

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

1985-86.

Title: **Monday, May 2, 1988 2:30 p.m.**
Date: 88/05/02

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

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

PRAYERS

MR. SPEAKER: Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us a daily awareness of the precious gift of life which You have given us.

As Members of this Legislative Assembly we dedicate our lives anew to the service of our province and our country.

Amen.

head: INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly today, a distinguished visitor to our midst. He is the Swedish consul general, located in Vancouver but responsible for dealing with the province of Alberta. He is accompanied by the honorary consul for Sweden here in Edmonton. I would like, first of all, to ask the consul general of Sweden, Karl Bertil Eriksson, to rise along with Lars Fahlstrom and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

head: NOTICES OF MOTIONS

REV. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give oral notice of a motion under Standing Order 40 to debate at the end of question period, the urgency of this being Mental Health Week in Alberta. I have copies for all members of the Assembly.

head: INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**Bill 24****Hail and Crop Insurance Amendment Act, 1988**

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill 24, the Hail and Crop Insurance Amendment Act, 1988. This being a money Bill, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been informed of the contents of this Bill and recommends the same to the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill allows for the province to advance funds for the payment of indemnities under the Hail and Crop Insurance Act.

[Leave granted; Bill 24 read a first time]

head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the annual report of the Department of Transportation and Utilities for the year 1986-87 plus the annual report of Alberta Utilities for

head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Edmonton-Centre.

REV. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce two groups today; one, 15 students in an adult basic upgrading program from the Edmonton public schools, who are here visiting with us today with their teacher Walter Killick. There are 15 members in this group, and I'd ask that they please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, this being Mental Health Week in Alberta, I'm very pleased to be able to introduce to members of the Assembly, members of a group called the Depressive Disorders Self-Help Group, who meet in my constituency and whom I've spoken to, and I know they would like to have other MLAs come and visit their Thursday evening meetings. Among the group and its members are Sherrie Banks, Donna Palk, Lorraine Deerham, Charlie Jenkins, and Colleen Banks. I'd ask that all members of the group please rise and receive the warm welcome of the Legislative Assembly.

MRS. MIROSH: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to introduce to you and to members of this Assembly, a group of grade 6 students from the Chinook Park elementary school located in the Glenmore constituency. This is a dual-track school, which is both French immersion and English. They're the city champions in a spelling contest, their school choir sang at the Olympics and have won numerous awards, and they've won tournaments in soccer and volleyball. They're a very active group.

There are 77 of them today, and they're accompanied by teachers Donna Tabor, Diane Fortin, Bill Gooliaff, Cheryl Blize, and Bob Santos. They're in both the members' and public galleries. Would you please rise and accept the warm greeting from this Assembly.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure this afternoon to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly, some 25 scholars from grade 6 in the SL Justin school. They're accompanied today by their teacher Mr. Frank Omoe. I would request the students to rise and receive the usual cordial welcome of the members of the Assembly.

head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**Income Tax**

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, to the Treasurer. Many Canadians are concerned about the postwar trend of increasing reliance by government on taxation of individuals rather than corporations. You won't find a worse example of that trend than the Alberta provincial income tax system. Since the Tories came to office in Alberta, corporation income taxes have declined from 7.2 percent of income to practically nil; on the other hand, individual income taxes have gone from 3.3 percent of income to 4.1 percent in 1986. Of course, that would be higher now with the tax gouging of '87-88. My question to the Treasurer will the Treasurer state, as a matter of provincial government policy, why the tax burden has shifted in this way in Alberta?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I think the reason for the shift in tax revenues is probably accurately depicted by the member's analysis in percentage terms only. Of course, that doesn't explain what in fact is the backdrop to the reality of it.

Let's remember that in Alberta we've gone through two interesting cycles. The one cycle, which started in 1985-86, showed very depressed revenues coming to the province as a result of reduced oil and gas royalties. So as a result, the pool of dollars obviously shifted. If you have less dollars involved in your total take from oil and gas royalties and you have a fairly stable dollar amount in terms of other tax forms or tax sources, obviously the tax shift must take place. That's where that great phrase that statistics don't lie, they simply make liars look good -- in this case, what we see is that in terms of the numbers, the numbers have really been distorted considerably to make whatever arguments you want.

The second thing that's happened, Mr. Speaker, is the economic backdrop of those companies, those corporations that are paying tax. Remember as well that in 1985 Alberta collected about 25 percent of the total tax collected by corporations in Canada; 25 percent was paid here. So obviously, we have a massive source of dollars coming to us from the corporation side, but as can be expected, when corporations start to lose money as a result of the decrease in oil and gas revenue, obviously their tax proportion reduces.

So you see two phenomena here, Mr. Speaker -- and I could give you a fairly good analysis in terms of correlation, if you want. What has happened is that the economy is reduced, and therefore corporation tax is reduced substantially. The oil and gas revenue is reduced substantially, and obviously the shift must be transparent in terms of statistics.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. member.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, from the Treasurer we always get a lot of words, but it never makes much sense.

I would point out, going back, following his logic, from '71-75 to '76-80 it actually went down 7.20 to 4.20. Even during that time of high economic activity it was going down. Now, my question is ~ all the gobbledygook aside, I want to ask the Treasurer this: is the Treasurer saying that he agrees with this trend that corporations pay less and less and individuals pay more and more? Does he agree with it?

MR. JOHNSTON: Of course not. Mr. Speaker, our policy on tax revenue is exactly what we have stated in this House on subsequent budgets. First of all, to trigger investment in this province, you have to have a tax regime which accepts risk, which accepts investment, and provides a climate for investment. Now, that's not known to the socialists across the way; I know that.

Mr. Speaker, the second element of our fiscal plan is, of course, to maintain the lowest tax regime for people in this province. That's why the individual tax system in Alberta is the lowest in Canada. If you look at the changes which have taken place in other provinces, you'll find that the personal income tax has increased. I won't even make a casual reference to Manitoba.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, this province has no sales tax. Now, that's not gobbledygook; that's something the people of Alberta understand. It affects the regressive side of the taxation, and we're committed to maintaining Alberta as the only tax-free province in Canada.

MR. MARTIN: We're not paying taxes in Alberta? Average people will be interested in that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if socialism means tax fairness, so be it. My question, to make sure that the Treasurer's not being misquoted: is the Treasurer saying to the people of Alberta that he intends to do nothing about this unfairness, that we'll continue with this trend? Is that what he's saying?

MR. JOHNSTON: Oh, Mr. Speaker, it's very nice to hear the holier-than-thou words from across the way about tax fairness. The only example we've seen in Canada of a tax regime which was confiscatory was the one in Manitoba, and what happened there? I leave you to guess what happened there. That province is essentially bankrupt as a result of the NDP administration, \$1 billion in foreign reserve losses, which would cripple most countries. That's the kind of regime he's talking about.

Let me come back to what is happening here in Alberta. We know, Mr. Speaker, in Alberta . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Perhaps we could have the final answer to this question.

All right; supplementary.

MR. MARTIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting how they always want to talk about something else rather than the question.

My question is to this Treasurer. Knowing that we have one of the most unfair systems in Canada, is the Treasurer not concerned that average citizens pay the bill while corporations spend more time avoiding taxes than they do creating jobs?

MR. JOHNSTON: Once again, Mr. Speaker, the fallaciousness of that argument is clear to all Albertans. The only way you can generate jobs is to provide a climate of investment, and this government since 1971 has done more than any other government in Canada to ensure that that happens. Look at the economic regime of this province. Look at the incentives which we put in place to ensure that private-sector risk-takers are welcome in this province, and to some extent a tax regime which is driven by the province's objectives, not the federal government's objectives. That's why new investment is coming to this province every day. I could recite for the member the forestry sector, the oil and gas sector, the strength that is abundant and clear in this province. That's why we can forecast that our real economic growth in Alberta will increase somewhere close to 4 percent in 1988-89, far greater than any other province, and that's because the private sector wants to come here, where they know they're welcome.

Mr. Speaker, let me come back to the question of the relative proportion of revenue coming to this province. Everybody in Alberta will know that if you have a pool of income that has suddenly been reduced by oil and gas reductions and your personal income tax stays the same, obviously the personal income tax is going to increase in proportion. At the same time, I pointed out that our corporations have suffered losses as well, because the oil and gas regime has been very difficult for them. Obviously, the corporate side has gone down. [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Treasurer, I would expect you to continue in a moment but the Chair is getting a bit uneasy about the amount of loud heckling that's taking place.

Treasurer.

MR. JOHNSTON: You're right, Mr. Speaker. It's hard for me to reply with all this noise.

Let me say again, Mr. Speaker, that when the other two variables suddenly shift downward and you have a personal income tax which is very high -- because, of course, the income per capita in Alberta is very high -- obviously those numbers will shift. I can assure you that in 1988-89 when profitability returns to the oil and gas sector and to the royalties of this province and when tax payable is starting to be made by the corporations, as we now see happening, those numbers will come back into balance. I can assure the people of Alberta that the policy of this government is to maintain the lowest personal tax regime in Canada, no sales tax, and to attract investment. That's what we're doing in this government Mr. Speaker.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer tells more fairy tales than Mother Goose.

But could I ask the Treasurer how he justifies reducing corporate income taxes, the taxes paid by corporations, when 1986 figures show that over 60 percent of corporate profits in Alberta were transferred outside this province.

MR. JOHNSTON: Well, first of all, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is wrong on that last point. About 60 percent of the oil and gas profits are reinvested in this province because we have a very good tax regime. Secondly, there have been no corporate tax reductions over the last two years.

MR. SPEAKER: Stony Plain.

MR. HERON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary question to the Provincial Treasurer. Given that last Thursday the Canadian bond rating service passed judgment through their rating service on the tax and fiscal policies of three western provinces -- Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia -- would the Provincial Treasurer please comment on Alberta's current rating and relative position?

MR. JOHNSTON: That's a very good question, Mr. Speaker, and it is, in fact in the context of the fiscal plan as I've outlined in this House just a few minutes ago.

We took the tough decisions when in fact we had to make them, and that's responsible government. Others, including the socialists from Manitoba, shirked that responsibility, Mr. Speaker, and look at the demise they have left that province right now.

MR. SPEAKER: Second main question. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MARTIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my second question -- have the Member for Vegreville.

MR. SPEAKER: Vegreville.

Agricultural Assistance

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Agriculture. On Friday we learned that this government's response to the farm debt crisis is a payment deferral plan that will help some farmers a little bit in the short term. Later that same day we learned that the government's going to give taxpayers' money to a big oil project at 5 percent interest. I'd like the Min-

ister of Agriculture to answer this question. We see 5 percent loans to oil companies and 9 percent loans to farmers. Where's the fairness in that?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, I'm going to ask the hon. Minister of Energy to supplement this, because again, as is the tradition in this House, the hon. Member for Vegreville is being very misleading in his comments as it relates to the difference. We're very proud of the support we have offered the farming population, acknowledging at the same time, recognizing the difficulties that the farming sector is under, that we recognize that there is always an opportunity to do more. But we're very thankful that this government has been so forthcoming, recognizing the difficulties our agricultural sector is facing.

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to point out that the hon. member is not accurate in stating that it's a 5 percent loan. In fact if the prices go up the way they are expected to, then the upside part of the project would result in the overall return being closer to 10 percent.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, farmers have learned not to expect the same treatment that oil companies get from this government.

I'd like to ask the minister a supplementary. Recognizing that nearly 40,000 farmers would benefit from having their government-controlled loans' interest rates lowered, I'd like to ask the minister why he's not fighting for 6 percent loans for farmers.

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, in response to his first statement the agricultural sector does recognize that they are treated differently than the energy sector, because they're treated one heck of a lot better.

Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member's suggestion as it relates to the altering of our interest rates under the farm credit stability program or under ADC, the associate minister announced a very substantial program as it relates to the deferral of interest as it relates to a commodity indexation, which is going to be of substantial help to a number of our beginning farmers. We are always open to suggestions, and it is something that we will examine in the event that we feel we do have the funds available to reduce the interest rate under the two major programs that we do lend out as a government.

I indicated to the hon. member, though, that in the event we were to reduce under the farm credit stability program and ADC to 6 percent from the 9 percent level, it would be in the vicinity of \$100 million a year. Now, again we find that the hon. members are suggesting ways that we can spend money. The leader of his party criticizes us for the taxation levels, which are the lowest in the country, yet they're advocating higher taxes and spending more money. It's very, very ironical, and it's very self-critical as to what they are advocating, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, the half-baked program announced by the associate minister helps perhaps 5,000 farmers; I'm talking about something that would help 40,000 with the stroke of a pen.

