

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Title: **Monday, July 24, 1989 2:30 p.m.**
Date: 89/07/24

[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 BILLS**Bill 14****Regional Airports Authorities Act**

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce Bill 14, the Regional Airports Authorities Act.

This Bill provides the framework for incorporating airport authorities in Alberta. Mr. Speaker, these authorities will be responsive to local needs and priorities and will function as an economic development tool for the regions they represent. It is also noteworthy that this is the first legislation of its kind in Canada.

[Leave granted; Bill 14 read a first time]

Bill 17**Department of Public Works, Supply and Services
Amendment Act, 1989**

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce Bill 17, being the Department of Public Works, Supply and Services Amendment Act, 1989.

The purpose of Bill 17 is to amend the procedures for the sale of some public lands and to establish authority for the Minister of Public Works, Supply and Services to provide services with respect to the construction of certain health care facilities.

[Leave granted; Bill 17 read a first time]

MR. SPEAKER: Edmonton-Centre.

Bill Pr. 2**General Hospital (Grey Nuns) of Edmonton
Amendment Act, 1989**

REV. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to introduce Bill Pr. 2, the General Hospital (Grey Nuns) of Edmonton Amendment Act, 1989.

This Bill, Mr. Speaker, is to correct a minor inconsistency in the name of the hospital as well as to save the hospital thousands of dollars.

[Leave granted; Bill Pr. 2 read a first time]

Bill Pr. 12**Jerry Dan Kovacs Legal Articles Act**

MR. THURBER: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce the Jerry Dan Kovacs Legal Articles Act, Bill Pr. 12.

The purpose of this Bill is to allow the Law Society of Alberta flexibility in setting the required articles in Alberta to be served by a person who is in the process of fulfilling his qualifications for the Ontario Bar.

[Leave granted; Bill Pr. 12 read a first time]

head: TABLING RETURNS AND REPORTS

MR. KLEIN: Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to table with the Assembly the 1988 annual report of the Alberta Environmental Research Trust.

head: INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure, sir, to introduce to you a number of individuals who are in the gallery to witness the introduction of Bill 14 today. They are individuals who have been very instrumental in putting together the legislation. I would ask that they rise as I introduce them and that at the conclusion of the introduction we all extend to them a very warm welcome.

I begin by introducing Mr. John Burns, the chairman of the Calgary Transportation Authority; Mr. David Dover, president of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Peter Watson, chairman of Edmonton's Regional Airports Task Force; Mr. John McDougall, vice-chairman of that same task force and also president of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Ron Gilbertson, executive director of the Edmonton Regional Airports Task Force; Mr. Ronald Odynski, one of the legal advisers to the task force; and Mr. Bob Rosen, chairman of the Edmonton Economic Development Authority. I would ask if our colleagues would extend to them a very warm welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, it's certainly my pleasure this afternoon to introduce to you and through to my colleagues in this Legislature a longtime colleague of many of us in this House: Dr. Walter Buck, who has served this Legislature and the people of Alberta for some 22 years. As many of us know, he was known in his opposition role in a very prominent way for his one-liners, which were a very interesting part of this House and will be well remembered. I want to say today that he's here with a case of split loyalty in that 18 fairways are under water and he had an hour for the Legislature. I'd like you to welcome Dr. Buck.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure today of introducing a very special guest, Mrs. Helen Walsh of Bedford, Nova Scotia. Mrs. Walsh is walking across Canada to draw attention to her vision of the rights of unborn Canadians. She started her trek in May of '88 and has since traveled across eight and a half provinces and over 5,000 kilometres. Mrs. Walsh is accompanied today in the public gallery by Louise Carriere, who has driven the van accompanying Mrs. Walsh, and Corry Morcos,

who is hosting Mrs. Walsh during her stay in Edmonton. I would ask them to stand now and receive the warm welcome of this Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to members of the Legislature Mr. Ralph Melnychuk. He has been the secretary of the Edmonton Highlands Liberal Association and is a newly appointed lecturer at Grande Prairie college. I would ask that he rise in the gallery and receive the warm welcome of the members of the Legislature.

head: ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Code Inquiry Report

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, to the Premier. The Premier's written statement to the Code inquiry was carefully written to hoodwink the Alberta public, to make us think that the Premier had no knowledge of problems at FIC/AIC between taking office and the spring of 1987. We know that within 18 days of taking office, the Premier received a document detailing the company's problems and telling him that government action might be necessary. So what we have, Mr. Speaker, is a 14-month credibility gap. His submission was at best a half-truth, and all Albertans know it. I have a very simple question to ask the Premier. Did the Premier read the document provided for him by Mr. Hyndman?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure how many times you want me to answer the first question, but I want to tell the members of the Legislature, through you, Mr. Speaker, that the government will be making a full reply to the Code report when it has assessed and completed its review of that report. We are not going to start to respond to certain small parts of it in the question period. There will be a full response from the government when we have assessed the report and are then making a statement to the people of Alberta.

MR. MARTIN: The Premier's role in this matter is not a small matter. The people of Alberta have a right to know this, Mr. Speaker, in this Assembly.

My question, then, to the Premier. I have to go on the assumption that he reads important documents. I have to give him the benefit of the doubt. People want to know, and I'll ask this question, Mr. Speaker: why didn't he do something back then, before thousands more investors lost their money? Why didn't he do something then?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, these documents, as all members know, were in the Code report. Mr. Code had them, and he assessed them and the review of his counsel with me and asked me to file a deposition. I was prepared all along to go before Mr. Code. It was his decision that I not do it. We are not going to now start to take bits and pieces of the report in the question period.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, does the Premier not know he has a special responsibility here to tell the truth to the people of the province of Alberta? His negligence when he knew back in

1985 is the reason we've had these problems. Why didn't he do something about it?

MR. GETTY: Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said, these documents were before Mr. Code, in the hands of his legal counselors, and Mr. Code held a full two-year study of the whole matter and has now made his report. The government is assessing it, and we'll make a statement on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Second main question, Leader if the Opposition.

