail out the private owners, do we have a mechanism in place that the heritage trust fund could foreclose and take over the terminals if it appears the private sector is just going to be a continuous case of being bailed out?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, this government will avoid that wherever possible. We believe the imagination and the decision-making can best be done by the private sector, not by government.

Alberta Cattle Commission

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. The National Farmers Union has submitted a petition requesting a plebiscite be held on the question of the checkoff which funds the activities of the Alberta Cattle Commission. Can he advise this Assembly as to the present status of that petition?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Member for Stettler has indicated, the National Farmers Union did submit

a petition to the marketing council. We are awaiting a recommendation from the marketing council as to the validity of that petition and the numbers of it. When the recommendation is forwarded, it is my hope to have broad discussions relating to the petition.

I'm not about to comment any further until I have the recommendation itself from the marketing council. I just feel it would be rather unwise for me to involve myself in a debate, because we don't know what area that debate is going to revolve around.

MR. DOWNEY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Given the considerable contributions made by the Cattle Commission in the marketing of Alberta beef, will the minister take a public position in support of the Cattle Commission?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, I'm more than happy to do so, and I again underscore what the hon. Member for Stettler has indicated. The Alberta Cattle Commission has served the cattle industry in this province in a very commendable way. They have indicated some concerns to me as it relates to the plebiscite in the event that we decide to go ahead with it.

But in the event that I receive the recommendation from the marketing council, I want to assure not only the hon. Member for Stettler but the Alberta Cattle Commission and the National Farmers Union that we are going to have a thorough discussion as to what process we follow, after I have the recommendation from the marketing council.

South Africa

MR. GIBEAULT: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister of economic development. I direct it to him in the context of your own comments, Mr. Speaker, about the Commonwealth and our tradition with it and the concern I'm sure all members of the Assembly must have about the Commonwealth's possible disintegration over the question of South Africa.

My question to the minister is: in light of the federal all-party committee's recommendation yesterday for Canada to take stronger economic sanctions against the racist regime of South Africa if there is no substantive action to dismantle apartheid by September 30 and in light of the information that he himself filed yesterday about sulphur exports to that country, can the minister assure the Assembly today that his department will be taking aggressive steps to seek alternative markets for Alberta sulphur production that is now going to South Africa?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs may wish to supplement my answer. I think in an earlier question period I responded to a similar question. The government of Alberta does not actively market our products. We support the private sector in their efforts in achieving markets for Alberta goods and services, and we do that aggressively.

We do not get involved in terms of the politics of other nations within the Department of Economic Development and Trade. Our involvement is in enhancing trade opportunities and job creation for Albertans. With respect to foreign policy of this country, that's a matter that is dealt with by the federal government. As I said, the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs may wish to supplement by answer.

MR. GIBEAULT: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It's unfortunate that we're again not seeing any leadership from the provincial level. But in that case I'll perhaps go back to the public sector. Can the minister assure the House that he will direct his own officials in the Agency for International Development to meet with officials from the Canadian International Development Agency to consider the possible development of a fertilizer plant using Alberta sulphur in one of the front-line states in southern Africa?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, I didn't clearly hear all the elements of the question, but our Alberta international aid program has been a very successful program in assisting Third World countries and nongovernmental organizations, who raise funds to assist in those nations, and we'll continue to do that. The requests come in on a regular basis through the department, and we deal with them and respond to them as we are able, based on budget and on the particular application.

MR. GIBEAULT: A supplementary question to the minister of consumer affairs, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if she could assure us that she will be consulting with firms that are importing fruit from the racist regime in South Africa and use her influence to have them discontinue this practice?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member for Edmonton Mill Woods, it's considered unparliamentary to use terms such as "racist" with regard to another government with which Canada does indeed have relationships. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Excuse me, is there a response? A further supplementary, Member for Edmonton Mill Woods.

MR. GIBEAULT: Since the minister of consumer affairs is unable to answer the question, to the Premier.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, hon member. That's a false supposition. Would you please continue with the supplementary question.

MR. GIBEAULT: To the Premier: considering the rising tide of public indignation over the developments in southern Africa, can the Premier assure the Assembly that he will follow the example of the Manitoba government and direct all departments of his government to see what additional measures they may be able to take to keep in step with the latest initiative we have from the federal government made public yesterday?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, while I don't know all the views of the members opposite, I would assume that every member of this Legislative Assembly disassociates themselves as strongly as possible from those policies of the government of South Africa that support the apartheid rules. We all do.

Mr. Speaker, to the hon. member. Surely what he is trying to do is to help the people of South Africa. There is absolutely no proof that by taking away from them things they need and things they require that you are going to help them. Surely if the people of South Africa need certain products, how does that help them by taking them away? You have to take it with some sensitivity and thought, not trying to merely make some political points. You have to have some sensitivity and thought about a very major problem. I would suggest that the hon. member, with his comments leading up to his question, is not using sensitivity

and thoughtfulness but is rather just trying to make a very narrow political point.

MR. TAYLOR: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the minister of trade. Will he explain how he equates his statement that he does not interfere where Alberta is selling a natural resource like sulphur when the Premier has repeatedly said in this House that he will and would discriminate on who he would sell natural gas to?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I have to respond to that. I haven't said I would discriminate on people. [interjections] You asked your question.

Mr. Speaker, the point we've continually made in the House is that both our legislation and our leases require that we do not allow resources to be sold at wastefully low prices. We will continue to fulfill that responsibility. That is not a discrimination against any individual or company or country.

Alberta Cattle Commission (continued)

MR. CHERRY: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. I would ask him if he has a time line as to when he receives a report from the marketing council regarding the NFU plebiscite?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. Member for Lloydminster, may I just prefix it by commending the members on the government side for the leadership and responsible questions they've put in this House on a consistent basis compared to the garbage we hear from the other side.

May I also indicate to the hon. Member for Lloydminster that we're hopeful to have the report from the marketing council very soon so that we can take action on this pressing issue.

Ministerial Allowances

MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Treasurer. It's difficult to understand that we can actually be negotiating for a \$1 billion Husky Oil upgrader agreement and as a government not know one important feature. [interjections] I get a preamble.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. members of the Assembly, on the main question the member is indeed entitled to a brief preamble.

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll repeat it.

It's difficult to understand how we could be negotiating for \$1 billion assistance to this province and not know whether or not we have a signed agreement, which would be an incredibly important feature of our leverage in that negotiation. I am very concerned that another incredibly important feature of another policy will be missed: leadership in cost cutting. Could the Treasurer please confirm a recent Treasury Board decision to allow the four most recent ex-ministers still sitting in this Legislature to keep their ministerial car allowance?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the recent words of the Minister of Agriculture ring in my ears right now.

MR. MITCHELL: Interesting answer. Can the minister please confirm that these ministerial car allowances and the car allowance for the Leader of the Opposition have just increased \$2,000?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the expenditure side of what the member is talking about, as he well knows, these estimates are set and the ministerial votes are explained in the House. He has had ample opportunity to go through every one of the ministers who has now appeared before the Committee of Supply. I'm sure each minister will be glad to tell him just what their ministerial car allowance may well be. I'm not too sure what the member is getting at, as I'm sure no one else is in the province of Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER: In recognizing additional supplementaries on this issue, the Chair cautions the member that indeed this material is germane to estimates rather than this period of the day.

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Leadership is an absolutely critical feature of cost cutting. Decisions are being made behind closed doors that we can't get information about. There is not detailed information in the estimates. This is a matter for consideration here. What kind of message is this government sending to the people of Alberta for whom they speak — for each and every one of them, the Treasurer says — when they're not providing leadership in cutting important personal perks? In fact, they're increasing personal perks.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the member has then asked me to perhaps provide a very detailed analysis of how this government allocates resources. I welcome the opportunity to briefly overview some of the ways in which this government has in an imaginative and careful way been able to ascertain and effectively allocate resources given to us by this province.

First of all, let me draw all members' attention to the last statement of accounts which were filed in this Assembly showing a surplus of over \$1 billion when we had in fact budgeted for a deficit of \$300 million. That has to be a very careful management of the resources of this province. This government is well known for that very important criterion in all its decisions.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, there have been some questions raised over the last few days as to how we assess and determine capital investment decisions. I think this opportunity should be taken to comment on those. First of all, in any capital investment decisions we very carefully analyze the cost/benefit analysis.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. minister, for reminding us that the information is indeed public and available from other sources.

The Chair recognizes the Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche followed by ... Hon. Member for Edmonton Meadowlark, you have expended your question plus your three supplementals.

Young Offenders' Programs

MR. PIQUETTE: To the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker. We have statistics from the Solicitor General's annual report about the admission of young people to young offenders' facilities. Thirty-three percent of those admitted are native

in a province with only 3.3 percent native people in the overall population. What action is the Solicitor General taking to correct this shameful situation?

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, I believe the report the hon. Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche is referring to indicates that the native population in the Solicitor General's institutions has decreased in the past year. The Solicitor General utilizes the Native Counselling Services together with native volunteer probation officers to work with the native population to try to keep them from the institutions. The department is attempting as well to implement policies whereby fewer people are incarcerated and are held under alternate programs, such as fine options, temporary releases, and probation.