I'd like to ask the minister if he's satisfied that the \$28 million total cost of the farm credit stability program through the Treasurer's budget is, in his mind, a satisfactory commitment to the farm debt crisis by this government.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, we see again how quickly the

hon. Member for Vegreville and the New Democratic Party can flip-flop. On Friday he was so quick to receive the credit, saying it was his program that we had implemented; today he's saying it's half baked. Now, if that isn't an irony, I've never seen it.

MR. FOX: It's tempting, Mr. Speaker; it's tempting. The motion is Motion 227. The first part is the minister's program. I'm working on the second part now, and if tradition is the case, they'll turn around.

I'd like to direct the last question to the Provincial Treasurer here and ask him why he is not prepared to recommend 6 per cent interest rates on farm credit stability plan loans, given the fact that he's only committed \$28 million to that total program.

MR. JOHNSTON: I notice, Mr. Speaker, that the member has again made a fallacious argument. Let's remember that this 9 percent money was taken up by a vast number of farmers, and this certainly assisted them in their financing long term. No other financial institution in the world would provide that kind of a benefit package to the farming community. We recognize its importance as the first pillar of strength in this province, and we know that this will succeed and tide them through this difficult period.

Now, while the \$28 million is referred to in the budget Mr. Speaker, obviously the opportunity saving is much larger. It's probably closer to \$70 million or \$80 million a year on top of the \$30 million subsidy, because of course the farmers can borrow at 9 percent fixed from us with an easy repayment schedule. But of course an alternative would be to borrow off the market, and with the inflation rates and the treasury bonds moving up now, I can assure you that if you were competing in the private sector, you'd find that the fixed costs would be around 12 or 13 percent. So we're saving the farmers about 3 to 4 percent in terms of their fixed costs. That doesn't show up anywhere, because that's part of the plan; that's part of the way in which we're financing it, using our dollars to assist the agricultural community. It's working, and that's where the thorny issue is: it's working, and they don't like it.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Redwater-Andrew, followed by Westlock-Sturgeon.

MR. ZARUSKY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since none of the Official Opposition is actively involved in farming, to the Minister of Agriculture: could you tell the House how much of the farm income, either in percentage or in dollars, was government programs? [interjections]

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, the opposition's making so much noise that I couldn't hear the question from the hon. Member for Redwater-Andrew.

MR. SPEAKER: Neither could the Chair.
Redwater-Andrew, please.

MR. ZARUSKY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the first part of the question was heard well.

To the minister: could the minister indicate how many dollars, either in dollars or in percentage of the farm income, in 1987 were government incentives or programs?

MR. ELZINGA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member

can appreciate since he does come from a farming background, it varies with each sector. I'm more than happy to give the hon. member a detailed response varying with each sector, but as an example, the grain sector: approximately 30 to 35 percent of their income does come from government support.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.
Westlock-Sturgeon.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Agriculture: in view of the fact that the higher the income of the farmer and because he can deduct the interest rate means the less the effective rate is, will he not consider a sliding-scale system so that those farmers that are not earning enough to pay tax would only be paying 6 percent?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, as is the tradition of this party and this government, we are always open to excellent suggestions, and I will note the representation by the hon. member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.
The Member for Westlock-Sturgeon, on behalf of the Liberal caucus.

MR. TAYLOR: It means the minister didn't understand, so I'll try again.

MR. SPEAKER: On this issue, please.

MR. TAYLOR: No, it is a related issue, Mr. Speaker, and knowing your worry about it being repetitive, this is on the indexed deferral plan.

I will switch my questions over to the associate minister on the program that she and the Premier announced late last week to strengthen the farmers' ability to repay ADC loans because of the low commodity prices. However, the farmers are suffering from more than low commodity prices; they have the double whammy of a drought. So in light of the fact that the impending drought will reduce if not demolish crop protection, would the minister consider restructuring this plan so it not only takes into consideration product pricing but takes into consideration the size of the crop?

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Westlock-Sturgeon raises a question that is of concern to all of us, and that's the possibility of a drought situation in Alberta. But that's another problem, and that will take other considerations. Fortunately, last weekend we had a little bit of rain and we've got more forecast for this week, and I hope that the member's predictions are all wet.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I'm glad she's quite a Pollyanna and is very interested and optimistic.

However, the point is this: the farmers are not so interested in income in case a product drops but in what they would get overall. Is the department considering any form of a basic income insurance that takes into consideration things like drought grasshoppers, poor commodity prices, and, worst of all, the Tory government?

MRS. CRIPPS: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, we have a program in place which protects the farmer against crop losses. It's called all-risk crop insurance.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, the next supplementary then: what plans does the minister have for those farmers who are not eligible for the indexed deferral plan?

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, the indexed deferral plan certainly is targeted at borrowers from ADC, and that plan, I think, will work very well. The people who borrow from ADC for the most part are young beginning farmers. That's where we detect the most problem and the most hurt, and that's the reason the program's targeted that way.

MR. TAYLOR: Again, Mr. Speaker, to farm income and support and the ADC and the proclivity to foreclose: could this minister tell the House whether or not any study is in place to see how much land that is not mortgaged, not being repossessed, is devalued by the fact that this government so lustily seizes and backs land and then dumps it back on the market? How much is she devaluating the property . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. member. The supplementary has been asked, and the Chair is concerned because there are at least eight other people who want to get into question period before 3:20. Thank you.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, the member knows full well we don't dump it back on the market. That's been a concern that he's raised at an earlier question period: why don't we? We don't dump the land on the market. We move it out in an orderly manner so as not to depress market prices and so as to be fair to all would-be purchasers.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.
Member for Vegreville, followed by Little Bow.

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The associate minister has perhaps had a chance to think about my questions on Friday, and I'd like to ask her if she can assure the House that farmers participating in the payment deferral program will have their payment first applied to the principal outstanding on the loan.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, the portion of the indexed deferral plan that is deferred is actually interest so the remaining portion of the payment that would be made would in fact lower the principal payment in proportion to the amount that is due.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, to the minister would the minister consider tabling the commodity index formula that will be used for various commodities for review of this Legislature?

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, I can certainly take that question under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.
Is this a supplementary on the same issue, Cypress-Redcliff?

MR. HYLAND: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister I wonder if the minister can share with the Assembly the guiding principles of the program that was announced on Friday.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Speaker, I'd be pleased to do that. The indexed deferral program is a commodity-based payment. The option is available to all ADC direct borrowers. It's based on

repayment ability. There is no interest charged on the deferred amount. We may allow deferral equivalent to two years retroactive payments, based on the commodity index again. Repayment on the deferred amount will be triggered when commodity prices increase. Entry into the program terminates in 1991. Mr. Speaker, I believe that young farmers will find this program very helpful.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Clover Bar, on behalf of the Representative caucus, followed by the Member for Wainwright.

Husky Oil Upgrader

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy. With the announcement of the Husky upgrader in Lloydminster there seems to be some controversy that Alberta tradesmen may not be getting their share of the construction jobs. In light of the fact that we do have the expertise in this province, what assurance does the minister have that Alberta tradesmen will be getting their fair share of the jobs on the Husky upgrader?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, certainly the contracting will take place as a result of the operator going out for tenders. However, there was in the 1984 agreement that is being carried over into the new agreement how, in a general way, the jobs would be shared. I think the hon. members and the public can be assured that at least half the jobs for the project would be from Alberta.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, is the minister just on a wing and a prayer, or do we have some written agreement or some assurance that Albertans will have their fair share of the jobs on the Husky upgrader?

DR. WEBBER: A combination, Mr. Speaker, of the agreement and the fact that there is a tremendous amount of expertise in this province that would be available for that particular job.

DR. BUCK: Mr. Speaker, I'm asking again: are there any written, guaranteed assurances that Alberta tradesmen will have at least a fifty-fifty chance of getting those jobs?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, I've already answered the question in that there was an agreement in place in 1984 which is being carried over into the new agreement and it's clear from that and the fact that the expertise is in Alberta that at least half of the manpower on the project will be from Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for St. Albert, supplementary.

MR. STRONG: Supplementary to the minister, Mr. Speaker. In addition to the jobs that are going to be created by the job itself, there is a lot of fabricating and manufacturing for that facility that should be done in the province of Alberta. Has the minister looked at and examined all of the fabrication -- vessel, tank, pipe -- and is some of that work going to be done by the manufacturing and fabricating sector here in the province of Alberta?

DR. WEBBER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the project has benefits of some 3,000 man-years of direct employment during the construction period, some 330 permanent jobs related to the upgrader when it's in operation. Some 1,500 permanent jobs

will be created as related to production facilities or development to supply feedstock; some 7,200 indirect jobs across Canada are expected. Jobs will be created not only in this province, but they'll be created elsewhere across the country as well. With respect to a breakdown on that, I cannot give that to the members at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Calgary-Buffalo, followed by Vermilion-Viking.

MR. CHUMIR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find this to be a scandalously casual approach to a very important issue. I'm wondering whether the minister might tell us specifically what he plans to do to ensure that we get the right of jobs for Alberta tradesmen and don't rely simply on some vague 1984 agreement. Has the minister discussed this with his counterpart in Saskatchewan to ensure the rights of Alberta tradesmen?

DR. WEBBER: Mr. Speaker, there is an agreement in place, and hon. members, as I've indicated earlier, if they would listen, can be assured that at least half the jobs for this project will be in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: Vermilion-Viking.

DR. WEST: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Transportation and Utilities, a supplemental. There's going to be a tremendous amount of jobs created through transportation in the tonnage of equipment that's going to leave central Alberta and head towards that area. Have you given any consideration of speeding up the twinning of Highway 16 in order to effect the amount of tonnage that's going to go out there?

MR. ADAIR: In direct response to the question, Mr. Speaker, we haven't at this particular point in time, but I might add while I'm on my feet that the timing and the completion of Highway 16, both east and west, is on target and on schedule and if necessary we'll move.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

The Member for Wainwright, followed by St. Albert, Edmonton-Gold Bar, Calgary-Glenmore.

Farm Credit Stability Program

MR. FISCHER: Thank you. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture. With a lot of discussion today on interest rates, and credit being a major input cost to our farming industry, it may be a good time for us to update our \$2 billion farm credit stability program. Could the minister tell us how many dollars are spent in that program now and how many people are in it?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, to date there's just slightly in excess of \$1.5 billion taken up under this program, with an excess of 15,000 participants who've made application. Just from those figures you can gather that the average loan is somewhere in the vicinity of just slightly in excess of \$100,000.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary.

MR. FISCHER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Due to the fact that 83 percent of the loans have gone to refinancing in this highly successful program, has the minister given any consideration to extend-

ing the loan limit in order to get the maximum use of the \$2 billion that's available in the program?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has indicated, to date approximately 83 percent has gone for refinancing purposes. As you will recall, when we originally announced this program, we had indicated our hope that about 75 percent of it would be used for refinancing. We've more than met our objective on that, and in excess of 70 percent has gone out for a period of 20 years. This is obviously meeting a need that was in the agricultural community as it related to their refinancing purposes.

Since the program does not expire until June of '89, it would be a little premature for us to offer any suggestions as to what might happen in the event that there are funds in excess of the amount that has been taken up. But I will take the hon. member's representations under consideration, as we do acknowledge that there is always a need for additional operating capital amongst the farming population.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Wainwright?

MR. FISCHER: That's it; thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Westlock-Sturgeon, followed by Vegreville.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary to the minister. Could he share with the House just why 17 percent of the fanners have not picked up, why the remaining 17 percent is there? Is there any specific reason?

MR. ELZINGA: I'm sorry, 83 percent has gone for refinancing; 17 percent have used their funding for new purchases. In other words, they've borrowed the money to purchase additional land or additional machinery. I'm not sure if we're answering the hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon or not. I missed the essence of his question.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a supplementary to the Provincial Treasurer. I'm wondering if he could stand in his place and tell us what the province is paying for interest on the money borrowed to supply the farm credit stability plan.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, most of the funding which we acquire for this program is funded off the Canadian market or in Canadian dollar equivalents; therefore, unlike other provinces we take a position to reduce our foreign exchange exposure. Right now we have very little foreign exchange exposure, but the effective costs of the recent borrowings would be of the order of 9.5 to 10 percent, someplace of that order.