Compensation for Principal Investors

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, back to the Premier. We were told that it would be within a week; one week is almost here. When this government told Albertans it would take that one week to respond to the Code report, it led us to believe it needed the time to look at the report, keeping in mind the Premier's commitment to the investors, and then they would make an appropriate response. Obviously that wasn't the real reason. What the government really needed was a week to fight a political battle within its own caucus, not to look at what Mr. Code said; it's rather clear what Mr. Code said. It had nothing to do with the harm to the investors or the cost to the taxpayers. What it is is an internal battle within this caucus.

MR. SPEAKER: Now we'll have the question. Order. Now the question.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, this is the start of a second set of questions. I get the preamble. My question . . .

MR. SPEAKER: They were too-long sentences. Let's go.

MR. MARTIN: Okay. Rough night.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier. In 1987, when the Premier made his promise to compensate in the event of government negligence, did he have the support of his caucus or did he make that commitment off the top of his head, as he's done before?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition surely knows that matters that are in caucus are matters private to caucus, and the decisions that are made are involved in announcements.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, the question we want to know from this Premier, and I'll repeat it: without talking internally, did he have the support of his caucus when he made that commitment?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, one of the most foolish questions I've ever heard in the Legislature.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, whenever he doesn't want to answer, it becomes foolish or silly. It's not foolish or silly to the people of Alberta.

My third question now is: does the Premier have the support of his caucus at this moment in living up to the promises that he promised in 1987?

[Government members applauded as Mr. Getty rose]

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have any additional information, Premier?

MR. GETTY: A very eloquent reply, Mr. Speaker.

Monitoring of Financial Industry

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, serious problems in the financial industry in Alberta prompted the priorities committee of cabinet to establish two task forces in 1984 and 1985. In 1984 a task force on financial institutions, including matters relating to the Investment Contracts Act, was set up. In 1985 a special task force to monitor trust companies was established. From the Code report we know that the Premier received a memorandum from the Provincial Treasurer with a two-page summary attached dealing with the problems of FIC and AIC. My question to the Premier is this: did not the November 1985 memo and the two task forces alert you, Mr. Premier, to the serious problems facing the financial industry in Alberta at that time?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, I've already answered that question in the House.

MR. DECORE: I consider this to be added stonewalling and refusal to answer by you, Mr. Premier.

Given that the problems in the financial industry had not improved, can you tell this Assembly, Mr. Premier, why you dissolved, why you disbanded those two task forces shortly after you became the Premier?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, decisions regarding cabinet and cabinet committees are very private.

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, my last question is to the no-answer Premier.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. member. Order. There are enough *Beauchesne* comments with respect to whether questions or answers are made. Let's go. Let's have the question.

MR. DECORE: The last question to the Premier is this: how could you expect, sir, your senior ministers to deal with problems involving the financial industry, serious financial problems, in a greater way, a more attentive way, when you signaled to them that this wasn't a matter for concern when you disbanded those two task forces?

MR. GETTY: Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is incorrect.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Cypress-Redcliff, followed by Edmonton-Centre, then Calgary-Buffalo.

Guidelines for Ministers of the Crown

MR. HYLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. I wonder if the Premier has any additional information to share with or to update the House on matters related to conflict of interest, as it's had an important point in the last two or three weeks in the Legislature?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, yes. In response to various members of the Assembly, my hon. friend from Edmonton-Gold Bar and others, I have decided that rather than do a review within my office of the guidelines and legislation pertaining to conflict of interest, I would have it done by a group of Albertans who would do the assessment and make recommendations to us.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier can share with the Assembly the names of that group of Albertans and, more importantly, the terms of reference under which they will be working and to whom they will report.

MR. GETTY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have been able to obtain the services -- and I think we're very lucky in this regard -- of three outstanding Albertans. The review panel will be three people. It will be chaired by the Chief Justice of the Alberta Provincial Court, Mr. Edward Wachowich. The other two members are Dr. Walter Buck, who is a former MLA, of course, who is visiting us today and who was an MLA for some 22 years, and Mr. Frank King, a Calgary businessman and former chairman of the Olympic Organizing Committee.

I've asked the panel to submit its report, Mr. Speaker, with recommendations as quickly as possible but no longer than October 31, 1989. I've asked them also, as I mentioned in the House, to review as a specific matter the unique situation of the Alberta Energy Company in this province and the ownership of shares by senior public servants, MLAs, and ministers of the Executive Council in relation to the Alberta Energy Company.

As I say, this is an important matter. I believe the panel outside of the Premier's office will give us a full assessment and review. All hon. members realize how important these rules are, not just to make sure that they're comprehensive and up to date but also recognizing that they do have an influence on the quality of people who will become involved in public life. So I'm very pleased that we have three outstanding Albertans who will serve the province in this way.

MR. HYLAND: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Premier will inform the Assembly if he will be sharing the report of the group with the members of the Assembly.

MR. GETTY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we would make the report available to all members of the Assembly shortly after receiving it.

MR. SPEAKER: Edmonton-Centre

Laboratory Services

REV. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we've seen, this government and its ministers cannot be trusted in the financial industry and now new evidence from the Alberta health care insurance plan shows the lack of accountability around certain insured health services. The report shows that the government is paying private labs over \$97 million a year for pathology testing, and the minister in her comments on Friday expressed a concern that in fact she, too, thought it was going up in a major way. Now, since we in the New Democrat caucus have argued long and hard for the better use of the Provincial Lab and for certain regional hospital services, I'm wondering what immediate steps the Minister of Health is taking to ensure the better use of the Provincial Lab and regional hospital labs to curb the ris-

ing profits of Hanson, Stirrat, Kasper, and other private, for-profit labs.

MRS. BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre is right that I did raise the issue, as did others, in the estimates on Friday. I think a couple of things need to be noted. First of all, with respect to the supplement which was provided to the Alberta health care insurance plan earlier last week, it does indeed show a very marked increase in pathology lab services for the period to '87-88, which was the time period of that supplementary information. As a result, the utilization committee, chaired by Dr. Watanabe, the Dean of Medicine of the University of Calgary, is certainly looking at the issue of pathology services.