MRS. OSTERMAN: Mr. Speaker, may I supplement the hon. minister's answer? I think this also relates to the Social Services area, because indeed prior to the age grouping the hon. minister is speaking to and the hon. member has asked about, there have been many native and Metis children in the care of the Social Services department. If the hon. member was present when the estimates of this department were discussed on Wednesday last, he would have noted that there have been great strides made under the new Child Welfare Act in a move to provide native communities with the resources so they may indeed look after their children, as it's their desire to do. There have already been several agreements signed, and this department will be sponsoring bursaries to assist the native community in their effort to have their people educated and able to handle this particular situation.

MR. PIQUETTE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, the rate of incarceration has not decreased over the past year. In Alberta the number of youths in custody or detention has increased 230 percent since January 1985. With all young people, there is far too much incarceration in the application of the Young Offenders Act when other programs are available. What analysis has the Solicitor General done about why more use is not made of programs like alternative measures and the community-based programs?

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, the Young Offenders Act was initially a federal Act which the province of Alberta agreed to join for cost sharing. Initially, youths over the age of 16 were handled as adults and under 16 as juvenile delinquents. Until April 1984 the 12- to 14-year-olds were in fact brought in under the Young Offenders Act. In April 1985 the ages of 16 and 17 were then added. This of course has added to the population of young offenders. I might also point out that the penalties imposed by the youth court are under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General. He may wish to supplement the answer.

I might indicate that at present we have 533 young offenders under custody, which could be open custody, temporary detention, temporary release, or secure custody. We also have 2,738 on probation, for a total population of approximately 20 percent that are incarcerated.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to supplement the answer given by the hon. Solicitor General. This is an area where it is difficult to make comparisons relative to the number of people incarcerated, because the Young Offenders Act has just come into effect. Reference was made in the supplementary to the alternative measures program which

was introduced and which is one of the most advanced of any province in Canada. In the first year of its operation, and keeping in mind the figures just given to the Assembly by the hon. Solicitor General as to the number of young people incarcerated, through the alternative measures program we were able to deal with 1,397 cases of young offenders and to prevent them from appearing at all in the courts and to work out through that program — which is very extensive and which I dealt with in my estimates the other day with a lengthy reference. It has proven to be very effective.

In addition, as I indicated in my estimates, we are proposing a number of additional offences to be added to those which are now covered. I think that type of program is the correct approach to dealing with first-time young offenders. When one keeps in mind the figures that have been mentioned, that particular program has been a very great success, and we intend to follow up and expand upon it.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, hon. members. The time for question period has expired. Will the Assembly agree to completing this series of questions and supplementaries?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. PIQUETTE: Isn't the Solicitor General worried that by incarcerating 18-year-old young people with 12-, 13-, and 14-year-olds we're perhaps simply creating more permanent types of criminal activity later on, when you look at the high adult native incarceration rate of 28 percent? Are we not simply increasing that rate by mixing up the population between 18 and 12?

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, we don't incarcerate 18-year-olds as young offenders. They are considered adults. The young offender takes in from 12 until 17. I believe our programs and our efforts to move these young offenders out of the institutions onto the alternate measures is significant.

MR. PIQUETTE: A final supplementary. Could the Solicitor General indicate what consultation and co-operation has taken place between the departments of Education, Social Services, and Manpower, for example, to develop better programs for youth who are admitted to facilities to reduce the chance of repeat offenders?

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General works very closely with the Department of Education and the Social Services department. We have a vast array of educational services, vocational training, and postrelease and prerelease training being provided to the young offenders from grades 1 to 12. We're working constantly at updating these particular programs. Most institutions work hand in hand with the school district for the community in which the institution is located. I think we're having great success.

Ministerial Allowances (continued)

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to supplement the answers of the Provincial Treasurer to the hon. Member for Edmonton Meadowlark. His comments regarding ... Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: This comes under the heading of supplementary information given earlier in the day. Therefore, the Chair assumes unanimous consent of the House following upon the declaration yesterday.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. GETTY: I recognize the hon. member will then have a chance to ask his supplemental question that he couldn't get in before, which I'm giving him.

Mr. Speaker, the House has decided in the past that certain people require cars in order to fulfill their responsibilities. We believe the Leader of the Opposition requires one to fulfill his responsibilities. We believe members of the Executive Council do too. I believe the House has decided that the office of the Speaker requires one as well — to perform their responsibilities.

It's no different from the funds that are provided to the Member for Edmonton Meadowlark in research dollars to allow him to fulfill his responsibilities. If the cost of a researcher goes up, we provide additional funds to take care of that price increase. What has happened is that the cost of automobiles has gone up, and there has been an increase to allow for that cost increase. These are not some kind of special personal perks at all, as he was referring to. They are things this Legislative Assembly votes on and approves in order that people can conduct their responsibilities in the manner the House decides they should. We will always continue to provide the hon. member with the dollars he needs to fulfill his responsibility in research and other ways and to other members that the House decides need certain dollars granted by the people of Alberta. I think we should be clear that there is not any special thing being done for somebody.

His reference then, Mr. Speaker, was to ex-cabinet ministers continuing their car allowances. Mr. Speaker, ex-cabinet ministers do not carry their car allowances. If they take on responsibilities that require the provision of an automobile and that's a judgment that's taken, then they are provided. It has nothing to do with the fact that they are ex-cabinet members.

MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Speaker, would I be able to ask my second supplementary as well at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: I'm sorry; just roll it into this, please.

MR. MITCHELL: I think the Premier is missing my point, although I would at some point like to debate the need for cars. The real question is the increase of \$2,000 to ministers' and deputy ministers' car allowances. Is \$17,200 at net of federal taxes not sufficient to purchase a perfectly acceptable, adequate car for doing any kind of government business? Do we need to buy top-of-the-line cars at this time when we should be sending messages to Albertans and to all of those people — every employee — who are responsible for cutting costs? Secondly, can we please see these kinds of decisions being made? Can Treasury Board minutes please be released to the public and to this Legislature so that we can properly evaluate government expenditures which are going on behind closed doors?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, there are no government expenditures carried on behind closed doors. They are all reviewed by the Legislature. They're reviewed afterwards by Public Accounts. Over the years of parliamentary tradition there

have been exhaustive methods provided for the reviewing of government expenditures. The hon. member will appreciate that the longer he is in the House. All of the provisions are there. There are postaudits. There are preaudits. All of the conditions are there to make sure that there are no funds expended without the House being aware of it.

In terms of the increase, Mr. Speaker, it's a judgment that the dollars necessary for a vehicle should match the responsibilities of the individual. They go with the office; they don't go with the person. I suppose the member has a judgment that he would in some way want a car of smaller size or something, but that's a matter of argument. I happen to believe that the people of Alberta want to provide for those people who have responsibilities to carry out important tasks, whether it be the Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, or members of Cabinet. They want them to be able to carry out that task in a manner that they approve of, and that's what we're trying to do. I have no problems with providing to them the funds required for research, the funds required for their vehicles.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

head: COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

[Mr. Gogo in the Chair],

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the Committee of Supply please come to order to discuss the estimates of the Department of Tourism, the Hon. LeRoy Fjordbotten, minister.

Department of Tourism

MR. CHAIRMAN: The estimates are on page 371 of your budget book and 157 in the elements book. The authority for those programs is found on the pages facing the votes. Hon. minister, do you have some opening comments for the committee?

MR. FJORDBOTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman; I do.

Mr. Chairman, because it's a new stand-alone department and because you now have a new minister, I would like to make fairly complete remarks. I won't be doing anything to stretch out the time that I have. However, I'd like to give an overview of the department, and then I would hope that in some way we can look at the subvotes on the basis of each one individually, as I note that we haven't been making a lot of progress on the votes on each one of them. I think it would be something that would be worth while looking at.

Mr. Chairman, on February 6 and again on May 28 of this year the government created a new department to concentrate solely on tourism. It was a department dedicated to increasing the awareness and importance of tourism and its potential as the vital third leg in our economy.

The programs that are currently in place are aggressive ones, and I believe they're very imaginative. I want to compliment my predecessors in the department, Al "Boomer" Adair and Horst Schmid, for the excellent work they did in laying the groundwork or base for me to work with. The potential for tourism in the future of our province, and particularly in diversification, is one area that I think is unparalleled. One comment that's been made is that rec-

ognized world experts state that by the year 2000, tourism will be the number one industry in the world.

Universally, I think we in Alberta are no exception. The tourism industry creates jobs more quickly, generates foreign exchange, and increases public and private revenue more than just about anything else that we can imagine. Last year tourism generated over \$2 billion in revenue and is a lead player in the provincial economy. Tourism provides employment, economic stability and, of increasing importance to this province, as I stated before, diversification of the economy. By building on this already impressive industry, our position and that of the government will be to capitalize on the increasing world demand for tourism destinations.

As a new minister, as I looked at the department and what my priorities would be, I thought it would be important to establish priorities on what kind of direction I was going to take. I would like to take a couple of moments, Mr. Chairman, to talk about those priorities. There are eight of them.

The first one is that it would be my intention to ensure that the department and my office act in a way to support rather than replace the private sector. This is a fundamental commitment to the private sector; it will be a key element in Alberta's tourism activities and is essential to the success of the tourism industry.