MR. SPEAKER: St. Albert, followed by Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Labour Legislation

MR. STRONG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are to the Minister of Labour. Albertans are well aware that this government and the Minister of Labour conducted an extensive review of Alberta's labour legislation that resulted in Bill 21, the new Employment Standards Code, and Bill 22, the new Labour Relations Code. Alberta taxpayers are also aware that this province spent a significant amount of money in conducting that process, including a paid holiday for our Labour minister. Now

it appears that the Minister of Labour and the Premier are at odds with respect to the picketing legislation as set out in section 81 of the new Labour Relations Code. To the Minister of Labour: has this government or is this government now in the process of amending the picketing legislation as set out in section 81 of the new Labour Relations Code?

DR. REID: Unlike the Member for St. Albert, Mr. Speaker, when I travel at taxpayers' expense, I don't take a vacation.

The question that the hon. member asked was based, I presume, on his usual research sources at the *Edmonton Journal*, and the reports are inaccurate.

MR. STRONG: Mr. Speaker, I don't get the *Edmonton Journal* to do my homework. I am asking a question.

Supplementary to the minister: is the Department of Labour currently preparing amendments to section 81 of the new Labour Relations Code?

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, that's exactly the same question as the hon. member just asked, and I'll give him the same answer. The reports in the *Edmonton Journal* upon which he based his question are inaccurate.

MR. STRONG: Again there aren't any answers, Mr. Speaker.

Maybe I'll ask the Deputy Premier. Is it the position of the Deputy Premier and this government that Bill 22 will reach Royal Assent in its present form, as it applies to section 81, with respect to picketing and consumer boycott legislation? Is that your position?

MR. RUSSELL: Well, Mr. Speaker, the policy of the government with respect to bringing forward labour legislation as a package has been outlined so many times that I don't know what more I can add. If the hon. member will attend the forthcoming days in this session, he will see and have a chance to debate and discuss all aspects of that labour legislation.

MR. STRONG: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the Deputy Premier. Is it the position of his government that only employees have the right to picket? Are you denying that to the rest of Albertans? Are you going to deny that right? Is that the truth? Is it?

MR. RUSSELL: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, the Bill is there. It's there to be read. It will be debated and discussed in committee, and if we follow traditional parliamentary procedure, any member -- including government members, opposition members, third-party members, fourth-party members -- can bring amendments in. The opposition seems to have trouble understanding that, but if they'll just attend in the House, they'll find that that will unfold.

DR. REID: If I can supplement the answer of the Deputy Premier, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for St. Albert obviously hasn't read the appropriate section in Bill 22. His question was from Bill 60.

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Labour. I'd like to ask if he discovered in his travels any jurisdiction anywhere that prohibited picketing in this fashion and, if so, where?

DR. REID: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Member for Edmonton-

Gold Bar would read the current Labour Relations Act and the Bill 22 provisions, she would find that in actual fact the change in Bill 22 is a relaxation from the existing condition in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.
Vermilion-Viking.

DR. WEST: Yes; to the Attorney General on a supplemental. During the Gainers dispute some Albertans were very concerned that there were individuals that may not have been employees of the company that were causing actions around the picket lines that were almost above the law. Could the Attorney General indicate if under this new labour code people who break the laws around picketing areas will be addressed better in this new legislation?

MR. HORSMAN: The Bill is not law as yet, Mr. Speaker, and as already has been indicated, there will be opportunities for debating at second reading and in committee. Certainly it would be the intention of the government when the law has been passed by this Legislature to see that it is enforced and obeyed. That is part of the responsibilities not just of the Department of the Attorney General but of the Solicitor General as well, in terms of seeking out information as to those people who have breached the law, then having brought that to the attention of the Attorney General for consideration.

In many respects the question of the hon. member is hypothetical at this stage, Mr. Speaker, and furthermore, if I may say so, it tends to seek a legal opinion, which I'm reluctant to give in the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Edmonton-Gold Bar, followed by Calgary-Glenmore.

Offshore Trade Offices

MRS. HEWES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade. Recently we heard of a new departure in the construction of an economic trade office in Taiwan where the Alberta government is giving \$250,000 to the Alberta Chamber of Commerce to set it up. It's my understanding that the department will cover the costs of office projects, salaries of a trade officer and a secretary, rents, subsidizing of housing. The chamber then is going to try to raise additional funds from the private sector. I'd like to ask the minister: is the government's funding of this Taiwan office indicative of the way the province will be funding overseas offices in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce or other bodies?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the procedure that the government has been involved in over the years in supporting offices offshore, I believe the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs may wish to comment.

With this particular office there have been extensive discussions between the Alberta Chamber of Commerce, the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, and the Calgary Chamber of Commerce with respect to trade opportunities that exist for Alberta companies in Taiwan. We reached a conclusion that it would be advantageous for Alberta companies to have access to that market via an office established there, so an agreement was reached where the Alberta chamber would establish that office with financial assistance from the province.

Of necessity there will be ongoing co-ordination and discussion in terms of the effectiveness of that office, since taxpayers' money is being used to support those activities. That's why the project is a one-year pilot project.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary.

MR. HORSMAN: Yes; I could supplement the answer by answering the question by saying that no, it would not be the policy of the government to fund our offices abroad in that manner in other locations.

MR. SPEAKER: Edmonton-Gold Bar, a supplementary.

MRS. HEWES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then a supplementary -- the minister began to answer this. Who will set the objectives of this office and monitor the results? Who will the trade officer be responsible to?

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

MR. SHABEN: To the Alberta Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, how will this office in Taiwan, then, alter our relationship with the People's Republic of China, particularly our twin province of Heilongjiang?

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, we have an excellent relationship with the People's Republic of China, and we expect that relationship to continue. The fact that the Alberta chamber recognizes opportunities for trade in Taiwan should not in any way diminish or reduce the effectiveness of our trade ties with the PRC.

MRS. HEWES: To the minister: is the contract dependent on private-sector input, which has been mentioned, and if so, at what proportion? Mr. Speaker, I know there are two questions, but I think the minister can handle it.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, it may be helpful for the hon. member to know that the Alberta chamber has had a very effective presence in Taiwan, and that presence is supported by the chambers nationally. A decision was reached as a result of consultation with the Alberta Chamber of Commerce and other individual chambers that improved effectiveness of accessing business opportunities in Taiwan could be achieved by establishing such an office, and financial support was sought and provided by the province. The individual chambers will be providing significant financial support in order to finance the Alberta portion of the activities required to maintain the offices in Taiwan.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the public dollars that are going into this office, I'd like to ask the minister if he will be clear about how the office will be monitored and evaluated by the government to ensure that public funds that have been spent on it meet public objectives.

MR. SHABEN: Mr. Speaker, I think that's a similar question to

one that was asked earlier, but there will be a continued liaison between the Alberta Chamber of Commerce and the Alberta government, as there is now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question period has expired. May we have unanimous consent to conclude this series of questions?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It appears to be concluded.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, on request for urgency of debate under Standing Order 40, please.

head: **MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**

REV. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address the urgency of this motion which is before the members today under Standing Order 40.

That the Assembly recognize this week as Mental Health Week in the province and commend all Albertans who are involved professionally and in various volunteer capacities in the struggle against mental illness.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, those who are afflicted by chronic mental illness as well as others who are mentally distressed with mental disorders of other forms -- these people are of prime importance to us, yet we often hear so little and understand even less about the nature of mental illness and mental health. It is urgent that we all become both personally and politically aware of the thorny issues involved in the care and treatment of mental illness and the provision of mental health services. This motion is intended to bring this to the attention of all members: the urgent need for awareness of the people, the needs, the issues of funding and of the statutes involved.

It's also urgent, I think, Mr. Speaker, that we give thanks to those who are already working actively in the area of mental health and also, if I might say, to give thanks for those who have experienced or are currently experiencing mental illness themselves; their courage and their persistence for the care they deserve is an example for all of us.

I urge all members to support this motion, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There has been a request for unanimous consent under Standing Order 40 that this motion may be presented. All those in favour, please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Opposed, please say no. Proceed, Edmonton-Centre.

HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ready for the question on the motion by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre?

HON. MEMBERS: Question.

[Motion carried]

MR. YOUNG: Before proceeding to Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker, if I have leave of the House, I would like to indicate

the order of business for the balance of this week in order that members may better be able to organize their schedules.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any opposed?

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This afternoon, as announced, the estimates for the Department of Tourism are up, and should they be completed, we will then proceed with Recreation and Parks. We will not be sitting this evening. Tomorrow evening, depending upon the activity this afternoon, Recreation and Parks and Solicitor General. On Wednesday afternoon it is my information that the Department of Education has been designated. On Thursday evening we will be proceeding with Social Services and on Friday morning with Transportation and Utilities and possibly Solicitor General or Recreation and Parks.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

head: **COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY**

[Mr. Gogo in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee of Supply, please come to order.

Department of Tourism

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. minister, do you wish to make opening comments to the committee?

MR. SPARROW: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I would.

Mr. Chairman, this is my first year in the portfolio, but today gives me that opportunity to commend prior ministers in the department for the strong and positive actions taken in the past: Minister Dowling, Minister Adair, Minister Schmid, and Minister Fjordbotten. It was their remarkable work along with the department that helped bring this industry to what it is in its present stronghold.

To welcome me on board in Tourism, we have some very knowledgeable and skilled individuals in the department. I'm honoured today to have with us in the gallery my Deputy Minister, Bernie Campbell. Bernie, would you please stand? Would you please recognize Bernie, the 6-foot-11 individual that I have to look up to each day?

Along with Mr. Campbell is the executive director of administration, Peter Crerar; Jim Engel, the director of marketing; Bob Turner, director of finance; and, of course, the people that do all the work in the deputy's office, Barb Spencer and Donna Babchishin from communications and, of course, the real minister that's put up with four other ministers of tourism, Neil Kirkpatrick. Neil is the person who serves you all so very ably.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. minister, it's customary to request reversion to Introduction of Special Guests, so perhaps the hon. minister would remember that next year.

MR. SPARROW: Okay. It was a good opportunity to identify them, Mr. Chairman.

The department has really done and got a lot of things on the ground this year. Still, we have kept with our commitment to a

responsible budget. This year's \$33.5 million budget represents a net reduction of 3.9 percent over last year and includes an overall reduction of 8 percent in our administration costs. Initial plans had us looking at an 8 percent reduction, but that was altered by two strong initiatives, a \$1 million expansion to the successful Take an Alberta Break program and support costs for the new community tourism action program.

As I've said, we've got a lot of things started and off the ground this year. We have continued to strengthen ties with the private-sector partners -- we rely heavily on their ingenuity, their innovation -- of all our communities. We act as a catalyst to their ideas and their operations. We've been doing our homework and have met their needs with some new initiatives -- well-placed and well-timed initiatives, I may add. We look forward to several family vacation destination centres becoming reality in the coming years.

[Mr. R. Moore in the Chair]

Mr. Chairman, the Olympics have made this an exciting year for tourism. The whole world has been talking about the XV Olympic Winter Games. We must use these Olympics as a springboard and create a lasting legacy. We recently announced our post-Olympic initiatives for both development and marketing: the community tourism action program, Team Tourism marketing program, and Alberta's new advertising campaign. The action program and Team Tourism mark the first time tourism has financed initiatives through Alberta lotteries. All of these initiatives represent solid, well-planned steps toward diversification.

Mr. Chairman, the community tourism action plan is an excellent planning process. The planning process is a group effort involving public, municipal, and provincial input on the basis of our user friendly manuals. Once a community decides to set up its tourism policy, tourism action committee, and tourism bylaw, the action planning process follows some very clear steps. The communities take a good look at what they have to offer. This is what we tell them to do: list all your tourism assets, list all potential tourism markets, and list any concerns. Then they prioritize these lists. Now they're ready to develop and rank their community tourism objectives to cure their concerns. They then can set objectives that the private sector can do.

For each objective, detailed action steps are mapped out. These may request action to have the private sector develop a family vacation centre, create a Mainstreet beautification program, or have the chamber create welcome signs or the county improve access to a nearby lake. If they have followed these steps and have involved community members, municipal governments, and the department's action plan representatives, then you will have the makings of an eligible tourist plan for the future. The next requirement is endorsement of that plan by local authorities. Then the regular review and monitoring process takes place around those action steps. We hope most of those action steps are done through the private sector and non-profit groups preferably rather than the communities themselves.

Mr. Chairman, our new community tourism action program will help action plans into a concrete, cost-effective initiatives program. The program provides financial incentives for initiatives for tourism planning and development in every community in this province. It's shared 75 percent for provincial and 25 percent local, and we're putting in our budget 5.5 man-years for administration of program at a cost of \$407,000. We will support everything from Mainstreet projects to new tourism attrac-

tions and facilities that are site self-sufficient. It will bolster local and regional economies. In total, we expect it to be a \$30 million program over five years, but if every community uses every dollar, it could be as high as \$43 million in total. At least \$5 million in the first year is expected to be used, and we're looking at a start-up of August 1, 1988.