In terms of what the government's response is beyond that, I outlined to the House on Friday the belief this government has that there is a role for all types of laboratory services which exist at this point, including the Provincial Lab, hospital-based labs, and private labs. The challenge before us is to ensure that each is aware of their role and how they can best benefit most efficiently the health care system in this province.

REV. ROBERTS: Well, as they reinvent the wheel . . . The last utilization committee report said that private labs upped utilization.

Insofar as a member of the current utilization committee, Scott Rowand of the Foothills hospital in Calgary, has already indicated that millions of dollars are being wasted, for instance on thyroid tests alone, and that many other tests are ordered needlessly, what concrete actions is the minister taking in light of these statements to monitor the tests that physicians are actually ordering?

MRS. BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, certainly the issue of what tests a physician orders is an important one, an important monitoring one, which is the primary area the utilization committee is addressing. The other area is for Albertans to have the sense that they are able to access tests they feel are needed. The question is whether the medical profession is ordering an appropriate number of tests and that Albertans feel a sense of security about their access to health services. It is not simply all one way, as the Member for Edmonton-Centre would imply.

REV. ROBERTS: Well, the question was about thyroid tests that Scott Rowand said we've been wasting millions of dollars on.

Another angle to this is very disturbing, Mr. Speaker, and I'm wondering what steps the minister is taking to determine how many doctors are ordering tests to be done at private labs in which they have an ownership interest. How many doctors in this province have a conflict of interest when it comes to using those labs where they, in fact, are part-owners?

MRS. BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, that gets back to the first question. The first question is in my view the most important one, and that is: who does what? I as the Minister of Health am not out to try and abolish the services which private labs perform in this province. Rather, I am working to ensure that each has a sense of their role. As I said on Friday, we believe there is a role for hospital-based laboratory services, including a networking and a regionalization of other hospitals using hospitals' lab facilities, and pilot projects are under way in northern Al-

berta to test that model.

In addition, we believe, and certainly the utilization committee has recommended in an interim report, that private labs be more identified with doctors' office needs and be used for those kinds of services and, finally, that the Provincial Lab be more on the specialized microbiology and public health needs. In that way what we are saying is that there is a role for all of the factors. It is in the overlap of the role that I believe utilization may be affected and may be affected improperly. Ensuring who does what is the role of this government and is what we are trying to do through the whole issue of utilization, not just in the pathology area.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Calgary-Buffalo, followed by Highwood.

Monitoring of Financial Industry

(continued)

MR. CHUMIR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier has stated that he knew nothing about FIC/AIC when he made the important decision to transfer responsibility for the investment contract companies from Consumer and Corporate Affairs to Treasury in June of 1986. Now, in a letter dated August 15, 1988, the Provincial Treasurer slated that the decision to transfer was taken with considerable thought, despite the fact that the Premier has indicated that he didn't discuss it with anyone. During examination of the Provincial Treasurer, Mr. Code pointed out that Consumer and Corporate Affairs has the mandate to protect investors, which it didn't do, while Treasury has the mandate to protect the province's finances. I'm wondering whether the Premier can tell us whether he's standing by his statutory declaration that he had absolutely no information about the problems of AIC and didn't discuss them before he made that very important shift in portfolio responsibility in June of '86.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, obviously we've a sworn testimony that that is my position. I only draw to the attention of the hon. member that in the profession he is in, he is asking a question which hardly brings credit to him.

MR. CHUMIR: Mr. Speaker, the Premier is making Silent Yokum sound like a mynah bird.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Order please, hon. member.

The Chair is also a bit concerned that there has been a fair amount of leniency given in this sitting with regard to repetitious questions, because of the revised nature of question period. On the other hand, it is stretching it to the limit, the kind of same questions that are being asked time and time again. [interjection] In spite of some of the preambles that are there, some of the same questions are indeed being asked, in spite of your opinion, Calgary-Mountain View. So we need to have a little more care about these questions.

Continue with the supplementary, Calgary-Buffalo.

MR. CHUMIR: Certainly. I'm wondering how the Premier reconciles his statement that he didn't discuss the transfer with anyone and didn't know about FIC/AIC problems with the Provincial Treasurer's statement that the decision to transfer was taken with considerable thought. Who's wrong?

MR. GETTY: Again, Mr. Speaker, I've replied to that already, and the hon. member obviously draws allegations that are not true.

MR. CHUMIR: Well, does the transfer, Mr. Speaker, in June 1986, signal that the Premier recognized that these companies at that time had become a serious problem and that it was now time to transfer the problem to a department which was interested in protecting the finances of this province rather than protecting consumers?

MR. GETTY: Again, Mr. Speaker, that matter is dealt with fully in the statement which was made to Mr. Code. Again, I remind the hon. members that it was Mr. Code's decision not to have me testify in his hearings.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

Highwood, followed by Edmonton-Jasper Place.

Recreational Use of Leased Grazing Areas

MR. TANNAS: Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. A recent court decision in my part of the world, in the Highwood constituency, has been reported as suggesting unrestricted public access to grazing land. It has many people, particularly cattlemen in my area, upset and angry. For over a hundred years many ranchers in my constituency have practised responsible stewardship in their grazing areas, yet in a few hours of unrestricted access, four-wheel drives, dirt bikes, and all-terrain vehicles can do longtime, irreparable ecological damage to those grazing areas. The question is: would the minister explain what the government's position is to unrestricted access on the whole and perhaps to the access/trespass matter itself?

MR. FJORDBOTEN: Mr. Speaker, this is a vitally important issue. There is a growing demand across this province for outdoor recreation, and that's resulted in far more frequent conflicts between recreationalists and landholders, whether they be lease or private landholders. The government action in this area that we've taken is that we've been working closely with the Alberta Cattle Commission and the Alberta Fish & Game Association, and the Alberta Wilderness Association has also been involved, to try and work out a position that's agreeable to all the public groups. The process is ongoing, and it's encouraging. It calls for a great deal of common sense on the part of all individuals to respect the rights of others; hence, the Use Respect program that we've had ongoing has been extremely effective. We look forward to working with those groups to enhance and improve on that particular area.

MR. TANNAS: Okay. Mr. Speaker, the grazing leaseholders in my area would not challenge responsible and reasonable access.