The second one, which any new minister would have to say, is that I'm going to learn all the present programs. By learning them, I intend to eliminate the ineffective ones and to enhance the ones that are effective. I intend to be bold, aggressive, and imaginative in establishing goals. I'm going to be guided significantly in my view by the white paper, the position paper that was released in June of 1985. That's the policy statement in response to the white paper, and it's the one on tourism.

The third priority would be to establish a dynamic action plan and to make Alberta a four-season destination both nationally and internationally. That's really important. You can't look at tourism just in the summer months; you have to look at it as a four-season destination on a year-round basis. The way I see doing that is to marshal all the resources in the tourism department, the private sector, and the volunteer sector to work together to make tourism a significant economic factor in Alberta. I think we have to strive to fully develop our tourism potential, working with the private sector as a catalyst, a stimulator, and a strong supporting partner.

The fourth one is to capitalize on significant international events, in particular the 1988 Winter Olympics that will be held in Calgary. I think that will be a great area that we have to capitalize on.

The fifth one is to enhance the present programs and develop new training programs so that the industry will be a career choice of more Albertans, to provide the means for service with excellence to visitors. I am not convinced that young people now see a career ladder in the tourism and hospitality industry. They don't see that career path. If they go into that industry, where do they see themselves going? I think we have to seriously look at enhancing the training programs that we presently have and be imaginative and bold in looking at new ones to establish that.

The sixth one is to facilitate and support the development of a variety of quality facilities, attractions, and events designed to meet the vacation needs of residents and non-resident visitors. I don't think I can expand on that much

more; I think it's quite clear. What we have to do is to assist in providing some infrastructure.

The seventh is an interesting one that I haven't really developed fully yet. I'm convinced that there must be a minister's advisory council on tourism. I think it has to involve a range of organized interests, industrial sectors, and policy matters that are relative to tourism. I think establishing that in a proper way — and I'm not going to be rushed into it. I think it's something that would give that balance for the long term.

The eighth and final one is to examine the goals, roles, and approaches which will govern the allocation of resources and activities in the future, and that has to be consistent with our identification of tourism as a primary economic thrust in the province. Our action plan in co-operation with the private sector will also include upgrading and refurbishing existing facilities and looking at really imaginative marketing and advertising initiatives. People who don't know about us aren't going to come here. I think the groundwork for all of that has already been put in place. I think the base is there.

I've tried to equate tourism with agriculture in some ways. The first thing a good farmer does is to find out where the fences are. Once you have found out where the fences are, you find out what kind of soil you have to work with. After you've checked out the soil, you have to find the wild oat patches and other things that might be there before you make a judgment on where you're going. I think I know where the fences are. I'm not sure about all of the soil quality yet, but we'll work our way through it on a step-by-step basis. I think the groundwork that is there will allow us to take some imaginative steps in the future.

There are two major initiatives that I think will assist us in the development of the industry in 1986 and over the next five years. The first one is the Canada/Alberta subsidiary agreement. That agreement was signed back on May 13, 1985, and is a \$56.3 million cost-shared program to stimulate private-sector investment in Alberta's tourism industry over the next five years. The second one was the release in June 1985 of this position paper on tourism. I think it will provide fundamental direction to the Department of Tourism for its activities over the next five-year period.

Also, members will know that there's recently been a study released, the Alberta Tourism/hospitality education and training study. It provides a suggested framework in which the government and the industry can really work together on comprehensive training in and for the tourism industry.

Looking at all of that in its broad context, it comes back to the one key area, effective marketing, which I think will be the key to success in the department. Some strategies that are either coming up or are in place include the opening of a new Los Angeles office that will cover Los Angeles and the Arizona area to try and get those people to come here as a tourist destination. We're establishing a strategic sales group. We have our international Surprise! it's Alberta campaign. We have our theme, the Take an Alberta Break campaign. I think they are all important elements in our planning, and I'd like to just touch briefly on some of them this morning.

I'd also like to just touch on the tourism destination program and the Travel Alberta zone assistance program, which work closely with the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta and throughout the 14 tourist zones that we have. I think TIAALTA is an important key in co-operation with

what we do as a government. Members should note that we have 19 travel centres in the province. They provide all kinds of information to assist the public in vacation planning. Also, we're setting up a new vacation planning unit to make that even more effective.

The position and policy statement also addresses the need for the development of major festival marketplaces in Edmonton and Calgary. They're developments that I think will provide tourism destination attractions, combining shopping, dining, entertaining, the performing arts, and cultural and historical attractions in a festival atmosphere. I think that is really exciting. Calgary has made significant progress in that area. Edmonton is in the process of looking at it now.

We also have a new market development program which is intended to research and identify markets and tourism opportunities in our province. Integral to that role is the evaluation of our tourism programs to ensure that the public's money is being spent effectively — I think that's really important — as well as the development of strategies in order to penetrate some of those markets. I think we always have to look at the bottom line. Government is often a little different from the private sector, where you have two sides of a ledger sheet. In government you don't have that as clearly defined. I think the dollars spent should be effective in what they're doing. If they're not, they're better targeted somewhere else.

I think in Alberta we've been blessed with a province rich in natural resources, and our terrain is as varied as the people that live within the province. I think it's far easier for us to sell Alberta than just about anywhere else. I go back to the Premier's comments of July 10 in which he said that tourism is one of our natural advantages. I quote:

I've said [this] many times and I suppose members have heard it, but I'll say it again. If you can't sell the beauty of this province, then you can't sell anything.

Another comment he made on tourism is that "we've only scratched the surface." When you look at agriculture and energy as being key cornerstones in our province, the third part of that foundation is tourism. I think we've got the potential if we're willing to get in there and work on it. In my comments this morning, I said that recognized experts have said that by the year 2000 tourism would be the number one industry. Believe you me, the competition is going to be stiff, and we're going to have to be really aggressive if we're going to make sure that we get our share of whatever that potential is in the future.

I think we can market the province in basically three ways. We can market the province by promoting attractions, activities, and events. We have the Rockies, the badlands, and the rugged northern wilderness. We can promote activities such as trail riding, skiing, and white water rafting. People catch our events — who doesn't know about the Calgary Stampede and that it celebrated 100 years? Who doesn't know about the Edmonton Klondike Days that are going on at the moment? And how about all the heritage festivals and Canada Day and rodeo events in just about every hamlet across the province?

When we look at how we can market it, there are basically a number of areas that we have to look at. The Take an Alberta Break campaign is one that I hope members are as excited about as I am, because I think it's been very effective in getting Albertans to take one-, two-, and three-day trips around Alberta. That program was launched on June 2, and I think it really does a lot to get people out

into the beauty of our province to look at our provincial parks and the recreation areas provided by Recreation and Parks.

We have a brochure that went out on great breaks. Personally, I thought it was a little busy, but it is being very well accepted. I thought the layout was a little busy, but the response that is coming back ... Maybe I'm not typical, because the ones that are coming in — there are 200 people a day writing in and asking to be put on a list for subsequent issues. So it's something that is being fairly widely accepted.

If you go through the votes, you'll notice that we have the event assistance program. That's funded by the Department of Tourism and administered by TIAALTA, the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta. We've given grant moneys to some 53 events throughout the province since the first part of June, so that program is also well received. The number of applicants for it is increasing daily, and \$500,000 has been allocated over the next two years.

Many Alberta companies have joined in in offering their own Alberta breaks. You may have noticed that the newspaper this morning — I don't normally read it — talked about a paperboy that was given an award of an Alberta break at a function. There was a great article in the paper about that and showing examples of what private-sector companies are doing to promote Take An Alberta Break by having certain events and things that would be helpful.

The Surprise program: I'm wearing a Surprise pin, and I sent one over to a few members. In order to get this pin, you have to take our course in tourism, but I told the department that I think MLAs are all good promoters and that we don't have time to go to school. If anyone wants one, I have one for you, but don't try and get a supply of them. You're only going to get one, unless you want to send your people to take a course through Alberta Tourism. I have a little bag in my desk, so I'll be happy to send some around if you're interested. [interjection] One member says that we're in school now. That's true; I guess we are. The Surprise! it's Alberta theme is being used on all our out-of-province advertising. It's really strange; a lot of people know where Canada is or have heard about Canada, but they don't know about Alberta.

AN HON. MEMBER: It's because of the rain.

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Probably it's because of the rain. When I was in Agriculture, it wouldn't rain; now I'm in Tourism, and it's raining. They say in politics that if it turns out right, you're supposed to take credit for it; if it goes wrong, you blame it on somebody else. It seems like I'm one year late on it.

What we're trying to do with the Surprise campaign is to encourage people to come here by advertising great events and saying, "Where is this great event? Surprise! It's in Alberta." I think that has great potential for the future. Various opportunities — shopping and a host of other surprises that Alberta has to offer — are promoted in that way.

One of the areas that I noted when going through the budget was that advertising has increased significantly. In the in-Alberta campaign as well as the increased advertising in California and the Pacific Rim area, advertising costs have certainly gone up, as reflected in the votes in my budget. I should mention that through research we are constantly monitoring the effectiveness of those expenditures on advertising. The research not only provides us with

feedback on how our campaigns are performing but also suggests how we can improve our advertising expenditures to get the biggest bang for the buck in the marketplace. I think it's important not to advertise just for the sake of advertising; let's make sure that what we're spending is effective.