We have made a minor revision to the funding formula that will ensure funding equity across the board. This will be a positive impact on the funds available for communities in the 2,000 to 5,000 people range or 5,000 to 10,000 range. The formula will be: for the first 2,000 in population, \$50 per capita; the next 3,000 in population of a community at \$40 per capita; and the next 5,000 population at \$35 per capita. We will maintain the same maximum allocations for communities as was previously announced, at \$300,000 for communities up to 15,000, \$500,000 for communities from 15,000 to 100,000, and \$2 million for populations over 100,000.

The action program follows on the remarkable success of our community tourism action plans. The plan provides for a strategy for tourist development and marketing at the local community level. We identify our strengths, prioritize them, and act upon them. To date, 11 communities have their plans formally endorsed by their local elected officials, another 50 are working on them, and another 100 have been introduced to the process. Our goal is to see every community have an action plan by the fall of 1988. It is anticipated, Mr. Chairman, that when each town, city, village, county, MD, ID does their plan, the TIAALTA zone in that area would then have a regional plan. Then when they're all brought together, we can look at a major, overall provincial plan.

Mr. Chairman, the Team Tourism marketing program will be a major co-operative effort to help industry market tourism destinations on regional and, maybe in some cases at their choice, into the national or international markets. It will increase marketing effectiveness of Alberta's 14 zones and the private-sector destinations within them. They will be able to use the marketing benefits from the momentum of the Olympic Games. The program is a fifty-fifty cost share program. It will be a total commitment of \$20 million over the next five years, and we anticipate \$4 million to be used in the first year. We are working towards a start-up of September 1 on this program and hope that we can meet that target. As the zones will first have to do market plans, it is our intention to give the program a kick-start by hiring marketing consultants for each zone, by possibly assisting them in doing their brochures where and as required, by helping them prepare possibly a 27-minute video for each region, and assisting the private sector with one-half minute or minute ads to go along with their zone video.

Mr. Chairman, our new advertising campaign began our new initiative during the opening ceremonies of the Olympics. The first 11-minute segment of the ceremonies was successfully coordinated by our department, and I'd like to thank them and all the volunteers for a job well done. We had an audience of close to two billion people, and probably this was the greatest marketing coup in the history of mass marketing. At the same time, our TV and ad campaign was launched. It runs through to the spring of '88, into key national and international markets. It is complemented by print ads in major magazines by a new identification on our promotional materials, appropriately named "Alberta In All Her Majesty."

Mr. Chairman, the first of these ads ran in the *Reader's Digest* a couple of weeks ago. They should have hit homes on a Friday. By Monday we had 1,200 replies and by Friday of the

following week, we had 12,000. I understand now that's well over 40,000. The ad campaign is working and working well. Each respondent will be sent out an Alberta vacation planner. The campaign will cost us some \$3.5 million in this year's budget, and I'm thankful our department has done their homework and given a lot of thought to this campaign.

Mr. Chairman, we have pursued expanding representation in our European, Pacific Rim, and U.S. offices. Our new office in California has become a very significant presence. Our special task force team explores international activities that yield the greatest paybacks. Initiatives such as the December Celebrity Olympic Premiere are remarkable cost-effective international marketing initiatives. This event yielded free publicity about Alberta as a travel destination. Our "Spirit of Alberta" caravan is also on the road, making its way through the U.S. and eastern Canada. Our Hong Kong activities have a two-pronged approach: we encourage investment in our tourism industry where we work with Economic Development and Trade, and we also offer residents of Hong Kong an opportunity to become visitors of our province. In Australia, for the third year we've completed successful seminars to broaden the knowledge of our province. This year we anticipate a co-operative agreement with airlines there for consumer promotion.

Mr. Chairman, the Olympics has also brought a great deal of attention to our meetings and convention capabilities in this province. Calgary and Alberta have proven that we are an unmatched international host. Through the Olympic business program, our meetings marketing staff promoted Alberta facilities to the world. Alberta Tourism, in its fourth year as a member of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, is working with its partners to host a 1990 travel market of this association here in Edmonton. The PATA Conference will be held one week later in Vancouver. B.C. and Alberta have been marketing together under the slogan "Canada West" and will be working together on the travel market and conference in 1990. This is the first time this Pacific Asian conference and travel market will be held in North America, and I think the staff deserve a round of congratulations for getting that particular conference here to Alberta and western Canada.

Mr. Chairman, our Take an Alberta Break campaign will continue and be expanded. We are happy to announce that we're putting a million dollars into expanding this highly successful program to our rubber-tired traffic markets outside Alberta, to Saskatchewan and Montana. That is as far as the funds will go, and it's hopeful that if we can prove success in those two markets, we can expand that beyond those two areas into other states and other provinces. The program offers all kinds of cost-effective opportunities for joint marketing ventures with the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, a new business services unit has been established to work with the private sector. It will help promote investment opportunities within the industry. Generally the unit serves as a business catalyst to the private sector. It gives entrepreneurs and other businessmen a one-window approach to pursuing new ventures and improving the profitability of existing operations. I cannot overemphasize how important that one-window approach is. We can act as individual expeditors and can really cut through the red tape and create teamwork within government. We did it before, Mr. Chairman, in forestry, and we can do it here. This program basically involves an increase of one man-year plus possible transfers of other key staff.

Mr. Chairman, the Alberta Tourism Education Council is ably chaired by Stockwell Day, MLA for Red Deer-North. We

established this council in partnership with industry and the postsecondary educational community. It is the first time government, industry, and the educational community have cooperated at this level in tourism. This year we've introduced new legislation called the Tourism Education Council. The council is improving provincewide educational programming and tourism service and hospitality. In a labour-intensive industry where job opportunities are so great, education is definitely paramount. It's very nice to see that the industry supports this council fully.

Mr. Chairman, we place an emphasis on training in the department. The department covers a range of training seminars to increase the professionalism of this industry. Again, we work closely with the private sector in local communities. Tourism creates jobs. Today 100,000 Albertans work in tourism. By the year 2000, that could be more than 200,000. It is a labour-intensive industry. It offers seasonal, entry-level, and managerial opportunities for many Albertans.

Mr. Chairman, our Canada/Alberta tourism agreement is a \$56.3 million incentive program to support both the marketing and the development of tourism in this province. It is cost-shared by the federal and provincial governments on a fifty-fifty basis. This year's allotment has been adjusted with a decrease of almost \$2 million but will not affect the total amount of the agreement. To date it has funded some 267 projects which have created over \$118 million of construction within the province. About \$25.5 million from the agreement has been committed, but if you look at that, we've got a 4 to 1 ratio of our dollars creating four times as much work through the agreement which is very, very good. It's created some 1,600 new jobs and it's helped maintain 1,000 existing jobs, for a total of some 2,600 positions. We are developing Alberta's reputation as a four-season international travel destination very well, and this program is helping us do that.

Mr. Chairman, "What is the role of government in tourism?" is a question that is asked very often. Our answer is that the government is presently involved in two areas: marketing the province as a whole to local, national, and international audiences and, two, providing a framework for development opportunities in our tourism product base by the private sector and by government. I really see the government's role as helping private industry help itself. Industry should lead the way in development on a local, regional, and provincewide basis, and government comes in to provide the experience, policy direction, possibly infrastructure support, and a bit of incentive to get things rolling.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, tourism is the third leg of our Alberta economy, with revenues of about \$2.3 billion last year that could reach a \$10 billion industry by the year 2000. Forecasters say it will be the world's leading economic industry by the year 2000. In Alberta it is key to our diversification strategy. At Alberta Tourism we're concentrating on both marketing and development. We're looking forward. The competition is tough, but we're ahead of the game, and with that springboard of the Olympics we're going to stay ahead. We're going to be a big part of tomorrow's leading economic industry.

Mr. Chairman, I'll be glad to take any questions on the department estimates.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Mr. Minister.
Athabasca-Lac La Biche.

MR. PIQUETTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'd

like to start off by congratulating the minister on his new appointment. It's very much a challenge for him. I recall the Premier indicating that we are to turn this \$2 billion industry into a \$10 billion industry. However, with the cutbacks in his department, Recreation and Parks, Culture and Multiculturalism, and Transportation, I kind of wonder how that will take place.

As I go into the budget estimates as prepared by the minister, I'd like to ask some specific questions and then go on to some more general comments. I'd like to ask the minister, relating to his own department's change in terms of eliminating a deputy minister's office and then increasing the Deputy Minister's Office by 24.9 percent why was that turn done the other way if he was really cutting back in a position? Did he add a new position in his Deputy Minister's Office, or how was that accomplished? Because it seemed to be a 100 percent cutback in one area but then a 25 percent increase in the other. Also, in terms of the Communications Branch, is that to do with the advertising budget he's talking about? I'd like to have more specific information relating to that fairly dramatic increase of 27.6 percent.

One of the things I find quite shocking is in the decrease especially in Industry Relations and Training and in Training/Professional Development. I believe in the estimates last year we talked about and I believe the minister at that time agreed with my suggestion, that we had to professionalize the tourism service sector. In the Training/Professional Development one, we're looking at eliminating what was started out last year, a \$500,000 program, and the Industry Relations and Training as well being knocked down by 9.8 percent. I really don't know where this new minister has decided to go along with making sure we have a much more professional tourism service sector, because one of the things that can turn off tourists and visitors more than anything else is a lack of good service, a lack of quality service in the various restaurants and tourism facilities. Very definitely that needs to be addressed, because in countries and areas where tourism has flourished, there has very definitely been a much higher focus on that whole area of professionalism in tourism.

One thing with the tourism and service-sector industry is that in many cases it's a very low-paying kind of industry in terms of the employees, and usually the reason the employers tend to pay their employees fairly low wages is lack of training. They have to train on the job, et cetera. Now, at AVC Lac La Biche we did start a tourism training/professional development program, and I would have hoped to see that type of program expanded across the province and encouraged. I would like the minister to respond to that. Where is that recognition last year in the estimates that we were going to be seeking much more professionalism in the tourism service sector by encouraging training programs through various educational facilities and working with business in order to create that? It is really missing this year.

I'd like to have as well more information relating to the intent of the Business Services part of the budget which has suddenly appeared this year. What is it supposed to facilitate? What is the information? Is it again to professionalize the business sector in terms of marketing analysis, small business information, the regionalizing of services for the small business sector so they can take advantage of some of the new programs announced by the minister relating to the community tourism action plan?

One of the things where I received complaints in the past two years is from the various tourism associations, that they have been terribly underfunded. TIAALTA, for example. This year,

after a request was submitted to the minister that through TIAALTA the various tourism associations receive a minimum of \$50,000 a year, they have received only \$30,000 for their various associations. I really think that's a terrible mistake made by the government, not to fund the tourism association to a higher degree, because basically most of them are existing on a wing and a prayer, and if we're going to be trying to develop the tourism industry in terms of an Alberta-based tourism industry which is not simply going to be attracting foreign visitors, which on total dollars spent is still a small portion of the total dollars expended in terms of tourism, we must also do our own in-house, our own in-province tourism in terms of our tourist zones and the tourism association's hands are basically handcuffed by the lack of support through TIAALTA. I would have liked to see that kind of increase, but again this year, even though the government and the Premier have put tourism as a very important diversification tool, the amount of moneys expended into tourism is really quite a decrease.

I must compliment the minister, however, that they've borrowed some of the ideas the Official Opposition had, which was a community tourism action plan, a \$30 million initiative over, I believe, five years. However, it's a very pale comparison to the one proposed by the Official Opposition, which was also tied in with an Alberta North concept type of recreation/tourism development plan which would have been to pump an additional \$75 million of Alberta heritage trust fund moneys into an Alberta North concept. And \$50 per capita for the small centres in northern Alberta is not going to put the money that is required to really develop the kind of historical, thematic facilities required to make the north a very important partner in the whole tourism industry. They're a very poor kissing cousin right now compared to southern Alberta if you start looking at the massive injection of money in southern Alberta in terms of developing first-class tourism facilities like Kananaskis Country, et cetera. We do not have any of that in northern Alberta, and it's a real shame. Northern Albertans have been waiting long enough to see their fair share coming. Now, the community tourism action plan is maybe a beginning, but it's spread throughout the province at about \$4 million or \$5 million a year, and that goes nowhere near the kind of concept the Minister of Recreation and Parks recommended and the Official Opposition recommended here in the past year.