My question is to the Acting Attorney General: would the Attorney General undertake to review this case with a view to appeal?

MS McCOY: I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker. I was discussing a matter with the page, and I did not hear the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair will respond the way it should have

responded the other day with Edmonton-Glengarry: rephrase the question briefly.

MR. TANNAS: Okay. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Agriculture give assurance that he will meet with cattlemen from the stockgrowers and the Cattle Commission to review the situation with a view to clarify the matter of access and trespass on grazing lands?

MR. ISLEY: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARTIN: We've got a new Attorney General.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary. He was mentioned as the Minister of Agriculture. Thank you.
Edmonton-Jasper Place.

Designation of Ecological Reserves

MR. McINNIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Recreation and Parks has before him a proposal for a 2,273 hectare ecological reserve on the east bank of the South Saskatchewan River near Medicine Hat. The Middle Sand Hills ecological reserve was to be heard at a public meeting scheduled for June 26 this year. The government first announced the meeting was postponed due to the ill health of the Chair, Mr. Donn Cline. Later the minister said he was studying the whole concept. More recently the Member for Cypress-Redcliff stepped in and said that he had had it canceled on behalf of local interests that he represents. Could the minister clarify what exactly did happen with this meeting?

DR. WEST: Yes. Mr. Speaker, the ecological reserve program in the province of Alberta has been a very successful one to date. Since 1985 we have designated 11 sites. The process entails having a committee review the sites that have been identified and suggested by various groups throughout the province. Middle Sand Hills has been, but when I became minister, I wanted to have a look at all of these sites. It seemed to me that many of them needed management updating of them and study of them. So I have taken into consideration looking at the 11 that exist and then going forward on the three that have already been dedicated, which isn't Middle Sand Hills. There are three sitting there -- I believe Plateau Mountain, Ross Lake, and Rumsey ecological reserves -- that will take precedence over Middle Sand Hills.

MR. McINNIS: Well, Mr. Minister, what about the notion that a private member has intervened on behalf of some others to have these meetings canceled? I mean, why can't people who have concerns about this proposal deal with them in a public meeting in the same way as everybody else rather than working through the back door?

DR. WEST: Well, I take exception, Mr. Speaker -- the fact that somebody's working through the back door. I believe these are public review committees, but the individuals involved in the private lands in the area and in those public lands under Crown grazing leases do have a right to come forward to their member of the Legislature with their concerns. I hope that never changes in the province of Alberta or in a parliamentary democracy.

MR. McINNIS: The point is that it's a public meeting which was canceled rather than postponed, and people in the area want to know why it is that the process gets rushed along and changed as you go along when you're going to compromise the environment with a pulp mill, and when it comes time to preserve the environment . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, hon. . . . [interjections] Thank you. This is the third supplementary; this is not a learned discourse. This is the question, please, hon. member.

MR. McINNIS: Mr. Speaker, I had the question 90 percent out of my . . . I'll have to repeat the question. Why is it that when it comes to compromising the environment, say building a pulp mill, they rush along 90 miles an hour and change the rules as they go along? When it comes to protect . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. member. I guess we've got it. [interjections]

REV. ROBERTS: It's too embarrassing.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is not too embarrassing; the question is too long. Could we have it succinct? Let's go. What's the question?

MR. McINNIS: Why is it that when it comes time to compromise the environment, they can change the rules as they go along; when it comes time to protect the environment, they're always crossing i's, dotting t's, and canceling meetings?

DR. WEST: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to address that question. Alberta stands third in Canada, with 9.7 percent of its total area dedicated to ecological reserves, wilderness areas, provincial parks, and other designations. We have some 115 natural areas designated at the present time, and I believe that as we go forward and as I review the ecological reserve program, we will dedicate more in the future. But our track record stands in this country, with designation of reserved areas and places for the future of this province, the heritage of this province, to see a long time in that future.

Teknica Resource Development Ltd.

MR. BRUSEKER: Mr. Speaker, last week Teknica resources of Calgary was placed into receivership, and there's presently a plan to save the company and its 45 jobs through some financial restructuring. Now, a major shareholder in this company is the government of Alberta, which holds \$1.5 million worth of preferred class A shares purchased in 1986 through a high-technology investment program administered by the Department of Technology, Research and Telecommunications. So my question is to the Minister of Technology, Research and Telecommunications. What steps, if any, have been undertaken by the minister's department to attempt to ensure some return on this \$1.5 million investment?

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, we were of course very disappointed with the receivership of Teknica. They have developed some very sophisticated technology, which is in the process of moving towards a commercialization stage. I've asked my officials to meet with the company and with the receiver in order to

completely assess the situation, to see exactly what the situation is, and what can be done about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary.

MR. BRUSEKER: Thank you. Given that the holders of preferred class A shares rarely if ever see any of their investment, what are the chances that we're going to get anything back of the \$1.5 million investment?

MR. STEWART: It's too early to assess that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BRUSEKER: My final supplementary then. Was there any consideration of a possible reinvestment or further investment in the company to shore them up over this current slump in the drilling industry and, therefore, protect our original investment and hopefully get our money back?

MR. STEWART: No such proposal has been made to me during my ministry.

Merger of Centennial and Lakeside Packers

MR. MUSGROVE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development and Trade. I've been given to understand that there's been a merger between Centennial Packers in Calgary and Lakeside Packers in Brooks. Could the minister indicate to the Assembly what kind of an effect this will have on the red meat industry in Alberta?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, we view that as a very positive happening within the food processing sector. As it does fall directly under the Minister of Agriculture, he may wish to supplement.

MR. MUSGROVE: Supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture then, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister feel that by this merger there will be some reduced competition when the companies are buying slaughter cattle?

MR. ISLEY: No, Mr. Speaker. I would say that by this merger we are creating another world-class plant in the beef packing industry with the ability to compete in the world marketplace.

MR. MUSGROVE: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister give us an indication whether the extra jobs created by the merger will be in Brooks or in Calgary?

MR. ISLEY: Not at this point in time I can't, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Vegreville, followed by Edmonton-Gold Bar.