As I stated, a new travel office will be opened in Los Angeles in August of this year. In May we had the strategic sales group. I should just mention that one for a moment. We're going to employ new and innovative marketing techniques to increase the number of tourists and tourism dollars coming into the province. There had to be someone who was targeting and focussing on just that, and that's basically what the strategic sales group is about.

I don't know how many have been to Expo, but we're also taking advantage of Expo by trying to lure those people to Alberta. I would just like to run over a couple of things we're doing that I think are very interesting that maybe members aren't aware of. We've worked out a deal with Pacific Western Airlines which offers free stopovers in Alberta on the way to Vancouver. That gets them to stop here and shop, go to Calgary, or whatever they're going to do. They're losing money by doing that, so we had to work out an arrangement with them that we would pick up a portion of the cost. It's a good thing for the few dollars that are spent. I think our expenditure to allow people to stop here and do that is \$60,000 out of a total cost of \$120,000 to Pacific Western Airlines. I think the multiplying effect of getting those people here is far greater than that. At least that's what I'm led to believe at this point; we'll certainly be monitoring that closer.

We have an electronic advertising program aimed at Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Pacific Northwest to encourage people to stop here. We're also involved in a consortia program with Saskatchewan and Manitoba aimed at Ontario and eastern Canada called On the Road to Expo. When you're at Expo, you will notice that their theme is Super Natural British Columbia. We have billboards up which will run throughout the period that Expo is on called Beyond the Supernatural, which is coming to Alberta. I think all those things will help attract our share of Expo traffic.

The pavilion at Expo is under the Deputy Premier under Public Affairs. But in my budget we have 10 people at our travel centre, and those 10 counsellors are going to be there throughout the period of Expo. Our office out there is open from ten in the morning until ten at night. You might find it interesting that up to 20,000 people a day are currently passing through the Alberta pavilion, with up to 25,000 a day expected throughout the peak periods. By the end of June, 700,000 visitors had already gone through the pavilion. I think that's a tremendous opportunity to give them some exposure to Alberta.

One other area we are moving on that you'll find unique is that we're going to take a test-centre approach and open some of our travel centres year-round. If we're trying to target for a four-season destination, you have to have your travel centres open, so we're doing it for six of them soon. The Canmore and Calgary information centres commenced year-round operation in May of this year. Centres at Milk River, Fort Macleod, Field, and Walsh will be considered for year-round operation in 1987. The reason for that centres around the consideration being given to the Olympics and a number of other events. The status of whether or not they'll remain open — there have been some criteria established to find out if it's worth while. Some of the criteria

are the number of visiting parties and the nature and quality of the visitors' inquiries. The operating costs are included with that to make sure it's cost-effective.

Since the first of the year the department has been extremely busy. Phone-in and write-in inquiries have been up 60 percent over last year, believe it or not, and walk-in traffic has seen a 21 percent increase. From January to April there were over 33,000 phone calls on Alberta's toll-free lines, approximately 68,000 mail-in requests, and 1,800 visited the Edmonton office. So far this year 800,000 Alberta road maps have been handed out, 600,000 Accommodation Guides, and 500,000 Alberta Touring Guides. Under consideration is redeveloping of a number of high-volume travel centres to meet the volume there.

Also something that I worked on yesterday — I don't know if she's up there, but Sharon Anderson, who is one of our great security guards, asked me if I had any colouring books in my department for her kids. I found out that I didn't, and I thought: why are we missing the boat on this? The kids will encourage the parents to visit attractions if we have some colouring books. So I've got the department now working on a fast track to try and get some colouring books for kids. That will be under Take an Alberta Break and the Surprise program, so maybe we'll put a little pressure on some of the parents to take their kids out to the different attractions they've coloured in their book.

MR. TAYLOR: Also handy for the rest of the cabinet.

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: We'll have to come out with an elementary and a senior edition, I guess.

One area that we're working on too is attracting business travellers. The conference and marketing section of the marketing division is working on trying to attract international and U.S. business meetings and conventions to choose Alberta as a location. A joint marketing team has been formed including the Department of Tourism, the Calgary Convention Centre, the Calgary Tourist and Convention Bureau, and the Edmonton Convention and Tourism Authority, and they're going to co-ordinate the communication and marketing efforts directed to the U.S. association markets. I think they are going to be very successful in their approach.

I understand that we have an Alberta meetings market survey under way at the moment that will provide insight and statistics relative to the nature and distribution of those meetings, so it will be helpful to groups that want to go after certain meetings. Another area is a lead development system and a small experimental computerized system for tracking and gathering intelligence on convention and meeting leads so that we can make sure we're there to encourage them to come to Alberta to hold their meetings. We've also engaged in meeting professionals in marketing and sales in Europe and Washington, D.C. to make sure we're doing all that we can to try and tap into that market.

Training is really a vital link, hon. members. In the throne speech debate on June 18, the hon. Member for Edmonton Belmont said that the only course he could find in the NAIT calendar which related to tourism and hospitality was a travel adviser course. I'd like to point out that NAIT also provides training in business administration covering food and beverages, business administration in accommodation, commercial and apprentice cook, commercial and apprentice baker, and retail meat cutting. We also have a variety of courses at SAIT, the community colleges, the Alberta Vocational Centres, the community vocational centres, the education consortiums in Blairmore and Hinton, and the

province's universities. So there are many areas where there is training now taking place, but let's not forget that what we're trying to do is to make sure the training we're providing will create a career path for young people.

Many members have the training study; it's called the ATHET study and is now out there. One of the recommendations to the minister was that there be public forums held to analyze the data that came out of that study and to make sure that we come up with an action plan. That process will start in September. How do the words go? — paralysis by analysis. That isn't the process that we're going to be in; we're moving forward, but we want to make sure that there's an opportunity to get as much input as we can.

We have also put out some films. Members would be interested in coming over to the department sometime and looking at some of the films we have. We now have films that are shown to Chamber groups and community organizations and associations throughout the province. One of the presentations highlights the importance of tourism and the benefits it can have to the community. The second film that is shown to them concentrates on the many services and areas of program support that are available to each one of those community leaders in developing areas in their own communities.

There have been a number of areas — I know the hon. Member for Cardston has been concerned about the customs officers, and really, some of them have been less than helpful. The hon. member will be happy to know that we are now working with the customs officers and Immigration and have developed a program specifically for them. I'll be happy to respond to that further if members are interested. We've now found that that is so successful in making sure those customs officers recognize that they are tourism ambassadors — they're the first person that someone sees when they come into this country, and if they aren't treating people well, there's a bad taste in their mouths thereafter. The program is so successful that I'm working in co-operation with the federal government and they're now looking at broadening that even further than Alberta. I compliment the department on how they worked to put that together.

You'll note that part of my budget allocates \$600,000 a year to the travel zone assistance program for administration and promotional activities in the 14 tourism zones in the province. You'll find it interesting to note that the senior citizens tourism employment program is also part of that. Through that program we're providing another \$50,000 in matching funds. They can hire senior citizens as information counsellors or at community tourism centres, or they can be interpretive guides or administrative assistants in their zone offices, so we're getting some ambassadors and the senior citizens are also involved.

The Canada/Alberta tourism agreement: I mentioned the other day in the House that some 3,000 copies of the agreement kit have been requested and sent out. As of June 1, 1986, 191 applications have been received on that program.

Regarding the involvement of the Department of Tourism in Nakiska and the Mount Allan ski area. Mr. Chairman, our role was really to establish it and get it put together. Then it went to Recreation and Parks, who signed the lease agreements that were necessary. We worked together to make sure that those facilities are in place and are worldclass.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, before we go to some of the votes, hopefully, where I can have the opportunity to respond to some of the questions, I would remind members of my

opening remarks wherein I established that the priorities, as I see them, are that we have to be bold, aggressive, and imaginative. The department is dedicated to increasing an awareness of the importance of tourism and to developing this vital third leg of our economy.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to sneak one more minute — I don't think anyone would argue that much — to say that we've been bold, and one of the points I'd like to raise is that there has been a 148.3 percent increase, to more than \$39 million. This also reflects an increase of 115 permanent full-time positions. Manpower is 8 percent of the total increase in the department's budget and 92 percent is for program delivery; I think that's very effective.

Mr. Chairman, I'd be happy to go through the different votes and answer questions from members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members of the committee, reference was made by the minister regarding the rain. The powers of this Assembly are somewhat immense; however, no amendment will be entertained dealing with a change in the weather.

We have a list of some dozen people. I'll indicate those who've shown an indication that they wish to ask the minister questions in this vote, and then I'll call the members in their proper order: Cardston, Belmont, Westlock-Sturgeon, Athabasca, Ponoka-Rimbey, Calder, Glengarry, Mill Woods, Banff-Cochrane, Strathcona, and Calgary Mountain View.

Secondly, this is probably a unique vote in that there is only one vote in this department, so all comments and questions will be related to the vote, which perhaps, depending on the members, we will reach today.

MR. ADY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make some points relative to the estimates from this department. I'd like to note that three of the four border entries coming into this province from the United States border on my constituency, and that two of those ports of entry access the very popular tourist attraction known as the Going to the Sun Highway. That highway comes through the heart of Glacier National Park on the United States side. The south end of that highway is only a dozen miles south of the international boundary and is really quite accessible, with reasonably good roads into Canada, but we don't seem to be doing a very good job of enticing the high number of tourists that come over that highway. I'm told that the number of cars coming over that highway ranks up to a million, and we probably get only 8 percent coming on into Canada.