So I'd like to ask the minister why he did not lobby more effectively in terms of his own heritage trust fund committee members to make sure that Alberta heritage trust fund money is expended in northern Alberta in terms of a target developmental plan as opposed to spreading the loot throughout the province, which I don't disagree with, but it does not address the disparity in funding which has been occurring in the last number of years. I think even people from Red Deer-North would agree with that statement.

One of the things I also would like to recommend to the minister is that I think there is a real lack of co-ordination existing today in Alberta Tourism. We have basically three departments which have to do with tourism to some extent or probably even four. We have Tourism which has a total budget of \$33.3 million, we have a parks and recreation budget of \$99.425 million, and we have a ministry of culture with a total budget of \$46.895 million, all basically dealing with the whole question of developing recreational, cultural, historical, thematic facilities throughout Alberta. But I can bet there is very little co-ordination between these three departments, because I ran into so many incidents, as we traveled through northern Alberta in

our economic task force, where people wonder whether the government's left hand knows what the right hand is doing. I would recommend to this Legislature that maybe it's about time we combined Tourism and parks and recreation into one department, as opposed to having two separate ministers dealing with what I think is really a tourism action plan for Alberta.

I would also recommend, for example, that portions of the department of culture also be transferred to a superministry of tourism, parks, and recreation, because again historical resources development in Alberta, like the Lac La Biche Inn, the Lac La Biche Mission, for example, designated historical sites, are not getting the kind of attention they deserve in terms of parks development or historical development.

We also have a problem of lack of co-ordination between this department and the department of transportation. We have certain provincial parks, for example, which still do not have any pavement leading up to them and have really bad road conditions. I would point out for example, the Cross Lake Provincial Park north of Westlock. An abysmal road leads to that provincial park, a beautiful facility, underused as a facility because people are sick and tired of passing over rutted roads. Now, is his input in terms of making sure that there's a co-ordination of provincial transportation funding and his department to make sure that if the facilities are there, the roads are there as well?

What I think we really need in this province is -- I do compliment the minister relating to the community tourism action plan, which is a step in the right direction of starting a grass-roots type of community analysis of a tourist action plan which is to be developed by the community. The thing I disagree with is that we have no accountability in that community action plan; it's lotto money which I think should have been transferred into your department so it could be debated in the House. I think that's the kind of lack of accountability we've got to put a stop to. If we're going to have programs operating supposedly under Tourism, then it should be in your budget. And it's not I think the minister should take steps to make sure that change is made in next year's estimates. It is an assured source of funding. You do know the dollar figure, so why isn't it in your budget this year? I think that should be a policy of your department starting immediately.

I think what is lacking in this province -- we are starting, for example, in some communities, community tourism action plans. They are calling on the communities to start looking at tourism development in their own communities. True, but where is the provincial tourism action plan? Is there one? I haven't seen any. We keep having announcements left and right in terms of a disjointed type of tourism action plan, but there is no provincial tourism action plan in place because this government has not made any task force or sought public input in terms of making sure there's a sequential five- to 10-year development strategy which unites Tourism, Recreation and Parks, Fish and Wildlife, culture, and transportation policies and a community action plan and regional action plan -- our target is to turn a \$2 billion industry into a \$10 billion industry -- to make sure we know how we're going to get there. I don't think this minister knows in any which way how he's going to get there. He's hoping that somehow out of the community action plan there might magically be a provincial tourism action plan. Well, unless the minister gets on the bandwagon himself and starts doing his own brainstorming and public input, he won't know where he's going, and the target the government has set will most likely not take place.

For example, I see a thorough lack of co-ordination, I'll give you a couple of examples. I already made an example about transportation. Another one is in Fish and Wildlife. We have, for example -- part of our tourism is in relation to the ability of the tourist to go out there and catch fish, you know, on our beautiful lakes. But we're finding now that we have a declining fish stock in many of our lakes because of competition between the angler, the commercial fisherman, the environmental pollution which is affecting many of our lakes. We don't even have, for example, any kind of water quality restoration program which seeks to bring back some of our lakes to the number one quality which existed before. We have a total lack of vision about the anglers, for example. In other provinces or other states, if we have a problem with the fish stocks, we impose some type of size limitation on the fish that are caught in our rivers and streams: more effective enforcement. If you want to have ...

MR. DAY: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Point of order.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, the member opposite is already straining the good graces of the members of this Chamber by rambling at random all over the map and straying considerably from the votes before him. He's now waded into fish and wildlife regulations, and I wonder if the Chair could maybe fish him out of that dilemma and get him back to the votes.

MR. McEACHERN: On that point of order. We had the same member interfering several times last week. On the first vote, anything related to the topic is allowed, so I wish he would learn that. The member was speaking about something that's very much related to Tourism, so if he would just clear the wax out of his ears and let us get on with the job, it would help.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Will the member stay close to Tourism. That's the department we're debating this afternoon. Hon. Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche.

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Oh, pardon me.

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman, I refer to Standing Order 62.

(1) The standing orders of the Assembly shall be observed in the committees of the Assembly so far as may be applicable...

(2) Speeches... must be strictly relevant to the item or section under consideration.

And then we get to:

(3) The Chairman shall maintain order in the committees of the whole Assembly, deciding all questions of order subject to an appeal to the Assembly.

I dare suggest that the last 10 minutes of running on haven't been the slightest bit close to the intent of Standing Order 62. [interjections]

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche.

MR. PIQUETTE: The members are -- why don't you listen to what I think is very much a very intelligent speech which tries to make sense of our tourism industry as opposed to making some out-to-lunch statements about their lack of relevancy ...

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order.

MR. PIQUETTE: ... because it has everything to do with what I've been saying about tourism.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order! When you quieten down, Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche, we'll continue with the estimates of Tourism, and please stay in that area.

MR. PIQUETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to what the minister was talking about -- the developing of a provincial tourism action plan, which is exactly the topic I was talking about -- we need to seek public input. There's no doubt when we're talking about tourism that it needs to be a provincial, regional, and community action plan. The province needs to also be involved in that total strategy planning, and at this time I don't believe the government has the Tourism and Parks and Recreation areas really in terms of a correlation within its own development procedures.

Now, another recommendation or area the minister should be -- in terms of the marketing aspect, the Travel Information Services, which have seen a decrease of approximately 6 percent. I'd like to find out from the minister: basically where are his target areas in terms of the Travel Information Services and in the In-Alberta Campaign, where we have seen a 32.5 percent increase in funding, which I think is going in the right direction? I'd like to see what strategies the minister is employing for that supplemental funding, because I indicated before that the TIAALTA, the tourism zone association, has not received this funding. And why not? There very definitely needs to be a lot more advertising in terms of the tourist association being involved with his ministry, in terms of promoting various regions in the province, in terms of also promoting various loop-type tourism areas that can be attractive to potential tourism, especially in terms of northern Alberta -- whether he is concentrating his effort for northern Albertans, for example, of targeting the urban municipalities of Edmonton in terms of making sure, instead of traveling outside the province, that they know what tourist attractions are in northern Alberta, so that we find less people moving outside the province or going south and start developing the potential we have in the north.

In terms of the thematic and historical parks, I'd like to know the minister's intentions relating to that. I think this is probably one of the most interesting tours we've created in Alberta. For example, I went down to the Tyrrell Museum last year, and I think from the figures we have in terms of that kind of thematic or historical park, it has attracted hundreds of thousands of tourists. I would like to see what his department is going to do, for example, in terms of encouragement and acquiring of the necessary funding relating to more of this kind of development especially in northern Alberta where a lot of our early history of this province took place and where we could be co-ordinating with his department a lot more in terms of making sure those thematic parks are developed much more quickly.

Now, going into the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement I've received, to a large extent quite a bit of criticism relating to that agreement. Mainly it seems that the process that small businesses have to go through is very difficult to understand. The bureaucracy appears to have built up over the last two years. When the program first came out projects were accepted fairly quickly and with minimal fuss. I know a number of them that were funded in the northern part of the province; most of them are very successful. But in the last year or year and a half I've

received a number of complaints from small business; for example, two today, who have some before the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement, and they complain bitterly about the long process now. They're feeling that it's now more targeted to the large company as opposed to the small business sector. They would like you to know that and to pass on that information to the appropriate minister in terms of the process which is now taking place.

I believe my time is just about up. In conclusion, another area I'd like to see some changes in is the Alberta Mainstreet program, which is maybe not under your department as such but I would recommend that it come under your department. One of the areas I'd like to see happening is perhaps to help small business respond more to the tourism attraction theme again. One of the things I've seen very much in some communities in British Columbia is where some communities have been able to access a kind of funding program where it's fifty-fifty with the government out there and in some cases as high as seventy-five/ twenty-five. They've changed the appearance of their stores to conform to an identified community action plan relating to the kind of community they wish to portray to the tourist industry.

I think the minister should be looking at changing the Alberta Mainstreet program. All it really does at the present time is provide consultative type of information but really does nothing to encourage the small business sector to take advantage of some -- whether it be tax discount or a share type of program with the government I would want to see, for example, a change in the community tourism plan where specifically that is addressed within that community action plan; where if it's identified by a community, where the community has basically -- perhaps like Lac La Biche -- identified the fur industry as their theme for the community, in changing their various storefronts they can access a fund or a tax discount or whatever out of this program, which would make this a viable type of choice, because at this time the Alberta Mainstreet program, although I think it has good intentions, really does not go far enough.

So I would ask the minister to make comments on these and other questions today.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Member for Little Bow.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, thank you for putting me on the agenda.

To the minister, I'd first of all like to congratulate him and wish him the best in his responsibilities. Tourism is certainly an area where we must focus, and the potential for growth is unlimited at this point in time, and I'm sure the minister understands his full responsibility in that area. We in Alberta -- in a general sense I would say this -- even our agriculture, our natural resources, our small business, all have just unlimited and unbelievable growth potential, and what we need in the future is certainly population and people with creativity and incentive to make it happen.

What I'd like to focus on in my remarks for a few moments is the program that is included this year, the community tourism action program. If I understand that correctly, it's the wish and desire of the minister and the government to ask individuals and community groups to do everything they can to create their community as a tourist attraction. And then out of that we all look at the dollars and cents, so that in the end there are dollars left in that community and dollars left in the province, and the economy in general is enhanced in a small or significant way. I

think that can work. I think the objective is good. One of the ideas I've raised in this legislature before with regards to this is using this potential, but I've never seen it ever co-ordinated, and possibly through the community tourism action program this co-ordination may finally come about.

[Mr. Gogo in the Chair]

I've felt that the United States with its many, many people could enjoy the beautiful sights that we have here in this province. I think back in the late 1950s when I toured down through the central part of the United States and back up the western coast coming through Oregon -- the redwoods. There were many signs saying that you should stop and walk through the redwoods. I found later that it cost me \$2 at that point in time to walk through the redwoods. Well, I left \$2 of my Canadian money in the redwoods, and they took it from me. I remember going along the highway, down through the central part of the United States, and there were numerous signs saying that soon you were going to reach this site where you'd see animals that you'd never seen before. Well, I had to stop when I got there. And what was there? There were a few skunks and minor animals, and I left another dollar there. Now, I wasn't too impressed with the ethics of that, but there are things in our province that I think we walk by that certainly would be interesting, educational sites for the many people of the United States and even our own Canadians from other provinces.

Let me give some examples of what I would like to see happen in the province. I would like to see us develop what I would call tourist loops -- two-day, four-day, six-day, or 10-day tourist loops that could be traveled by visitors in buses or by car out of the United States -- and sell those loops to the various individuals. Senior citizens are one of the target groups that certainly have some funds; they do travel and they do spend some money. I don't think we're taking advantage of that.

Last summer I was standing on the streets of Havre, Montana, and there was a group of senior citizens there with their motor homes. They were traveling in a cavalcade. I said, "Where are you going?" "Oh, we're going up through Medicine Hat, up to the dinosaur valley, and we're going over to Calgary. Then we're going back through Coutts and circle around and come home again." And they said: "Boy, there's some interesting things up there. We know of the dinosaur valley; we've heard about that. We know we can do some shopping and maybe look at the potential sites of the Olympics in Calgary." But they didn't know of anything in between. Nobody had sold them on some good items such as the assets of Medicine Hat some of the industries there that could be looked at. That's part of tourism: tours into the industries. I look at Brooks: the dinosaur there, some of the food capabilities and presentations, the irrigation district the various productions we have there, and the potato chip plant could have been part of a tour. The large feeding and slaughtering facilities of Brooks could have been part of that tour -- interesting for those people.