U.S. Countervail on Canadian Pork

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's only been about nine months since the free trade deal has come into effect with the United States, and already the harmful effects of that deal are very obvious to people. Whether you work at a glass plant in Redcliff, Alberta, or work at a brewery in Lethbridge or raise hogs in the province of Alberta, you realize that that deal is hurting you, and hurting you in a serious way. Now, on July 18 the

U.S. Commerce department confirmed an earlier decision to impose another countervailing duty on imports of Canadian fresh, chilled, and frozen pork. They not only confirmed it, Mr. Speaker, but they added to it. They increased it from 7.7 cents a kilogram to 8 cents a kilogram. This couldn't come at a worse time for the hog industry, producers facing chronically low prices and rising feed costs. I'd like to ask the Minister of Agriculture, in view of the statements that his colleague the minister of economic development made that this is just a temporary tax, when he's going to realize that hiding your head in the sand isn't going to make this thing go away. I'd like him to tell what impact assessments he's done to determine the immediate and long-term effects of this countervailing duty on the pork industry in the province of Alberta.

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I attempted to explain earlier in the House to the hon. Member for Vegreville that what we're talking about here is in no way connected with the free trade agreement. The free trade agreement does not prevent either partner under that agreement from putting forward a countervail if they feel the other partner is participating in uneven subsidies. Keep in mind that the recent ruling still must go to, I believe, the trade commission in early September to determine what degree of hurt there is on the packing industry in the United States. If the trade commission reinforces the 3.6 cents per pound on our pork, then we have the right to appeal it under the dispute-settling mechanism under the free trade agreement, or we have the right to appeal it under the GATT arrangement. But I would underscore that this has absolutely nothing to do with the free trade agreement.

MR. FOX: That's absolute nonsense, Mr. Speaker. We have the right to appeal . . . [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order. We are into supplementary questions.

MR. FOX: Does the Agriculture minister not recognize that this countervailing duty was made possible by changes in U.S. law through the omnibus trade Bill, the very same Bill that will make any sort of appeal through the free trade mechanisms fail as well?

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would get the feeling the hon. Member for Vegreville is now asking for a legal opinion, but I would reiterate that under the free trade agreement you are attempting to create a level playing field, and there is nothing in it that prevents either partner from saying, "Hey, you're making your field unlevel." If we are convinced that we are, we may have to do some leveling out, but the last time I checked, we had strong support for the free trade agreement from the packing industry; we've had it from the pork marketing development corporation. We're currently working with those groups and with the other provinces and with the federal government to try to ensure that the ruling that comes down in September is favourable.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, if I wanted a legal opinion, he's the last person I'd ask.

My third question to the minister. Given the fact that the Alberta taxpayers have backstopped the Gainers meat packing empire to the tune of \$67 million and that Gainers depends on exports to the United States for their financial well-being, I'm

wondering what assessment this minister has done about the impact of this countervailing duty on the ability of Gainers to honour its commitments to the people in Alberta.

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, it's not my responsibility as Minister of Agriculture to get into the financial operations of companies. I would, though, again clarify for the Member for Vegreville and share with him that the packinghouse in Alberta that exports most of its surplus to the south is Fletcher's. Gainers to a large extent has a string of plants that run to the east.

MR. SPEAKER: Edmonton-Gold Bar, followed by Clover Bar, and then Edmonton-Kingsway.

Disposal of Medical Wastes

MRS. HEWES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Among the unfortunate examples of avoidable problems in our hospital system, perhaps none has been more shocking than the government's bungling over the disposal of hospital wastes. We have new state-of-the-art hospital facilities in Calgary and Edmonton constructed without pathological and infectious waste disposal systems that meet our own standards. It's not confined to these new facilities. A number of Alberta hospitals old and new are struggling with the problem. In the light of growing public awareness of environmental health and our right to know about the risk to public safety, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Surprise. My question to the minister is: is the report from the tridepartmental task force expected to be finished by the end of April, is it now complete, and will it be made public in its entirety?

MR. KLEIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the report has not been submitted to me, and when it is, I will take it under consideration. As to whether it will be made public, well, I will take it through the appropriate cabinet committee, discuss it with my colleagues, and a decision will be made at that time.

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the minister is then: will the minister undertake to this House that he will develop a comprehensive, provincewide program to include waste from laboratories, veterinary clinics, public health clinics, and so on and any other operation that generates sharps and pathological waste?

MR. KLEIN: Mr. Speaker, not only is a provincial program being prepared, but indeed Alberta is working with departments of environment in other jurisdictions to develop a national policy and a code of ethics related to this matter, and that report is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, that's good to hear. I think we're looking for a little action here, however. Will the government then, to the minister, now consider changes to the regulations that will include stricter monitoring and enforcement of emission standards, landfill site controls, and transportation?

MR. KLEIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, these are precisely the kinds of things that are under consideration now.

MRS. HEWES: Well, will you do it?

MR. KLEIN: Of course, we will do it.

MRS. HEWES: Good.

MR. KLEIN: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health, very briefly.

MRS. BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate that certainly the Department of Health has a very keen interest in this area to balance off the public health of Albertans with the need -- and it's a need that's North America wide -- to dispose of the reality of medical wastes. I think we can point to the Department of the Environment and the decisions they have made to close down some of the incinerators and still make that balance exist. So there is a very key Department of Health role in this, and we are certainly working with the other departments involved to come up with some recommendations.

MR. SPEAKER: Clover Bar, followed by Edmonton-Kingsway, then Edmonton-Meadowlark.

Highway 14 and 23rd Avenue Intersection

MR. GESELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is addressed to the Minister of Transportation and Utilities. I'm extremely pleased that I heard the announcement from the minister about contemplated improvements to the 23rd Avenue and Highway 14 intersection in my constituency, where there have been some recent fatal collisions. Now my question. Will the minister please explain how these changes to the intersection will in fact improve the safety of the traveling public?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned the other day, there were two views that we were looking at. One was the short-term view of what we could do right now and what was the long-term plan for the area that included the overpass at 45th Avenue. In response to the question relative to 23rd Avenue and Highway 14 the plan is to lengthen the southbound ramp for turning to the right and then put an island at the end. Now, there are two things that occur there. You get a separate movement of vehicles into a third lane away from the actual highway itself. With the island that would be at the end of that, you shorten the space, if I can use that term, of the vehicle approaching Highway 14 to cross Highway 14 and reduce that to the two lanes instead of what had been the case of almost three lanes there.