I'm hopeful that the minister will see fit to devise some new programs that will entice the tourists that travel that highway on into Canada, through some type of high-profile advertising campaign. I believe that can be done effectively at St. Mary's, which is where the highway terminates and is just a few miles south of the border. It would mean that we would perhaps have to set up some type of office there in conjunction with what the government of Montana might let us do. I'm not sure how that works.

The other thing that I think is important is the need to offer some type of major tourist attraction immediately across the border so that tourists don't feel as if they have to travel 250 miles when they leave that major tourist attraction in order to find another one. It just so happens that I have such a major tourist attraction in mind, the Remington Carriage collection, which the people in my constituency would certainly like to see put into place. To give a little background on that, this tourist attraction would feature the famous Remington collection, which is valued at about a

million dollars. The other good thing about it is that it's a world-class collection, ranked with the top three on the continent. The thing that makes it more valuable than anything is that Mr. Remington has offered to donate this collection to the province, based on the one condition that the province is prepared to put in place a proper facility to display it.

A proposal is being prepared and will be presented to the Department of Culture within just a few weeks that this be established as an interpretative centre. In fact, it would be a major tourist attraction which would introduce the United States' tourists, plus those coming from the east and west in Canada, to the type of tourist facilities that we're prepared to offer in Alberta. It is not many miles — I believe probably 40 — from there to the Head-Smashed-In buffalo tourist attraction which is being completed. From there it's not many miles to the attraction of Crowsnest Pass. My point is that this would offer an excellent opportunity for us to provide a tourist attraction of a major type for U.S. tourists to have early access to.

I might mention that this same Remington Carriage collection has provided horse-drawn carriages for royalty to ride in when they've come to the Calgary Stampede or other major attractions in Canada. So we're not trying to indicate that we've got some small, Mickey Mouse thing there. We have something that would certainly enhance our tourist trade in Alberta.

We were fortunate to have the Premier tour the attraction earlier this summer. Our understanding is that he was certainly impressed with it. We were able to have him ride in a carriage, and hopefully we can expect his support for this project.

The other thing that I would like to speak to for just a moment — the minister did allude to it, and I appreciate the initiatives that he's taken in trying to cure a problem that has prevailed at the ports of entry bordering Montana for many years on the Canadian side. That has to do with the negative attitude to tourists coming into our country that has come across from our customs officers. I believe that has impacted negatively on our tourist trade.

I'm sure that people who come there and are treated less than courteously decline to come to Canada again. They go home, and the rippling effect on that is significant. I'm sure they're going to say to all their relatives and friends and anyone they come in contact with who may ask them what their trip to Canada was like, "Don't go, because you'll wish you hadn't when you get to the border. They treat you so shabbily that you just wouldn't want to go through that."

Let me give you a couple of examples of some of the things that have happened and have been drawn to my attention. Tourists have come to the Canadian customs office and have been interrogated rather heavily, and as near as I can tell, without just cause. They're asked: "Have you ever been convicted of a drunken driving charge?" The tourist is sitting there dead sober. There is no reason for him to be asked that question. He has already been asked the questions: "Do you have alcohol in the car? How many packages of cigarettes?" They've passed that test.

A case was brought to my attention not long ago where the tourist answered that he had been convicted five years ago. They said, "I'm sorry, we can't allow you into Canada," and he was turned back. The next day he came back to the port. He phoned some people that he knew in Canada, and they met him at the port. After a lot of

discussion he was allowed into Canada. Nothing had changed; the man had still had a conviction five years prior.

The other thing that has come to my attention is that often the customs officers see fit to do a search on a vehicle, and I agree that this is sometimes necessary. Clothes are delved into and, again, I'll go along with that, but the thing that I object to is that too often clothes and contents of cars are strewn all over the car and out onto the pavement. The customs officer picks up and walks back into the custom's office, leaving the tourist with the job of cleaning up what he saw fit to strew all over. I think that's less than we should expect from people who are civil servants and have a responsibility to provide a good image to people coming into our country. I certainly applaud the initiative of our minister in trying to do something about that and getting our customs officers onside with us.

Another thing that has happened in the past is that there have been initiatives taken by towns on the downstream side of customs to provide employment for youth going out to the customs office during the day, during the tourist season, and passing out brochures telling of the tourist attractions immediately downstream and clear across the province, probably at least as far north as Edmonton. Apparently those young people were hassled so badly by the customs people that it was felt by the local Chambers of Commerce and the other businessmen who were sponsoring the program that they had to discontinue it. They couldn't subject their young people to that kind of harassment. I think it's disappointing on our part to have that sort of thing happening and having the negative impact on our tourist industry that it will.

I told the local businessmen that I would bring this point to the attention of the minister and the House in the hope that we could have that corrected and they could perhaps reinstate that program and thereby provide employment for probably up to a dozen youths during the summer and also enhance the tourist industry.

I believe that takes care of the comments that I had. I certainly endorse the initiatives of the new tourism department, and I believe that it has a great deal of potential for enhancing the economic situation in our province.

Thank you.

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Chairman, I normally would wait until after before responding, but would it be all right if I just respond quickly to some of the questions raised by the hon. member?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, it's in your hands.

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: The Member for Cardston mentioned the Going to the Sun Highway, and he should be aware that there have been discussions with an individual by the name of John Wilson under Travel Montana and Alberta under the Montana boundary advisory committee. We're really looking at new programs to create a circle tour concept that will take place between towns in Montana and Alberta to try to attract them to Alberta.

When I was in Agriculture, I worked and had a number of meetings with Governor Schwinden from Montana, who is a great friend of Alberta. I think we were able to start some co-operative movements that were helpful to both of us. I see this carrying over into Tourism, and I intend to push very hard to see that there's a more co-operative arrangement between the tourist industry in Montana and

Alberta so that we can attract some of those tourists here. I think those comments were very important.

The Remington Carriage collection is part of our travel counselling bank of information and is available at tourist information centres, and I'm encouraging people to have a look. I was there in Cardston when the Premier made his positive comments toward being very supportive of the Remington collection. I know that there is a lot more work that needs to be done, but I am also very supportive of that as a direction that we need to take to attract tourists to that area.

Recognizing the American tourists that come in, we also have a travel information centre at St. Mary's, which is really to catch the tourists and divert that traffic to the different attractions we have in Alberta and to try and take good care of them. I see where that needs to be enhanced.

One other comment the hon. member raised was about customs. At the international airports in Calgary and Edmonton, we have completed a program with tourism inspectors, and it's been very, very positive. We are now in the process of completing those during the month of July at the other border points. The response has been excellent, and I know those customs officials are to be complimented on the approach they are taking on the recognition that they are tourist ambassadors for Alberta.

MR. SIGURDSON: Before I get under way, Mr. Chairman, I want to refer back to what the minister said in his opening remarks about his role in Agriculture and how he's now back in Tourism. When he was in Agriculture I was an executive assistant, and it was always good working with your department. I'm sure he will carry the definition of a farmer into the Department of Tourism; that is, he will be a man outstanding in his field.

Mr. Chairman, the Alberta tourism sector generates over \$2 billion in direct revenue and another \$600 million in spin-offs. In the position and policy statement on tourism, there is indicated a need to develop the tourism industry in Alberta in order to create jobs and further diversify the economy. We on this side of the House truly welcome that position. In order to achieve this goal, the government must develop a long-term strategy that incorporates regional development, educational needs, transportation requirements, regulatory control and, indeed, higher wages in the industry.

During this fiscal year the government will be spending some \$39 million on Tourism. That's just a little more than one-third of 1 percent of the total budget of the government. This pales in comparison to Energy at \$101 million and Agriculture at \$434 million. But it's a significant increase over last year's figures, an increase of 146 percent, and twice as much as the government in the province of British Columbia, which has a very strong tourist industry, is spending this year as well. We have high hopes that we will realize the return that comes with spending that amount of money.

I'd like to start at the very first section of the budget, and that's to deal with the minister's office. In vote 1.1.1 there's an increase of 66.2 percent. Could the minister explain the increase? Is that in staffing or in the purchase of fixed assets? Can you assure the House that such a large increase is necessary for the operation of the department? In vote 1.1.4 under the administration division we see an amazing increase of 143.8 percent, which is understandable given that the increase in administration is necessary due to the large budget increase. However, given that the government has said that it wants to be more streamlined

and more effective and more efficient, this seems to counter that assertion. Can the minister explain why the increase is so large? Can you assure us that we're not just adding layer upon layer to bureaucracy in the department?

As I go through this, in vote 1.2.2, market development and analysis, we have an increase of 98.7 percent, which includes research programs, evaluation, and industry analysis. With a budget that has doubled in size, could the minister outline what areas of market research and development are planned for this year and why it requires such a substantial increase in the budget? We wonder if a need has been shown for the research and analysis and, if so, who has identified the need. Has it come from industry, or has it come from government? Vote 1.2.3, facility and product development, has an increase of 237.9 percent. This is a substantial increase in this particular budget. Obviously, the minister is planning to do an awful lot of work in that area, but I'd like a breakdown of how much of this budget is going specifically for the Olympic games and how much is going to develop the variety of other tourist areas in Alberta.