Then we could go on up to the dinosaur valley, up into Drumheller, and we all know the obvious tourist attraction that is there that would have been a highlight of part of that tour. Then the loop could go back down from Drumheller, from the museum there, back down, let's say, through my constituency, back down through Vauxhall, potentially. Again we could show them some of the capability of processing potatoes, we could entertain them in terms of the production on agriculture, some tours of the fields. Then, instead of going there, let's say we

take the route over through the Vulcan area. Vulcan is the town of flags of North America. We have one individual who through an initiative about two years ago, has set up flagpoles representing many countries of the world, all of North America, and it's an impressive sight. We also have restaurants there that could be developed, and food services. We have one excellent catering service there that could cater to these people as they come into town, and there are other visual things that could be seen. But we must lay the rug out for those people when they come, and I would see it done through this tourist loop concept.

A greater loop would certainly be extending it up to Edmonton and, as the hon. member just a few moments ago indicated, maybe into northern Alberta. We do have that capability, and we're not zeroing in and saying it clearly to that potential of the United States. It's "Come and see us." We don't have to say, "Spend some money," but naturally they're going to do that.

I don't lay this on the shoulders of the minister, but I've reviewed some of the promotional material that's gone into other places and also here in the province of Alberta. I've often felt that that promotional material was too complicated. It wasn't simple enough in its presentation. It didn't say, for example, that if you're going to take a loop up from Havre, Montana, through Medicine Hat to Drumheller and back down another route, here are the one, two, three things you can see in each place with a bit of a promotional description next to it. I found it was too much "Travel Alberta" -- a blast out there kind of thing, and it didn't seem to target. It would hit your mind, and you'd say, "Well, I don't know what I'm looking for when I go there." So I'd recommend to the minister to maybe review some of that with the people that are doing the public relations and the promotion for the province with that in mind. Keep it as simple and easy as possible to read, and I think you'll catch a little more imagination from some of the potential tourists that we have in the province.

Now, along with what I've just said in this idea that I have, certainly the minister can take it beyond that and analyze it with these community action groups and dig up a hundred and one ideas where you can catch the attraction and distract many people to become tourists within this province.

What I wanted to highlight, though, in my remarks today was what I believe is going to be one of the most exciting and innovative projects this province will ever have seen if we can follow it through and develop it to its potential. During the 1986 election the Little Bow constituency was extended to include the Blackfoot Reserve. I've found that over the years I had spent some time on the reserve but not an extensive amount of time. Since my election, and since I now represent those people, I have spent more time, and I've found some very exciting things, not only a potential in terms of tourism but exciting in terms of people with some good ideas and a bit of a determination that they'd like to do something to better their conditions.

The project they placed before me during my last two visits to the band council I think has one of the greatest potentials to develop the people, to develop the reserve, to develop tourism, to develop the economy in this province, to give us a showcase, a show spot for Alberta in all of the world. And I say that because I now describe the project. But people come to visit; they've come to visit my farm from Europe, Germany, and various other countries. One of the first things they say to me when they get off the airplane at Calgary and we're driving them back down to the farm is, "Can I go to see the Indians?" It's one of

the first things they say. They want to do that. Well, on the way home I usually drive them down through the Blackfoot Reserve, and we visit a few of the people and see some of the things that are there. Some of the things are impressive, and some are not. Like every other community, it's that way. But they ask to, because they've heard over in Europe about the Indians of our province. I think we should take advantage of that potential that's there, so we can bring people in not only from Europe but the United States and other parts of Canada, if we can showcase and develop a concept that will take advantage of all the capabilities.

I'd like to talk about that capability that we have at the present time, the presentation. We're in the preliminary stages in terms of this project. The new chief that has been elected, Chief Strater Crowfoot is a young man who's a graduate of university with one or two degrees, very aggressive, very well organized. He has some very excellent ideas and is in support of this project. His council members see the excitement in it as well. I'd like to outline for the minister in a preliminary sense today what that project is all about. But I guess in my presentation to the minister in terms of the provincial government I'd like to see this presentation followed up with the federal government so that we can have a sort of tripartite organization to develop the project to its fullest potential.

The name we have placed on the project at the present time is the Blackfoot Band cultural tourism project. The project is very much across the board in terms of its potential. It has social benefits, cultural benefits, economic benefits, and educational benefits. Now, that's a pretty major package of benefits that it has. I see it as a project that could uplift the spirits of those people on the reserve so that they will have a clearer objective in terms of the future, and at the same time those values of their culture, those native values that the older generation would like to see the younger generation understand and know, will be able to occur through the development of this project that I see here. So it has some great benefits, not only, as I say, economically but certainly socially and culturally and educationally.

Let me outline what we're talking about. The heart of the plan on the reserve is to take advantage of those natural things that we have there. We have the Indian culture; we have a number of the historic sites; we have artifacts; we've got the religion; we've got educational services; we've got the prairie and the grassland ecology; we've got terrific economic potential; and we feel that those things can be captured in this project. The heart of the plan is what is called the cultural interpretive centre. As I understand it from my discussions with the Blackfoot people and their adviser, this cultural interpretive centre would be modeled on the cultural centre that is located on one of the Hawaiian islands called the Polynesian Cultural Center. If any of you have visited there, you will note that in that centre when you walk in, you are able to see the culture in action. You're able to taste the food of the culture. You're able to look at I guess, some historical educational items. If I remember correctly, there was basket weaving, and there were a number of other kinds of things, handicrafts, that the people were carrying out. I also remember recreation that was there. But there was a broad demonstration of the culture of the Polynesian people. Here the Blackfoot people could demonstrate to the tourists. They could also demonstrate to their young people so that there would be internal learning about what happened, what the early culture was like. People could come to the interpretive centre and be involved in their way of life, and I can see that as a fan-

tastic opportunity.

I've mentioned, beyond the cultural interpretive centre, the historic sites. On the Blackfoot Reserve we've got a very impressive array of prehistoric sites, which includes the Cluny earth lodge village. We've got large numbers of teepee rings, we've got several buffalo jumps, we have medicine wheels, we have cairns, we have stone effigies, and we have Crowfoot's grave and many historic sites relating to the coming of the white man. Now, just any one of those -- and I referred to earlier my American experience -- would have been utilized in the tourist industry, but we have all of these sitting there. And I must say, Mr. Minister, that I just realized within the last two years that some of these historic sites are facing some vandalism, and we're doing everything possible to prevent that from happening. But I see that if we put it into a formal program where we could just have busloads of people coming out of Calgary to tour the reserve, that in turn would protect many of those sites even to a greater extent.

The ancient artifacts: the Blackfoot Band is already in custody of a very fine collection of historic artifacts pertaining to the Blackfoot history, and I could go on and list a number of those various things.

The religion of the Blackfoot: the old religion and the new religion. The traditional Blackfoot life placed great emphasis on oneness of man and nature. The sun dance, the vision quest, the prayer ceremonies, offering and personal sacrifice played important roles in the lives of the Blackfoot people. When the white culture came in, that certainly affected the Blackfoot religion. In the recent times there's been more of a growing interest by young natives, however, to discover their roots and to regain a sense of who they are, and I believe we can do that in a project such as this.

Educational services. As the minister well recognized, I have a Bill before the Assembly to incorporate the Old Sun Community College, which is a college right on the reserve for the purpose of enhancing and promoting educational and cultural programs and opportunity for these young people. This whole concept could be worked into the capability of the Old Sun college.

The other item I wanted to refer to is the prairie ecology, and I mentioned that earlier. The Blackfoot Reserve is still fortunate to possess many, many acres of native prairie, which has attractions and tourist potential even in itself if utilized correctly.

So summarizing this for you, Mr. Minister, I believe the benefits are variable, massive, and certainly obvious. The project, as I see it, could be the basis to develop and help transform life on the reserve, certainly change some of the objectives, and add some excitement and incentive to these people.

The economic realization, which I have only referred to slightly, is that it will mean many jobs and new careers, as never before possible. It will mean a control over their own livelihood and ultimately their financial independence. Tourist-related businesses such as restaurants, lodging, RV campgrounds, service stations, and recreation activities such as rafting, buffalo hunts, camping, and even a native experience program for the tourists are all possible under this program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order in the committee, please.

MR. R. SPEAKER: The manufacture and marketing of native artwork, publication of books on native history and mythology, the production of handicrafts, clothing, ceramics, and even food products can begin to augment the present strengths of the re-

serve in terms of their farming and their ranching.

Those are the economic benefits, and I guess that's part of the dream that can happen for those people, those Albertans, those Canadians. I as the representative for that area would like to be part of starting and assisting those people with the dream that we have here. Because part of their dream is not only economic self-determinism, but the other part of the native dream, and I think this is wonderful, is that they want to . . . The older people -- I talked to many of the grandmothers, the grandfathers, and some of the older generation -- would like their young people to be able to understand their history, what their original culture was. But the problem, just like it is in any other society, is that the younger people say: "Well, we don't have time to listen to that," or "We see the communities outside of our reserve, in Calgary and other places, acting differently." So there seems to be a deterrent to take time to really ingest or to understand that kind of culture. But if we can do it through the interpretive centre, if we can do it by demonstrating that this was a culture to be proud of, that people are interested in learning about it, then we create an environment where these young people have a reason to learn, and I think things can happen much better. So we combine the economic with the cultural, and certainly we have a potential for a very vast and great project.

I wanted to raise it with the minister today, Mr. Chairman, so that we could start and think about it, and as the leadership on the Blackfoot Reserve leads us through it and develops the various aspects of it, the government here can respond and we can in turn encourage the federal government to respond. One of the things that I hope, Mr. Minister, in this project -- and it's been one of the greatest frustrations I have ever had as a member of the Legislature, in working with various reserves, because you have this federal/provincial jurisdictional question. I find it one of the worst deterrents to progress. I remember working with social welfare on the reserves with regards to young offenders on the reserves. We all wanted to do the right thing, but all of a sudden we get ready to do it and somebody would say, "Well, that's the federal government's responsibility; I won't do it," or vice versa. I hope in this project, because it has so much potential, and as the people on the reserve lead us and tell us what to do -- it isn't us that should develop it for them; they should work with us and give us direction. I think that's the theme behind your community tourism action program, that it comes from the community as they promote it and push it. Then if we have to assist in finances, we can. Mr. Minister, let's hope that what we do, we can eliminate and not allow something good to be distracted because of the jurisdictional question.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First, I'd also like to congratulate the minister on his new department and also back up -- I hope that Red Deer-North and -South have paid the ACCESS people to tape this, because they can use it for years and years and years to help educate themselves. In congratulating the minister, I'd also like to support the two speakers... [interjections] Pardon? I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I've woken someone else up too apparently. I thought he was over getting an education. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

With respect to the two previous speakers, I'd like to support their moves. Particularly, the Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche did point out that it might be an idea, the importance of the post, to combine Tourism, Recreation and Parks, and Cul-

ture all into one. I really think that's something we should be looking at. In my chances to do business around the world, that's quite often how they are organized. That leads into what the hon. Member for Little Bow mentioned that I, too, have found when I've had someone visit from abroad or from even the east side of the continent. One of the things they want to look at or be associated with is the Indian movement or whatever Indian culture there may be going on. I would certainly support the idea of the Blackfoot because I'm fairly familiar with that area down there. But also there is the Cree culture in northeast Alberta, which would take people away from the mountains, and also the Crees of northern Alberta. I don't know if the Beaver and the Slavey come in the north end either, but the idea of a cultural centre is a good one. I've seen them in Germany and in Hawaii and also in the South Pacific. [interjection] I came back myself.

But it is an idea that we could make use of, and not in the chauvinistic idea of: here's our tame red man; you come out and pay \$1 and you can look at him wearing his feathers or doing a dance. It's to do with the idea of co-operation with them, that they have the input and in fact they make a great deal of the money, because there's nothing wrong with that being one of the extra industries for our native people. Of course, as these tourists are on their way into the natives or on the way out they are going to spend money in other places too, like Calgary and Edmonton -- "sin town" -- and get the other side of the culture that is very similar when compared to back home. I think the native culture is the only unique atmosphere that they will get the only unique approach to another culture. Certainly we are overlooking it and I think it's partly because we haven't worked with the natives closely enough.

I may also add, Mr. Chairman -- I wanted to ask, when the minister sums up, whether or not... They mentioned what a great job we did on the Winter Olympics, and that's true. I'd also be interested in knowing what the government is doing as far as the Seoul or Summer Olympics. I must admit a certainly amount of self-interest as I have a daughter that's on the Canadian Olympic team. As they say, if you're born a Liberal in Alberta, you learn to run early. This particular daughter is in the rowing or the kayaking team. I could go on for a whole speech and say how many championships she's won around the world, but I just wanted to point out that there are a number of Olympic athletes from Alberta competing in Seoul, and I don't think we should lose the opportunity. Now, I'm not suggesting that my daughter have a capital Alberta go on the back of her sweater, but it mightn't be a bad idea to look around and see just what you are doing in that area.