MR. GESELL: Well, Mr. Speaker, would the minister please explain to me how these improvements were decided upon, since the investigation after the fatalities is still in progress?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned the other day, that was one of the suggestions that was given to us. In our review of what needed to be done and the interim report that we received on Thursday of last week, the fact that we have a contract coming up in the area and by attaching that work to that contract, we can do the work faster, more immediate, and save dollars at the same time.

MR. SPEAKER: Final.

MR. GESELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister

please indicate, then, if in the final report that will be coming -- and I hope it will be coming soon -- there will be some consideration for signalization of that intersection?

MR. ADAIR: Mr. Speaker, certainly that has been a suggestion that has been passed on to us, and I assume it will be in the final report that I expect in about three days, before the end of this week. Signalization is one of the items that has been identified for recommendation.

MR. SPEAKER: Edmonton-Kingsway.

Code Inquiry

MR. McEACHERN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Code investigation was not "the most powerful" inquiry possible, as the Premier tried to claim last Wednesday. Rather it was a limited investigation, well done as far as it went, to shield from public scrutiny the present Premier and the former Premier of this province. Can the Premier give this Assembly and the people of Alberta one good reason why they should accept his shoddy written testimony to the Code investigation as the final word on his culpability in this fiasco?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is now by the lead-in to his question -- it really makes it a kind of worthless question.

MR. McEACHERN: Why . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, hon. member. There's a real problem in terms of 409 in *Beauchesne*:

A question must adhere to the proprieties of the House, in terms of inferences, imputing motives or casting aspersions upon persons within the House or out of it.

Indeed, the preamble was in that area, so be careful with your supplementary.

MR. McEACHERN: I just stated some very obvious facts, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, hon. member. When you review *Hansard*, as I'm sure you will do overnight, I think you men have to look at that in light of what you have just said. Could we just have the supplementary question?

MR. McEACHERN: If the Premier was ready to answer before the Code inquiry, as he said a few minutes ago, why should he refuse to answer now? Just when did you know about the problems of FIC and AIC? When did you read your briefing papers?

MR. GETTY: Well, Mr. Speaker, as I've told the hon. members, all of these matters were before the Code inquiry. Also, I was available to testify; it wasn't my decision not to. Now the government has received the report, and the government will assess it and respond to it.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for question period has expired. Might we have unanimous consent to complete this series of questions?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed?
Final supplementary.

MR. McEACHERN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why is it that the Premier says that he was willing to testify before Code and now he won't answer the simplest of questions in this the highest . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. member. You're completely out of order. Please pull out your *Beauchesne* and look at section 416(1) and (2). You're out of order.

MR. McEACHERN: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: You're out of order and that's it. [interjections] The citation has been given to the member; he's been called to order. If you'd like to look up the citation while the rest of this goes on, it'd be appreciated.

MR. SPEAKER: First, we'll deal with the various points of order that have arisen. On Friday in the House the Associate Minister of Family and Social Services brought to the attention of the House a matter with regard to some comments made by the hon. Member for Vegreville. In a review of *Hansard* the Chair feels that the point of order was not sustained, that indeed the Member for Vegreville did speak of the government in generic terms.

Today we now will deal with, first, Edmonton-Highlands, followed by Cypress-Redcliff.

MS BARRETT: Well, Mr. Speaker, I rose to make a point of order during the questions between the Member for Cypress-Redcliff and the Premier. I cite *Beauchesne* 348 and 349 in particular, reminding the House that there is a section on the Order Paper just before question period entitled Ministerial Statements. Now, that section has been overridden day after day while various ministers attempt to have questions put to them by various government members through which they can make a statement to the House. Now, one might argue that that's kosher, and perhaps it is if breaking the rules all around is kosher. If that's the case, then maybe we should not be called to order under any circumstances, Mr. Speaker. Maybe there should be no limitation on the number of questions put, no limitation on the amount of time given over to reply, preambles, argumentative substance in questions, and so forth.

But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that time and again in this sitting of the Assembly ministerial statements are being offered in the form of responses to questions in Oral Question Period. I would make the case that either there are rules and they are fairly applied, or there should be no rules at all. I await your deliberation on that matter.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands is well aware that the rules for question period were established at the beginning of this session and agreed to by all parties. Those questions were to be asked in the way that we have proceeded during the last almost two months the Assembly has been in session. I know that the hon. members of the opposition may not like the fact that private members who are not members of Executive Council in this Chamber are

asking questions in the House, because they want to have the question period to themselves. Well, the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that since the House began until the middle of July, July 14, 1,100 questions were asked either by way of direct questions or supplementaries. Five hundred and nineteen . . .

MS BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, he's not talking to the point of order.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker. Do allow me the courtesy.

MS BARRETT: It has to do with ministerial statements and the *Beauchesne* citation.

MR. HORSMAN: Five hundred and nineteen questions were asked by the members of the NDP, 326 by the Liberal party, and 255 by the government members who are not members of Executive Council.

MS BARRETT: He's not speaking to the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HORSMAN: That is, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, hon. minister. The Chair doesn't need any other advice come flowing through here. The Member for Edmonton-Highlands has given her point of order to the House . . .

MS BARRETT: [Inaudible] the citation.

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me.

. . . and I expect it will also then continue to be quiet so the Chair can hear what's going on. Thank you, hon. members.

MR. MARTIN: Point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Great. I'd love to have a point of order.

MR. HORSMAN: The fact of the matter is that that works out to an average of 32 questions per member of the NDP, 41 questions per member of the Liberal caucus, and eight questions per member of the government who are not members of Executive Council. Surely during the course of those many days that we have been here, 1,100 questions in all, the members of the NDP Official Opposition should hardly begrudge that limited number of questions being asked during the course of question period.