There is a need for regional development of the tourist industry in Alberta. A lot of money has been spent over the past decade in the cities of Edmonton and Calgary, specifically in the areas of the Commonwealth Games in 1978, the Universiade Games in Edmonton in 1983, and the initial spending for the preparation of the Winter Olympic games to be held in Calgary in 1988. The Olympics is, I suppose, another tourist megaproject that will bring in a lot of short-term investment and will probably shock the tourism infrastructure. If we look at Expo in Vancouver and the major megaproject that is in terms of the tourist industry in that province and address some of the concerns operators in the hospitality industry outside of the lower mainland have, in that they have lost some of their tourist dollars, I'd like to ask the minister if he or the department has considered looking at the possible negative impact that a major world-class event such as the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary might have on regional tourist industries. I think we have to develop other regions in the province to make sure that the focus of the dollar is not spent just at the Olympic site.

One of the areas that is of some concern for travel within the province is the provincial highways system. The minister for the Department of Transportation and Utilities noted in his budget estimates on July 7 that 85 percent of the primary highways and 33 percent of the secondary road system in this province are already paved. I contend that's just not enough to attract tourists into areas accessed by secondary roads. For example, Highway 64 in the Peace River country is in very, very beautiful country, but boy, there are rotten roads. You travel from one end to the other on that highway, and by the time you get to the other end, you need a new windshield. I don't think that's the kind of attraction we can offer to tourists coming into our province. Will the minister be evaluating the need for a better road system to encourage more tourist travel into these regions? Will the minister be meeting with the Minister of Transportation and Utilities to discuss the long-term and short-term plans of the two departments so that they complement one another?

Vote 1.2.4 is industry relations and training. The minister made mention of what I had said in my maiden speech, the fact that we require more formal education to attract people into tourism as a career. Clearly, there is a requirement for further postsecondary training in the hospitality

industry, and yes, I have since gone through a number of other calendars and have found that there are some programs available. At the University of Alberta there is at this very moment a course developed in hotel and motel management — this is according to the faculty of economics — but they have no money to run the program. This would be for a bachelor of arts in recreation, a four-year program. That's the kind of thing we've got to be looking at and making a priority as well, I think. The Alberta Tourism/Hospitality Industry Education and Training Needs Study clearly pointed out that we have to have formal training for managers. This program offered by the University of Alberta would be a good start to that end. Will the minister be working with the Minister of Advanced Education to try and get some of the funding for the educational needs of the tourism industry?

In the marketing division, vote 1.3.1, administration support, there's an overall increase of 57.6 percent. More than one-third of the division's costs are going to be spent on administration. Given that the market division is experiencing an overall increase of 39.6 percent, will the minister explain why the administrative support area is increasing at a much faster rate, that of 57.6 percent? I'm wondering also what part of this increase goes to staff pay increases, to new staff, and to fixed assets and supplies.

In meeting and conference marketing — that's vote 1.3.2 — we see a decrease of 22.8 percent. That's a bit alarming in that with convention centres and business facilities available in Alberta, why are we moving away from some of the marketing in the area? In vote 1.3.3 there's an increase of 6.6 percent in leisure travel; that's very good. In vote 1.3.4, vacation planning, the increase is 99.4 percent; that's very good. Travel information services: there's an increase of .8 percent. But the total of those three areas amounts to \$6,205,530 or 16 percent of the total tourism budget. As more than one-half of tourism revenue comes from out-of-province visitors, it is important that there is a lot of marketing activity in the area. However, in the three sections I just mentioned, only 16 percent is to the entire out-of-province tourist — 99.4 percent looks very good. The actual overall increase in dollars is only \$372,560. I wonder why the minister hasn't allocated more money to the very important area of tourism development.

In the office that has opened in Los Angeles and in other areas, maybe we can look at promoting a tax-free holiday. We have no gasoline tax, no sales tax. When I talked with the person from the Alberta Motor Association who had contacted partners in California and Oregon, the people in the AAA were not aware of Alberta as being a tax-free province. Perhaps that's one area we ought to look at.

The in-Alberta campaign, vote 1.3.6: the increase of 374.5 percent is very good. We have a relatively tough time in Alberta with our own economic situation, and Albertans are experiencing the recession, the depression and will still want to holiday somewhere. The program looks good. I'm glad to see the increase. On those rare occasions that I have the opportunity to watch a little bit of television, I still see a few more of the beautiful British Columbia ads or the supernatural ads. Maybe we can look forward to seeing a few more. I also see a number of ads coming in from Saskatchewan, and they seem to be taking up an awful lot of air time on television. Alberta has a lot more to offer than Saskatchewan does.

Also, if we promote travel within Alberta, we'll find that Albertans will become travel ambassadors as well and

take the opportunity when they go out of province again to spread the message of what a wonderful place we are.

In the position and policy statement on tourism, which came out in June of '85, the government stated that it will continue its efforts to remove or modify concerns relating to the hospitality sector's policies and regulations. Straightforward, simple yet effective regulations are required. If we are to maintain standards of quality that will place Alberta's Tourism facilities among the best in the world, and keep them there, we must have the regulations that will control the quality of service provided to [our visitors].

Whether assisting the industry through grants for development or suggestions for change, we need to provide straightforward information. The hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane recently raised a concern in the House over the complexity of the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement applications. The recent roller coaster accident at West Edmonton Mall has raised some concerns over safety regulations concerning amusement parks. Can the minister please outline what measures are being taken to review the regulations that affect the tourism industry to ensure that they are up to date as per the developments occurring in this area and written so as to ensure that a high service quality will be provided to the tourists visiting Alberta?

The minister stated that he would like to see more people, more Albertans, make the hospitality industry a career choice. Indeed, the studies do suggest that tourism by the year 2000 will become one of the largest employers. At present the industry has 100,000 positions for Albertans. Of these 73,000 are full-time. It's fourth in generating revenues for this province, bringing in about \$2 billion annually and, as I said earlier, an additional \$600 million in spin-offs. It is an important area for the Alberta economy to be diversifying into and to provide direction and funds for development in potential growth areas.

However, although we know that this industry creates a lot of employment, we must stop and examine for a moment the quality of the employment it creates. Employees in this industry generally work in hotels, restaurants, tourist information booths, and other tourist facilities. The wages are quite low, and the benefits are few if provided at all.

MR. HERON: Like politicians.

MR. SIGURDSON: Something like that. Waiters and waitresses make \$4.40 an hour in this province, or that's the average. That's approximately \$755 a month or \$9,060 a year. The poverty line is \$9,800 for a single person and some \$20,000 for a family of four. Clerks in retail outlets make about the same amount of money; so do busboys, bartenders, and a number of other areas. Housekeepers in hotels don't fare much better, earning an average wage of \$5.30 an hour. A person would have to remain single to survive on these wages. For a family of four to cross the poverty line, they would have to become a supervisor or a specialist chef. Relatively few positions are available in these areas, and often additional training is required. If we are going to get into career choices for Albertans, we have to make tourism attractive and that means looking very seriously at the wages we provide for people in the area.

In wrapping up, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister a couple of points on the appointment of one individual. I'm sure this person falls under the minister's department, in that she will be co-ordinating a human resource development for a series of public forums on

training in the tourism industry; that is the former Member for St. Albert. I'm wondering what qualifications she brings to the position and why the job wasn't in an open competition.

There's a facility in the area of Jossard that would like to open as a tourist destination. They have proposed putting up a marina and a lookout site on a mountain that I suppose is yet unnamed. There's access readily available. It's seven miles off Highway 2. They're looking for some funds and wondering how they go about it. I've talked with the Minister of Recreation and Parks, and he's guided me in some areas, but if you have any information I would appreciate having that.

A couple more comments, very briefly. With regard to the Olympic games, I'm told that accommodations are at a premium already and that hotels and motels in Calgary and Canmore are already fully booked. With 3,000 media rooms booked and 5,000 officials going to attend the games, there doesn't seem to be very much left for tourists. If the minister would comment on that, I'd appreciate it.

There seems to be minimal advertising, although there is a large increase, as I noted. I'm wondering how much for the in-Alberta campaign, vote 1.3.6. There seem to be minimal amounts going to some special festivals. The city of Edmonton spends \$51,000 on Jazz City. How much do we contribute to try and draw people in for that? For the fringe festival — that's something we ought to open up to not only people that live in Edmonton but people that live outside the borders of Alberta. Heritage Day, children's festival, Summerfest, folk festival: how much is the province contributing to advertising those tourist attractions?

Finally, I saw one program — they hope to actively twin a few more cities and open up markets with China. The Chinese have an interest in having more exchanges. It's a potential area for Alberta, and it's one we ought to regard. Because even if we have but one-half of 1 percent of the Chinese market allowed to travel, that's some 5 million people, and that's clearly a market we ought to tap. So I don't know if we can twin more cities or what we do to attract good people from China to our wonderful province so that they would have a grand holiday in wild and rugged Alberta. Perhaps the minister would like to comment on these.

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Chairman, I think I'll respond to a couple of those if ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, before you speak, the Chair would make the observation that the committee must rise within 25 minutes. There are at least 12 members of the committee wishing to pose questions to the minister. The Chair would make the observation that if those members would anticipate any answers from the minister, the odds are somewhat remote unless questions are put, as opposed to long detailed speeches. However, the *Standing Orders* make provision for each member to speak up to 30 minutes. I would just make that comment to members of the committee so they're aware of the restrictions both on the committee and the minister. Mr. Minister?