I want to touch on another area, hunting licences, which is something the hon. minister should be quite familiar with because he was associated with Wildlife before he moved to this department. I feel that he'd be an ideal person to put some heat on the wildlife department to get this issue solved. Right now the government I believe, is being sued by a group of possible licensees for hunting, and it seems to have frozen the government into sheer fright or inaction. The fact that many foreign newspapers -- and I [inaudible] one because I've been sort of interested, on the fringe of hunting, through the years, and Alberta has a bad reputation. As a matter of fact two papers I've seen had editorials saying to stay away from Alberta. Well, that can't help but hurt. Not from the point of view that our laws are lousy; it was from the point of view that our lawmakers were afraid to make a law.

I believe that as Minister of Tourism you are ideally

equipped to approach the Premier and the Executive Council and tell them to get their act together and solve this problem, as it shouldn't be insolvable as far as who gets hunting licences and how they are issued to nonresidents, and get it over as soon as possible, because bookings for the fall season are already on in the world's main hunting areas. It's a shame that we're getting a reputation around the big game hunting capitals of the world, in the U.S. and Germany, of being a bunch of rather backward people that do not know how to put regulations together. We put out one set of regulations one year, another set the next year, and in the middle of the winter we change our minds a couple times to boot on that too. That Mr. Minister, does poorly for our tourism potential.

Also, I'd like to mention to the minister -- of course, I take it he's taking a quick lesson now from the Associate Minister of Agriculture. If she can find her way back to her seat maybe she could act as a guide so the minister in turn could listen to what's being said rather than the sweet nothings she's trying to whisper into his ear. If she would nibble his ear, it might help him listen a little better, but who knows?

Now, Mr. Chairman, also speaking to the minister, I would also point out that one of the areas he could look at... He could talk to the hon. Minister of Education -- now she's trying to get the other ear, Mr. Chairman -- on exchange programs. These have a great future for promoting tourism, because once a student the child of a parent has visited an area, quite often the parent follows along shortly afterwards. You might be able to use your good auspices to talk to the Minister of Education to start moving students back and forth on exchange programs. It might have the unfortunate result of showing how inadequate her programs are in that department but that's a chance that you're going to have to take. If you can circulate them back and forth between eastern Canada and western Canada, I think it could do a lot toward tourism in the long run.

Now, everyone that's got up to speak so far has had a pet that they wanted to push. Mr. Chairman. I have one for tourism; it is with respect to ice fishing. I feel that ice fishing as a tourist attraction for the wintertime has been badly overlooked. I can't think of anything better than sitting down with the Associate Minister of Agriculture in one of those little huts on a cold, windy night sharing the products of the Caribbean, properly heated, as we fish through a hole in the ice. I think that type of a thing could be sold far and wide. [interjection] Certainly I'd be willing to share with other people too, but you're going to have to line up; I saw her first. I don't know why, when you discover something good around here, everybody else tries to crowd in on it.

But ice fishing, Mr. Chairman; you can imagine now just going out in Chicago or New York: "Have you grown apart? Has your marriage started to drift apart? Come up and spend a week in northern Alberta, cuddled in a four foot by four foot shack in a high wind, fishing through the ice, enjoying Alberta's hospitality." There are all kinds of it. I can sit there -- and I know he's got four or five of his members up top there; if they want to take a few minutes, I could write copy on the joys of ice fishing for the next half hour or an hour. But suffice it to be said. Mr. Chairman, that there is a lot more to Alberta than the natives and the mountains. We have -- and that's my pet -- ice fishing.

I might also ask a question, Mr. Chairman, as to just what the minister is doing with respect to trying to balance the imbalance, I guess you might say, between budgeting for tourism in southern Alberta versus northern Alberta. The last set of figures

showed that seven times as much was spent in southern Alberta -- that's south of Lacombe -- on tourism than was spent north of Lacombe. Now, as an ex-southern Albertan I don't like to have the thought go abroad that we have to spend seven times as much to get anybody to stay in southern Alberta. I'd rather like to think that it was more imperfection or a mishandling of funds that caused that to happen. I suppose the fact that the Olympics were in Calgary contributed a lot towards that. But I'd be interested in knowing just what the minister feels the balance will be, north and south of Lacombe, in the coming year.

To move on rather quickly, I have another pet of mine. The hon. Member for Barrhead isn't here, but highway 794 on the west side of the city that connects up Highway 2 around the west side of Edmonton up to Westlock and then on up to ice fishing country, or Lesser Slave Lake, is still one of the few areas connecting around Edmonton that is a municipal road and not a provincial road. It should be reclassified as Highway 44, Mr. Chairman. I would ask the minister to use his good auspices with the minister of public utilities and the minister of transport, that's sitting opposite from me now, to see if he can't have 794 reclassified as 44, because it would do a tremendous amount for tourism, taking people across and up to the Peace River country, where you can actually run into a skating rink put together by government money and named after the minister. So that would be one of the great tourist results that he could do. A rather unusual procedure, having that minister be one of the few that was able to get a skating rink named after him while he was still alive, or at least while the government bench thought he was still alive.

I might also mention that your tourist zones have asked that that be renumbered to Highway 44, to be specific, but we'd rather have the intriguing note that if you come from the east or the west, you skirt around Edmonton, but if you're coming from the south to the north and going to a north tourist area, you come up to the south end of Edmonton and it's almost as if there's a deliberate attempt to keep you from going any farther north. And if you only go as far as Edmonton, probably many of the tourists may never want to come farther north. But if you had Highway 44 put into place, going on up into the Lesser Slave and through that area, 794 being reclassified as Highway 44, it would be a tremendous step in the right direction.

While we're talking on tourism facilities, I'm very intrigued with the possibility of using a great deal more free enterprise, Mr. Chairman. I'd ask the minister to look at using a great deal more free enterprise. Now, I know maybe some of the well-meaning people in your department feel that if you let some of these shepherders out trying to promote tourism in the small areas here, they might cause a problem, but I don't think that's true. I think the idea of joint funding with the local municipalities, or the twilight zone, of tourism information facilities would be something that should be looked at fairly closely. I think what you're doing, then, is doing more than just tying up private enterprise's money in the idea of promoting tourism in the area there. But by having everyone concerned, you change the whole attitude, whether it's the person that takes the order of bacon and eggs in the morning with a big smile rather than scratching a two-day-old growth of beard and breathing some of the Treasury Branches' favourite tax-raising fluids on you, or whether it's a case of the pump jockey in the town. The more the small town people, the more the businesses are involved in promoting tourism, I think the more their attitude and welcoming nature in their welcome to the public will improve.

Consequently, I would recommend quite strongly to the minister the concept put forward by the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta in the December '87 brief to you called Team Tourism, which in effect means taking a portion of the revenue now created out of liquor taxes and recent room accommodation taxes and setting that aside to be matched with private dollars in promoting the different zone areas. I think it's an area combining private enterprise and government expertise that is very good, and using your department in an advisory capacity, not in any capacity to try to slow it down in any way because it might not be as professional as they would like.

Next, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to touch on another area very quickly, and that is the area of a Kananaskis north. I don't mean out into the foothills. I think something that would enjoy ...

AN HON. MEMBER: Lac La Biche.

MR. TAYLOR: Actually, I was thinking of Lac La Biche, and I hesitated to recommend it, Mr. Chairman, except that my polls showed the other day that it's going Liberal next time around anyhow. Therefore, I am not going to be afraid of recommending the Lac La Biche and north of Westlock area as ... [interjection] Don't be too cocky about yours either, hon. Member for St. Albert. Edmonton-Norwood will be the only one that's safe.

The Kananaskis north concept is something we should be looking forward to and not just in the northern foothills: something that's entirely different. We have not only our natives on the way out to Fort McMurray and through the Athabasca-Lac La Biche country -- great fishing country; it's a different type of flora and fauna entirely. This may be one of the reasons they've responded by sending us the hon. Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche. Nevertheless, it is a unique area and one worth while looking into as a possibility for a Kananaskis north. Lest my own constituency complain too vociferously, as the godfather for the constituency the hon. Member for Barrhead could circulate all through the media in the constituency that I had proposed Kananaskis north for Athabasca, I want to hasten to add, Mr. Chairman, that I'm only proposing that a good chunk of it be in Athabasca. Some of it could slop over into my constituency in the north part. Indeed, it'd be a very good area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, we've gone from highways to recreation and parks to wildlife. Perhaps we could zero this back in on tourism.

MR. TAYLOR: Well, that's exactly it, though, Mr. Chairman. That's what I'm trying to do. In the past the definition of tourism has been entirely too narrow. Tourism in the past has been a case of selling a buffalo emblem and a \$4 sticker at the Banff park's gate, and that was thought to be tourism. What I'm trying to get across here does involve highways; it does involve the cultural setup; it does involve parks. Unfortunately, in order to try to keep everybody happy over there, they split the department up in so many places that I'm afraid that tourism is suffering. I'm arguing that the Minister of Tourism should be the prime mover. He should be the person that's out there trying to get these other ministers to co-ordinate their plans in such a way that it increases tourism. If we can only get him to quit using Virginia tobacco now and use the homegrown stuff here, we would be all right, Mr. Chairman.

That is all I had to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member for Chinook.

MRS. McCLELLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comments for the minister will be particularly to vote 1.5.

The Olympics were a proud moment in Alberta's history. It was a tremendous marketing opportunity for us in terms of promoting our tourism assets. I'm sure we'll reap the benefits from those for many years, but I don't think we should stop there. I think it's important that we keep the name Alberta fresh in people's minds and that we do that by continuing our marketing efforts at full throttle. The two programs the Minister of Tourism introduced, the community tourism action program and the Team Tourism program, are definitely steps in the right direction. As I understand it, the community tourism action program concentrates resources on developing attractions at the community level. I think that's very important. As I travel to Edmonton, particularly on a beautiful spring morning such as this morning, I find myself wishing that everyone had the opportunity to see the beauty of eastern Alberta, particularly the changing landscape, the wildlife and, generally, just the gorgeous terrain. Probably the greatest value in this program, I believe, will be the community's recognition or awareness of the opportunities in their own area. Sometimes we take that too much for granted when we live right within it.

Team Tourism: a joint venture between government and the private sector to undertake regional marketing initiatives on a cost-sharing basis. I think that's very important.

I believe that the community tourism action program has been in effect for over a year now. I've had very positive feedback from my communities, who have not previously considered themselves in that light. I was interested in the Member for Little Bow's comments on a tourism loop. I think this will probably evolve from that program as we in all communities become more aware of what we have to offer. I'm wondering if the minister might discuss how the community tourism action program has been received around the province and talk about the different projects which are under way as a result of this program.

With regards to Team Tourism, I think this is an excellent way of furthering the effectiveness of our limited dollars. Could the minister comment on some of the marketing initiatives that he sees coming out of this program?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, before I get too long a list of questions, maybe I should answer and address a few. I'd like to take the opportunity to do so. Some very good comments have come forward, especially from the Member for Little Bow.

We've been working very strenuously with the Blackfoot. Mr. Chairman, we presently are working on a feasibility study with the Blackfoot in that area, along with many other groups, the Cree and others in other parts of the province. We've tried to co-ordinate. I've had meetings with both federal ministers who are involved, and we're looking at moving into meeting with the chiefs of treaties 6, 7, and 8 this month on the specific issues of getting them involved in the tourist business in a more formal way. We met with the native development group just last week and are working with them to make sure they're aware of the opportunities that are coming forward to be able to get natives involved in tourism. They have taken a very strong interest in it throughout the province.

[Mr. R. Moore in the Chair]

Through our community tourism action planning process we have included the natives in the community tourism action program. Each reserve is eligible on the funding formula to fund projects within their community as soon as they do a community action tourism plan. If they call our department, we will send out either a consultant or one of our staff to work with them, to work through that community tourism action plan. It would take about two days to do it if you sat down for eight hours a day, and they would definitely know where they want to go and what they can do on their own with the money we've already put into the program. Then we'll also know on a regional basis what we should be looking at for regional generators, and it will give us a good idea, when all of the plans throughout the province are done, of what we can do and what we should be doing on a provincial scale for provincial generators.

So I think you're right. We are working. I would hope, as I said in my opening comments, that all communities who want to get involved in the tourism action planning process do so this year so that by the fall of '88 we can definitely have a good understanding of what the local grass roots want, not only on a community level but then on a regional level. We can do some planning with their thoughts in place and also on a provincial level. But I would like to also go on to say: don't take that as being that we at the provincial level aren't doing anything. We definitely are. This year major generators are being worked at through the department of culture, both in southern Alberta and in Wetaskiwin with the Reynolds museum. Those two major projects are in the budget and are going forward.