To guise the issue under the notion that the questions need not be out there to elicit facts strikes me as being a particularly unusual argument on behalf of the Member for Edmonton-Highlands. Therefore, it would seem to me that the attempt to cloak this point of order in one relating to the subject of ministerial statements is quite bizarre, and that's unfortunate. But it strikes me, Mr. Speaker, that the agreement which was arrived at on which the House has operated has not unduly influenced the ability of members of the NDP or the Liberal Party to ask the questions. It's quite clear . . .

MS BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. He's not on the point of order.

MR. HORSMAN: While the hon. member for Highlands may

not like what I'm saying, it is quite often . . . [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Government House Leader, no one is recognized, including yourself, for a moment. Thank you.

The Chair would like to point out that points of order are sufficiently complicated that one really doesn't need all the other kind of background music that's going on in the House. So perhaps the Government House Leader could bring his remarks to a conclusion and at the same time remember that there is no such member of the House as Highlands; it's Edmonton-Highlands, please.

MR. HORSMAN: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands may not like what I'm saying, but I don't like what she says often either. Nonetheless, I respect the fact that she is entitled to make her arguments however she wishes to do so. The fact of the matter is, what the hon. member is trying to do is to prevent the hon. members of the Assembly who are not in Executive Council from asking questions by . . .

MS BARRETT: [Inaudible] That's not true.

MR. SPEAKER: Edmonton-Highlands, enough is enough. If you persist in this, the Chair is going to be forced to name you to the House. Let's just . . . [interjection]. Thank you. If you're not prepared to listen to the admonition of the Chair . . .

MS BARRETT: Ordinarily I am.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This is not a back and forth chitchat going on here. The other point to be brought out here is that there's no point of order on a point of order, Edmonton-Highlands: *Beauchesne* 318(1).

Now, with respect to the purported point of order that we're engaged in at the moment, is there anyone from the Liberal caucus who wishes to speak to this item?

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, being victimized by this type of ruling for so many times in the last three years, I can't let it go by. Surely with the size of caucus they have, Mr. Speaker, they can craft a question that is a question. But asking a puffball of the minister to go on and on, and in fact often reading the news release that he's put out that day, is not what question period is for. This is what gets your goat more than anything else, Mr. Speaker. I know you're trying to keep an orderly House, but surely they can ask a question that the minister can answer without having to read back a news release to him. And this is what we're getting out of question period hour after hour. It's all right for the hon. Member for Medicine Hat to say how many questions are asked by opposition members, but if you took time involved with the answer plus the puffballs asked plus the puffball answers, the opposition is finessed back into about 25 to 35 percent of the total elapsed time, not the number of questions. Because it's the elapsed time that counts, and they're getting away with murder, Mr. Speaker. This is all I want to point out.

MR. SPEAKER: There's nothing more fun than having points of order any day of the week, I must say.

First off, Westlock-Sturgeon, with regard to elapsed time, I'm happy to read into the record the totals: for the New Democrats, 626; for the Liberals, 399; for the Conservatives,

306. So I think that puts your comments somewhat at variance.

MR. TAYLOR: That's not time.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the whole thing of stats. We're only too happy to supply the statistics to the House leaders of all parties at any time.

With regard to the whole issue of ministerial statements, the Chair has before had to deal with this issue, and the Chair finds its hands tied. The Chair cannot direct the government to issue ministerial statements to the House. The Chair has communicated to the government from time to time the concern of other members in the House, and that's all that the Chair can do with that at this point.

With respect to all members of the House having equal opportunity to ask questions of the House, the Chair still feels that that is a fundamental aspect and responsibility of all members who have been elected to this Legislature. Therefore, they are still allowed to ask questions no matter which political party they happen to represent in the House.

The matter of the quality of a question is still a call of opinion. At times it's perilously close no matter what part of the House the question arises in. Given today it was an important issue to discover that there was this committee to be set up with regard to the code of ethics, and so the fundamental issue is correct. When you get down to the naming of the members, as was one of the questions, that's fine. To go on from there, the reporting process, that also would be fine. It's a question of how fast that occurs in terms of the asking of the question and the response given.

As a matter of fact, the flow of question period today was faster than usual. We dealt with two to three more questions than we normally would in any question period. So we take it as a complaint. Obviously, sufficient discussion has been given to the House, and hopefully the government will take the further comments under advisement.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, just on a point of order, just a follow-up for clarification. If I may, under section 348 can there be some discussion, then, with the House leaders? We don't bother having ministerial announcements anymore. I happened to know about this committee on Saturday. I expected that at least they'd come with a ministerial announcement. It seems to me that if there's no need for ministerial announcements, why have the -- you know, it's foolish to even have it in *Beauchesne* if we're not going to use it then.

MR. SPEAKER: Indeed, the House leaders can meet with themselves at their own call, and failing that, the Chair will send a notice to the House leaders and hope that they indeed will deal with this or any other outstanding matter. But until those House leaders meet and confer, there's no point . . . I mean, they must meet first before they then come to the office of the Speaker to see what the procedure will be. Thank you.

Now, then, we might move to the Member for Cypress-Redcliff.

MR. HYLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking on a point of order relating to *Beauchesne* 409(7) and our Standing Order 23(i), the Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place, in asking a question to the Minister of Recreation and Parks, said certain phrases, and I guess we'll have to look at *Hansard* to get the

exact wording. But as I heard him, I never said anything in those words, so he's either quoting from something or somehow is suggesting that I've made certain comments which I haven't. I think under those two quotes, Mr. Speaker, I ask for your ruling on that.

MR. SPEAKER: For clarification . . . [interjection] Order please. For clarification, the initial draft of the Blues reads this way, as stated by the Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place:

More recently the Member for Cypress-Redcliff stepped in and said that he had had it canceled [the meeting] on behalf of local interests that he represents.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Speaker, I think I was mentioned in a couple of the supplementaries, and I believe it was the second portion, not that portion.

MR. SPEAKER: I'll take this matter under advisement and examine the Blues. Member for Cypress-Redcliff and the Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place, we'll deal with the matter tomorrow.

Edmonton-Kingsway? Pass. Leader of the Opposition, I assume that has been dealt with? Thank you.

Might we have the unanimous consent of the House to return briefly to the introduction of returns and reports?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried. Thank you. Minister of Tourism.