MR. FJORDBOTTEN: Mr. Chairman, one of the areas I know all hon. members may have some difficulty with when they go through the budget of the Department of Tourism is trying to understand where everything fits. The difficulty with that is that when you establish a stand-alone department that used to be part of another department — they shared

administrative staff and everything — when you make it stand alone, you of course have some rejuggling of advertising and administrative budgets that are cross-referenced between them all.

Mr. Chairman, I likely won't respond to all the questions of the hon. members until the end of my remarks when I close the debate on it, but I'd like to raise a couple of issues. One is the \$39 million budget for the Department of Tourism. It looks like a terrific increase, but you have to remember that \$15,385,510 of that is the Canada/Alberta subsidiary agreement, and that is the amount of dollars that will flow in this next year, '86-87, toward that, which will go to a variety of projects across the province. So really tying it into the budget — it shows up in the budget, but it still isn't in any way discretionary income for the minister to work with. The increase in the minister's office is in most case reflected in now being a stand-alone department and having to try and put that together.

Also included in this was the former minister's requirement, when he established the budget, for a number of major missions to some of the markets we've targeted that would be ones where our tourism potential is very significant. For example, I had the ambassador from Australia in the other day saying that we don't do a very good job in Australia, because they have a tremendous potential for tourists that would like to come here, but they don't know anything about us because we haven't been aggressive in doing something about that. That is something I'm looking at.

On what direction we could go: I'm not going on a mission just for the sake of a mission. I went on a number of them in agriculture; they had to have strict objectives, and we met those objectives. China, for example, in particular mainland China, is one that I probably won't go to. I see the tourism potential as fairly minimal from there. Even though there is a lot of population, they don't have that much discretionary income. So the chances of their travelling — I don't really see that, even though I have been there to our twin province, Heilongjiang. I don't see that as a terrific market for us. However, Hong Kong is one that I do see as a market. As well, Australia, Japan, the United States, and several European countries, I think, are something we would have to target for.

In with the budget increase, of course, is to allow the minister to establish an office with a couple of secretaries and an executive assistant. Also, it's been my practice to make sure that someone from my office is in the department so that there is co-ordination of correspondence that goes back and forth. I've always prided myself that through my ministerial responsibility, I got back the fastest answers and the most accurate ones possible, and I would intend to do that. I don't intend to put in staff just for the sake of having staff.

But I find the budget realistic. If it's not, we'll know next year, and I can readjust the direction to my own liking, but I feel comfortable as I go through it.

You've looked at a number of increases. One that was mentioned was the administrative division, 143 percent increase. There are several new initiatives in the tourism market; for example, the Los Angeles office, the festival marketplaces downtown in each of the cities, the Alberta campaign in the subsidiary agreement. They all need support to put that together, and that's why you will see an increase in the administrative portion of that particular one. Also, recognizing it's a stand-alone department, there will be an increase of eight permanent positions or 10 man-years that

are included in that, so that would be reflected in some way of trying to administer those particular programs. I go back to make hon. members aware again that 8 percent or less of the total budget is in administrative areas; it's all in program delivery.

The market development and analysis raised by the member in vote 1.2: a 98 percent increase is reflected in research and analysis. We are analyzing what we're spending on different campaigns, for example. We want to make sure the dollars are well spent. So there is a small portion of money for that as well as market development and identifying markets and how we could tap into those, programming relative to the Pacific-Asia travel association, and our bid to hold the 1990 conference is also included in that portion of the budget.

The member raised another area that I think is worthy of comment at this point; that is, the quality of employment. The entry point for many young people into tourism is at the low point, but we have to remember that they don't always stay there, if they stay in the industry. It's an entry point, and they go on to get substantial increases in wages — for example, as chefs, in hotel management, and as managers — if they stay in. The entry point is lower, but I think we can enhance that significantly by having better training so that the people who are trained and get those jobs would of course thereby get an increase in the amount of salary they would receive.

The member asked about the former Member for St. Albert, Myrna Fyfe. Myrna Fyfe was hired under a one-year contract position, and she will be co-ordinating the public input process for the Tourism/Hospitality Industry Education and Training Needs Study. She had applied for another position within the department, and when they looked at her qualifications, they brought it to my attention. I have been on select committees with Mrs. Fyfe and know how she is capable of chairing things. The industry association I met with the other day is very excited about her being chosen. She has a background as a local adviser in Indian and northern affairs, a community volunteer and instructor, and a teacher in native communities. I wanted to see that there was a balance right across the province, and I was excited that she is on, not in a permanent position but in a contract position for one year.

Mr. Chairman, I think I'll stop there. I will answer more of the hon. member's questions at the end of my remarks.

MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman, I have a few brief comments. I would like to begin by thanking the Minister of Tourism for his frank and sincere response to our questions to this point. That's greatly appreciated and, I believe, reflects well his grasp of his department.

Several things. First of all, the Kananaskis project: I am referring to the contract with Mr. Ghitter to establish that deal. There are a number of facts concerning that contract which I would appreciate the minister revealing to the House. Could he confirm that Mr. Ghitter was hired on or about November 14 when the announcement was made? Secondly, could he confirm that the deal was finalized on or about December 6 when the deal was announced? That represents about 15 to 17 working days of 1985 — let's say 16 days. Could he keep that in mind when assessing what we paid to Mr. Ghitter, and could he please inform the House what Mr. Ghitter was paid for putting this deal together? It would be interesting for us to know, given 16 days work, how much he was paid per day as it were. It

was announced at the time by the minister's predecessor that Mr. Ghitter was paid normal legal fees. That's a vague kind of assertion, and it would be to the advantage of this House to have that clarified.

I would ask as well for an assessment of what went into putting that deal together. Our information is that Financial Trustco now has the lead role in building the hotel. My information further is that Financial Trustco was involved in an earlier deal that was refused. My question therefore is: was there much involved in putting the deal together, and were Mr. Ghitter's services all that necessary, particularly since this thing could be put together by him in 15, 16, or 17 days? This is important quality of expenditure, responsible fiscal expenditure information, and if we could have it before the House, it would be appreciated. I know it's a written question, but it doesn't seem to me to be very difficult to xerox a contract and present it.

I know that one of the objections to doing that is the need for keeping that kind of information confidential. My feeling is that when somebody receives sums of money for dealing with the government, clearly it becomes part of the public domain. If we don't accept that, then we're placing one principle — that is, the right to that individual's privacy — over the right of the population of Alberta to know the manner in which their money is being spent and how effectively and responsibly it's being spent. So if you could present that publicly, that would be tremendous.

I would like to encourage the minister in his comments on a school for tourism. My contacts in the tourism industry suggest that that is an excellent idea. I would also like to encourage the minister on his initiative or at least his focus — I'm not exactly certain how extensive it is yet — on the idea of a loop concept of Edmonton-Jasper-Banff-Calgary. There are several principles or ideas I would like to present. We believe that in order to emphasize the tourist potential for that kind of loop concept, moderate, interesting accommodation is required. Youth hostels: I was at the Castle Mountain junction some time ago at a time that youth hostel should have been open, and it wasn't. We would also encourage a policy of bed and breakfast development. I would leave that with the minister to consider the details, funding, and so on. But bed and breakfasts are of course an integral part of the European tourist industry. They represent an excellent small business potential for this province, and it also makes tourism and travel much more attractive because of the moderate costs related.

I would like to emphasize — and I think everybody in this House knows — that we have some tremendous tourist potential in that loop area. We have world-class ski resorts, of course, and world-class scenery. We should — and I think the minister already agreed with this — do whatever we can to emphasize it.

One idea that I think hasn't been enough given play or thought in the province is the question of the quality of golf courses in that loop. There are four world-class golf courses: Jasper, Banff, Kananaskis and, less known — although I'm sure it is to the members from Red Deer — the Wolf Creek Golf Course, which is an Alberta enterprise, built by an Alberta family, designed by a world-class Alberta golf course designer. It is ranked as one of the two most difficult golf courses in the country.

AN HON. MEMBER: Have you ever golfed?

MR. MITCHELL: I don't play much golf. But the time I played that, I can confirm it. It does represent a tremendous

tourist attraction. Pacific Rim countries have an interest in golfing. These are world-class, outstanding golf courses that are independent and present a role for the Department of Tourism to play in bringing those courses and organizations together in some way for a concerted advertising campaign.

As you know, I'm always concerned about management and costs. You've answered several of my cost questions. As well I would emphasize concern with a 143.8 percent increase in administrative costs, but I think you've clarified that. I am concerned with the 66 percent in the minister's office. You've given some explanation for that. One of the explanations was the possible need for trips abroad. That is perfectly legitimate in your role as tourism minister. However, when I compare your ministerial costs to the costs of the department of economic development, whose minister would also be under some pressure to do international travel, I note that his costs are about \$50,000 less than the costs of the minister's office for the Minister of Tourism. If the minister could simply address that once again, that would be appreciated.

The question of measuring to manage: there is a good deal of money spent on international marketing, great emphasis. Some of that money goes to international offices. Could the minister please inform the House whether he has a system of measuring the results of that expenditure. Do we see groups attracted? Do we see missions attracted through that kind of — can we see the money that is spent, how it is spent, what sort of projects are done through those offices?