I may as well stay on with the Member for Little Bow, and I'll then move back to other questions. With reference to your tourist loops, very definitely we have done some of it in the province; we have maybe not done enough. We are encouraging our zones to do more, with our co-operation. But we do have, and have printed for several years, a touring guide. It does have southern Alberta mapped out in loops to some degree. I definitely take your comments of a simple process being looked at so that it's easy to pick up.

Our federal/provincial agreement has been redone to free up some funds that are in the Canada/Alberta agreement. The four zones in southern Alberta were trying to get together to do a fifty-fifty matching program with the Canada/Alberta agreement. We identified that they were having problems, and at the last meeting in February during the Olympics with the federal minister we were able to change that element of the program so that in the future we will be making the province eligible as an applicant and then we'll go in with each zone to do tourist loops, to do better brochures. I think that along with your Team Tourism concept will definitely get a better marketing program for the zones, because they will definitely not only have better printed brochures on the loop systems within their zones, but we will also encourage them to do it on video, not only with 27-minute videos so that their ads can be placed into their markets if we do good ads with them, but we can shorten that to 15-minute videos that can be used as advertising no matter where they think their market is.

So I think there's an opportunity to follow through with the natives, and second to none. Through the community action planning process, Mr. Chairman, we as a department have decided to come out with bulletins with ideas that worked successfully in one community that other communities can look at. One of the first bulletins that has come out and gone to every community is the use of a teepee and the consideration of rent-

a-teepee. Private campground operators are looking at it. I've worked with the natives on it; they like the idea. Many Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, classrooms of kids can utilize that type of accommodation for a wilderness experience at a very low cost to them. Undoubtedly, though, they're like everyone else. They'll spend the majority of their funds on other types of recreation and/or food when they're in your community, so don't pass them by.

We're identifying very definitely the youth, the young adults. We're working with them, trying to make sure that we look at a program that will accommodate them throughout the province in youth hostels. We've got the Youth Hostel Association together with the Hotel Association, and we're definitely working not only with young tourists in this province up to the age of 25, but also we're trying to identify things that the senior citizens can do.

If I can go to Athabasca-Lac La Biche's questions for a minute with specific questions about the increase in my deputy minister's budget, it's quite easy to see that if you add the previous ADM budget to the deputy minister's budget, there's definitely a decrease. We did not intend to replace the assistant deputy minister's position when the new department was set up, and very definitely there is a cost saving, if you add those two together, of approximately \$140,000.

AN HON. MEMBER: That's because he was a quarter bigger than anybody else.

MR. SPARROW: Yeah, we have been accused, because he's such a tall man, of having to provide him with large and tall vouchers, and that's not true. He does provide his own clothing. I haven't seen anything slipping through on his expense accounts.

With reference to the question on communications: why the 27.6 percent increase? It's to hire people to assist with additional advertising and promotion of tourism. We've definitely put an emphasis on more staff in that area, even though our overall target with reference to staff has been maintained with reference to other areas.

With reference to the question on Industry Relations and Training: why the 9.8 percent decrease? We feel that we have more efficient use of our resources. We've been able to get help through ATEC, and the department will respond to increased demands for courses as they come about.

I talked a little bit in my opening remarks about the business services unit. What does it do? Very definitely it helps entrepreneurs get projects off the ground. Since we started it in November, we've got some 45 projects that are being worked with in that unit and if you wanted to call them -- one of our problems right now is that there's a backlog within it.

You did have some criticism on the Canada/Alberta agreement with reference to timing. At the last meeting with the federal government it was one of the major changes in the program. Very definitely we did address acceleration of the projects under the Canada/Alberta agreement. Hopefully on new programs coming in, we're trying to target a 30-day turnaround for those that fit the program, and get back to people as soon as possible.

With reference to your question on TIAALTA being underfunded and why underfunded, I think the program has gone up this year. In total it's \$600,000, plus if you add in Team Tourism, which will give them joint-funded \$4 million a year, they've had a fantastic increase. They will be able to use their existing dollars for administration, and Team Tourism definitely

will give them 2.5 percent from the private sector and 2.5 percent from the province on each and every program they do. I have just recently come back from their convention, and they were very, very excited and happy that we were able to follow through on a quick turnaround. When they recommended that we go into Team Tourism, we responded rapidly and put that program into place almost 30 days after receiving it.

With reference to your question on the north/south issue, I could honestly say that the community tourism action planning process is just a beginning. We will look at all opportunities to develop good tourism projects both in southern and in northern Alberta. I think your imbalance in the past has been a natural advantage imbalance. It's the same as in my previous job, Mr. Chairman. It was pretty hard to put a pulp mill in Lethbridge, Alberta, because there are no trees down there. There was a natural advantage in southern Alberta; most of the traffic and tourism demand was in the Calgary/Banff corridor, and that's where most of the development took place and was encouraged in the earlier years. Very definitely, though, we're not saying that in the future. We're very seriously considering maintaining a balance from here on in and looking very seriously at projects within the north. We would hope that the city of Edmonton and other cities as soon as possible can give us their community tourism action plan and do it in a duly completed manner so that it ties in with all the other communities in the province, so we can follow through on some of the other issues.

Very definitely we do have co-operation between culture and parks. The minister of culture and myself and the minister of parks, Norm Weiss, meet on a regular basis, and our departments as late as noon today were having a meeting on the co-ordination that has to take place in the long-term planning of tourist facilities.

MRS. CRIPPS: Don't forget Agriculture.

MR. SPARROW: Agriculture had a forestry meeting last week and is getting involved, and very definitely transportation was at that meeting. We are working with the other departments very effectively. I can assure the member that that co-ordination between departments is very definitely going to continue in the future. Very definitely I'd be opposed to the idea of the leader of the Liberal Party and of the NDP of adding these departments together under one big megaproject. I am busy enough now in the job I have. I know that my colleagues are too, especially the minister of culture. The number of requests he gets is something like 35 a day on average, I think, to participate in functions throughout this province. I know that last weekend was only the third weekend this year that I've been home with my family; I've been traveling in this job. I don't think you could put any more pressure onto it. So I think the co-ordination route we're taking is going to work out to be the best and we're looking forward to making sure that our departments get together not only at the ministerial level but at our deputy minister level and our director level.

Mr. Chairman, with reference to the Member for Westlock-Sturgeon, I've covered one of the points. I very definitely disagree with him on the one department.

As far as the hunting regulations, I'm sure that the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife is addressing the problems. They're not easy problems to solve. I tried for quite some time when I was there. We felt we were just about to the point where most of the problems were solved, and the industry is now ready to move on a new policy.

I agree that we should encourage more exchange programs. If the Minister of Education is listening, very definitely she can take on that responsibility to move in that category, because we have a time problem in our department.

Many of the people in my community have been enjoying ice fishing, as he talked about. I think very definitely it's an underutilized and overlooked resource. It's growing very, very rapidly in rural Alberta, especially at Buck Lake and Pigeon Lake. Some people claim we took more fish out of Pigeon Lake last year with little tents ice fishing than we did with the nets in the commercial system, and there's going to be a continuous growth in the conflict between those two groups. Forestry, Lands and Wildlife have very definitely got a good process going, if they can carry it forward, of doing a five-year management plan on each and every lake in the province to try and get some balance and get some agreement at the local level with reference to the amount of fish caught by tourists or by anglers versus the netting of fish for commercial purposes. They both definitely have a valid use and can be planned so that they can both do the job in a very effective manner. I think this province should be very, very proud of its history, its new Cold Lake hatchery. We're ahead of many, many provinces in Canada with reference to addressing the increase of use of angling as a tourist opportunity not only for Albertans but for all of the tourists that come forward.

Mr. Chairman, I could go on and on. I'm sure the comments about highway 794 to 44 were registered by the minister of highways. I have to agree with the leader of the second opposition party with reference to his use of more free enterprise. Very definitely we are moving that way. The printing this year of the accommodation guide, for instance, was done by the hotelmen's association. They will be using advertising in that and we'll be fixing our government costs with reference to that type of process.

We also are looking at assisting that free enterprise system through Team Tourism on a fifty-fifty basis. As I said in my opening remarks, most of our tourism action planning objectives can and should be encouraged to be obtained through the private sector or nonprofit associations in our local communities. If you take an average community and, say, your county or city receives \$300,000, if the city matched it with \$100,000, they would have \$400,000. They could then go out and challenge the private sector in their communities and the nonprofit groups and double that again, and you'd end up with \$800,000 being spent in your community rather than just \$400,000, if the local community matches ours and spends it as a town or a county. They then would have to make sure, if they do it that way, that they have enough funds to look after the operating costs in their communities. So I've sent a letter out making sure every community understands that they have to look at that long-term operating cost of anything they build. Very definitely each and every project should be designed in such a way that it can be run on a self-sufficiency basis at the local level, and the best way to do that is to let the private sector do it and/or the clubs and organizations, because they're pretty effective at making sure they try to put a limit or a cap on those long-term operating costs.

Mr. Chairman, I'm glad to answer any other questions. I might have missed a few, but I'm sure I'll have an opportunity to address them. If I haven't addressed them, I definitely will in writing at a later date.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seeing that other members have submitted individual ideas for tourism development to the minister this afternoon, I'd like to have him indicate, either today or in writing later, what's happened to the Fort Dunvegan architectural and historical interpretive centre. My understanding is that \$2 million has been expended on the acquisition of that site, for land costs, and I'd like to know what's happening with that project. I know that the Hudson's Bay at one time established a farm, the Spirit River settlement. So between Fort Dunvegan and the Spirit River settlement it's a unique area of Alberta. Certainly that history of transition from the fur-trading economy, which was the basis of the economy in this province at one time, to an agricultural economy is very much exemplified by that particular area of the province. It seems to me that it would be a major tourism attraction, particularly if it were part of the country north concept which the New Democratic party has been promoting in this Legislature for some time. It's certainly a \$75 million proposal that was made to the Heritage Savings Trust Fund committee. You, Mr. Chairman, would remember. Some members here would remember it; they voted it down. But this is one of the areas where we believe that funding for the northern part of the province and developing their tourism would make a great deal of sense.

I'd like the minister's comment on a study apparently done by Edmonton Tourism. They drew a line sort of through Lacombe as separating the province between north and south. The study indicated that money spent on southern Alberta facilities was in the order of \$241 million -- I haven't seen the study myself to read it in detail; I'm informed that that didn't include funding on Kananaskis Country -- and that \$40 million has been spent north of that particular line. I'm sure the minister has had a chance to review that study. I'd like his comment on it.

Part of the problem, Mr. Chairman, comes with the emphasis on the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement which specifies areas that are of a national or international destination category for receiving funding under that particular program. This to a certain extent skews where the money goes: into that Edmonton/Calgary/Banff corridor, which is fine; it's a major international tourist attraction for the province. We're all proud of it and when people come to the province, we all know that that's an area they go to. But as people have already mentioned from other parts of the province here this afternoon, this province has a wealth of tourism attractions and potential tourism attractions. If we're putting all our resources into what presently attracts tourists, where will the money go that will wean us off that one major draw and get people out into the other parts of the province? That's why I for one have supported this Alberta North area as one that deserves funding so that we have a series of smaller developments throughout northern Alberta that would draw people throughout the whole northern part of the province. Until we start putting money into that we're not going to get the tourists going there. Unless we get the tourists going there somehow, we can't get funding because of the criteria of these different programs.

So it seems to me that it's a spiraling effect Mr. Chairman. Until we make a concerted effort to get out of that pattern and develop that northern part of the province, we're always going to continue to put money into the one area we've traditionally put it and that's the Calgary/Edmonton/Banff corridor, which, as I say, is a major attraction for the province. With the expo-

sure from the 1988 Winter Olympics it's gotten a tremendous international boost of exposure and profile. When those people come to this province, I just want to be sure that they know the whole broad range of attractions available to them as potential tourists.

I also want to know whether the department has considered providing some funding to the tourism zones to help them implement the tourism action plan programs and the Team Tourism program. I know that the local communities are really scrambling, particularly under the tourism action plan announced just a few weeks ago, to get their plans completed in order to receive that per capita funding available under the tourism action plan. As well, Team Tourism requires a sort of regional plan for which the individual businesses have to fit in order to ...

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but in view of the time I move that the committee rise, re-

port progress, and beg leave to sit again.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

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

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

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried.

[At 5:28 p.m. the House adjourned to Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.]