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PIQUETTE: I would like to compliment the minister for his appointment. I think the conversation I've already had with him — he is very willing to listen to suggestions from all sides.

One of the concerns I would like to raise with the minister that I have already indicated to another department, parks and recreation, is that I hope the Minister of Tourism will take very seriously the suggestion that there has to be more co-operation between Recreation and Parks and Transportation. If we are going to have tourism as a promotional, very important component of our economy here in Alberta, the issue of roads, especially in areas where we have provincial campsites — in terms of provincial parks we are making an attempt to bring some of these roads up to standard. But we have a lot of provincial campsites, especially in northern Alberta. For example, in my constituency of Athabasca-Lac La Biche I can name a couple, Plamondon Beach campsite and north Buck Lake campsite. These are probably as massively used by tourists from the Edmonton area and elsewhere as many of our provincial parks.

We also have the situation in my constituency that the Churchill Provincial Park on the island in Lac La Biche is probably always booked by Wednesday. If you called Alberta Tourism during the week, you would always find that that park is one of the most popular parks in Alberta. So definitely we are attracting tourists to come there, but we have still not addressed the whole aspect. We don't have enough facilities for them; we haven't provided a lot of the roads that they need to go back into areas where there's a lot of natural beauty. We can also look at the Slave Lake area. On my recent tour in the Slave Lake area, going up to Wabasca and Fawcett Lake, there is need for a road to get into that part of the country in terms of making available to the tourists new lakes that can be opened up to the tourism industry.

With that we also have to be very careful that we look at the environmental impact. I think the Department of Tourism should be addressing the issue of environmental studies very seriously, to make sure that we do the minimum impact and that we don't go into very delicate environmental areas without due study. With the recommendation that we should do more for tourism, I think there also has to be the caution that we have to be careful that we don't disturb areas where moose population or deer population are disturbed unduly, especially in areas where there's trapping as a livelihood. Pushing up roads in areas where our native people are still doing a lot of trapping for their livelihood can destroy a lot of these economic livelihoods.

So I think we have to be careful in certain areas, but there's no doubt that in terms of existing provincial campsites and parks and in terms of the Lakeland tourist area in my part of the constituency, we have to address the issue of creating perhaps something more than we have, the whole idea of setting up a number of theme parks which will attract people to stay longer than a weekend. One of the problems we have is that a lot of people visit in northern Alberta but they tend to be weekenders who bring their motor homes, with most of their food already purchased in Edmonton or elsewhere. They might buy a bit of gas, but what is the economic impact on small business? Unless we create a theme park where a tourist can move from one interesting area to the other — that is, not just fishing oriented, because not every tourist likes to fish. I very quickly get tired of fishing, and I think a lot of us are in the same boat. [interjections] Well, if you ever catch any.

We have to look at developing historical parks in northern Alberta. I've already made the minister aware of the second oldest community in northern Alberta, the Lac La Biche Mission. Some of the structures there were built in 1844 and 1853. The society that's trying to promote that site has been fighting for years now to get some funding for the Lac La Biche Mission before it falls apart. Under the Department of Culture there are only a few dollars available to effect some of the renovations. So I think what we're looking for is leadership from the Department of Tourism, that they take in hand some of these ideas that are already being promoted by many people. Many of the studies done through NADC, Northern Alberta Development Council, we must aggressively pursue in the next five years.

Another area I learned, in terms of being in sales and in business — I was in publishing for a number of years — is that we have failed to package a lot of our tourist information. What I would like to see — for example, when we come into the province of Alberta travelling on the Yellowhead, we should be posting very visible signs where tourists can get information as they progress through the province, or if they're going into a tourist zone, they'd be well advertised with fairly large maps, telephone numbers, even an indication of where roads are not accessible to the tourists because of road construction. I've had a situation, for example, where a tourist who was going north to Lac La Biche on Highway 36 phoned me, because he heard I was the MLA from there, blasting me for not having posted any sign on that highway. When he went about 10 miles he got stuck and, lo and behold, it cost around \$150 to get a tow truck to get him out of there. He said, "I'm sure not going to go up to Lac La Biche anymore." These are the kinds of tourist information we have to package much more for the tourist so he's not caught up in a situation where he gets a bad feeling about our information.

I take as an example an article that appeared in the *Journal* about Drumheller, about how even the business

community must be educated in terms of how they should treat the tourist. We tend to take the tourist for granted. If we only had an area in terms of a tourist information booth where a suggestion could be dropped off that would be seriously looked after, where business people would be pursuing ideas with tourists. I think we should be making much more contact in our local area. We should sit down with people coming into the area and do studies, getting from them what improvements they would like to see, particularly in tourist areas of the province, and what else would attract them.

I think we have to get back to the tourist and ask him what he wants. We maybe fail to address that in a lot of our tourism information. We tend to think, "This is probably what they want." But have we really bothered to ask them? Especially if we're going to be attracting foreign tourists, we must make sure in all of our tourism promotion that we go directly to the various travel agencies who might have connections with many of the tourists coming into the area and get from them what the attractions are that really bring people in from a particular part of the country or from countries around the world. We no doubt have here in Edmonton with West Edmonton Mall a tourist attraction, but what do we do to attract people who come to Edmonton to see West Edmonton Mall to go further north? Since it is a key tourist place right now, how can we work with West Edmonton Mall to promote other tourist zones in Alberta, so that when they leave the particular areas like Fort Edmonton, we suggest other areas which could attract them in terms of staying a few more weeks in Alberta and spending their money here?

With only a few minutes left in today's session, I would like to allow the minister to perhaps address some of these questions if he feels that some of these suggestions could be positive in terms of looking at the greater development of the tourist industry in Alberta. I also would like to get his reaction to the statement from the Minister of Recreation and Parks about the need for the next big tourist promotion or park in Alberta taking place in northern Alberta.

MR. JONSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to start out by very briefly complimenting the minister for the vast number of initiatives that are already under way. I think this is needed. I'd like to particularly compliment him and his department for the major effort being made to complement and work with the tourist industry and allow the initiative and drive of the private sector to carry on and be enhanced.

I'll cut my remarks down to three brief questions and comments, I hope, on the budget. First of all, one area I think might receive additional attention from the department and other related departments is an assessment of the locations that we have on our key tourist routes for tourist service, service to automobiles, and so forth. I note, for instance, that on Highway 2 from the Juniper Lodge to Edmonton there is no service site on the west side of the highway. That is something I frequently receive comments and requests with respect to. Under that heading I'd note that the Louis Bull Band of the Four Bands reserve has a proposal before the department of transportation, I believe, for the development of such a centre. Perhaps this is something that might be checked.

I'd like to make a comment on Wolf Creek, which the Member for Edmonton Meadowlark mentioned. Certainly, the Vold family is symbolic of many private operators in the province that are doing a great deal to enhance the tourist sites in the province. The one comment I'd make,

however, is that perhaps, Mr. Minister, you could consider subsidizing golf balls to that particular course if you are the quality of golfer I am. But it's certainly an excellent facility and one that has great potential for further development.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to zero in on the industry relations and training section of the budget. I note that in the report that's been referred to on the tourism and hospitality industry, they recommend that some \$8 million of new money be provided to get this program going. I hope we could act upon some of those very good recommendations as quickly as possible, certainly in time for the next tourist season in 1987. I support the idea of public forums, but I think there are some items that are so straightforward and so easy to implement that they should be acted upon before that time. We need to work on the area of training and improving the service that comes from our personnel, because with all the marketing and promotion we're doing, we do not want to have the destinations and the service provided there anything below very top quality.

Mr. Chairman, the third question I have is with respect to the Canada/Alberta agreement on tourism. I've looked at the material that has come to members of the Legislature, and I still have a number of questions as to exactly how that applies, how we would explain it in a simple and straightforward manner to people interested in applying under it. I wonder if some consideration could be given to setting out a simplified brochure which explains the program and makes it easy to respond to. It certainly seems to have great potential, but there's a certain amount of information there that I think has to be put in understandable and more promotable form. For instance, I've had an inquiry — perhaps it's a rather farfetched one, but I don't think so. I understand that in the province of British Columbia this agreement has some bearing upon the decision to build a large airport facility near Fairmont. I wonder what needs to be done to perhaps have that same consideration for a location west of Hinton, an area which is not easy to access by good large-scale air travel.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member, but the committee must now rise, report, and ask leave to sit again. I so move.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion of the Government House Leader. Before I ask for the vote, I should point out that the hon. Member for Ponoka-Rimbey has 24 minutes in which to speak and there are six speakers on the speaking list.

[Motion carried]

Mr. Speaker in the Chair

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

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the report and the request for leave to sit again, does the Assembly agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on Monday it's not proposed that the Assembly sit in the evening. The estimates to be called in Committee of Supply that afternoon would be Hospitals and Medical Care. It is proposed that the Assembly sit on Tuesday evening to consider certain Bills on the Order Paper for second reading. On Wednesday we await the designation by the Leader of the Opposition as to the department. The Assembly will be in Committee of Supply on Wednesday. On Thursday evening the department to be called in Committee of Supply would be Solicitor General, and on Friday, Energy.

[At 12:59 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 4, the House adjourned to Monday at 2:30 p.m.]