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

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to file four copies of a report of the 1989 World Blitz Chess Championship prepared by the Department of Tourism, myself, and my staff.

head: **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would ask that the committee now come to order.

head: **Main Estimates 1989-90**

Tourism

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This afternoon we're dealing in estimates with the Department of Tourism. That commences in the estimates book on page 323 and in the elements book on page 141. I would call upon the minister for opening remarks, followed by the Member for Red Deer-North with respect to the Tourism Education Council.

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am proud to be presenting today the 1989-90 budget estimates for Alberta Tourism in the amount of \$32,202,395. Fiscal responsibility is very important at Alberta Tourism. We are entering another year with a net

reduction in our budget, yet we all know that the tourism sector in this province is doing exceptionally well, through the hard work of many people. It has continued as a driving force in Alberta's economy and is key to our diversification measures within the province. I look at this department's activities as part of a joint effort. The industry, and Alberta communities, the provincial government, and all Albertans: we are all working together to ensure that this industry contributes to the economic well-being of all Albertans.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard of the success of the community tourism action plans, CTAP. I would like to report that 127 communities provincewide have had their tourism plans endorsed locally, that 78 percent of all Alberta communities are somewhat involved, and that adds up to some 333 communities in our constituencies across the province that are involved. We hope that all 422 will get involved. That will mean that every city, town, village, MD, ID, county, Metis settlement, or native reserve will be involved in the future of tourism planning and the action that will take place in the future.

Just last Tuesday, Mr. Chairman, I was fortunate to be with the Indian Association of Alberta in Hobbema for their annual meeting. It was reported at that meeting that all 43 native reserves are presently under way with their planning process, have completed their plans, or are getting started on them. That's very gratifying to see in the native communities, Mr. Chairman, and some very exciting things are going to happen because of it.

Mr. Chairman, we are watching these plans turn into reality through the \$30 million lottery funding program announced last year. Since the CTAP program began, approximately \$1.3 million has gone to some 57 projects that are worth over some \$10.5 million. That's a pretty nice leverage factor. If this trend continues, we could see \$300 million invested in this province when the program ends in 1993 just because of this program alone.

Mr. Chairman, through Team Tourism over \$1 million has gone towards joint marketing projects in our regions. These dollars are matched by the private sector. And through our kick-start program, we have put \$2 million into helping Team Tourism get off the ground. This kick-start includes regional marketing plans for each TIAALTA zone; table skirts and banners in a co-ordinated fashion in each zone; 14 first-class zone brochures; first-class zone videos to be completed, we hope, by September 1989; the installation of computer systems in 14 zones; and an excellent radio series available for each zone, if they wish to use it. We hope that by September each zone will have an approximately one-half hour video of the major tourism assets in its area to use for marketing purposes. These will be done in a co-ordinated fashion throughout the zones in the province. They'll be taken in half-minute, one-minute, and two-minute sequences. They'll have common music backgrounds and they will have a common voice background. A video library for the province of Alberta second to none and the first in Canada that will really be able to be usable by the industry in a very, very positive way. Both the community tourism action plans and Team Tourism have been resounding successes through the strong responses and support from communities and our industry.

Mr. Chairman, the Alberta Tourism Education Council is bringing together industry, government, and postsecondary institutions to create better jobs and standards and improving our services to visitors. And as you stated, Mr. Chairman, I'll be asking the chairman to say a few words about the council.

Mr. Chairman, our marketing campaigns in the United States and overseas are reaching some record-breaking successes. Last year Travel Alberta's most successful event, in my opinion, was doing the first 11 minutes of the opening ceremonies of the Olympics. Our three-month campaign after the Olympics received an outstanding response of some 80,000 inquiries. This year, as we tabulate the results, we are nearing the 100,000 mark already. Our overall inquiries from travel centres, telephone lines, and mail are up this year even after the success of the Olympics last year. For the period of January to May we are up approximately 10 percent from last year.

Alberta, Mr. Chairman, made a winning impression this year at the 1989 Pacific Asian Travel Association Convention and travel mart. Not only did we come home with international gold awards for our advertising, but we made new headway with our private-sector partners. We set the stage for the 1990 travel mart to be held here in Edmonton next spring. We will host Alberta's largest representation from the Pacific Asia area, and this is the first time that PATA has been in North America. It's an achievement that I'm very, very proud of, that our staff have been able, over the last four years, to attain this convention and travel market for Alberta and Canada.

These are just some of the examples of successes that Alberta Tourism has shared with industry over the last years. They are big stories all over Alberta, and they are good news stories, yet we have worked hard to maintain these programs within our fiscal limits. How was it done? How did Alberta Tourism work with the industry to make it stronger and better? Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, the key lies in the fact that tourism is a private-sector economic industry worldwide. Our job is to facilitate private-sector activities. Through continued support and co-operation, we can work to make them stronger. Tourism is not a social program; it's a leading economic industry, Alberta's third largest. We have to support the economic potential of this industry. It can only happen by backing the private sector.

Alberta is a beautiful place with international potential as a popular tourism destination. We have an outstanding province, and with proper planning we can turn our magnificent resources and attractions into long-term prosperity, into jobs for our residents and dollars for our regions. We must have a plan to take advantage of the opportunities. We have to allocate every dollar strategically in order to make it go further with the private sector. Mr. Chairman, our strategy for the future of this industry centres around strengthening our private-sector partners and providing direction for Alberta's future. Alberta Tourism is taking on a new direction. Having grown from a small promotional arm of the provincial government a few years ago, we realized that our role must continue to grow. We are increasing our partnership with the private sector to ensure a reliable, driving economic force in the Alberta economy. I will outline our eight-point strategy for the future, which illustrates the government's role as a facilitator.

Number one is a solid tourism foundation at the community level through the community tourism action plans and program and Team Tourism. Number two is a solid service structure for the industry, the new business services unit. This one-window approach, similar to the forestry development division, is in place, with over 200 projects on the list. There are also some 300 CATA projects under way or completed. Number three: we will be looking at regional and provincial tourism generators. Number four: major destination resorts, hopefully built by the

private sector. Number five: appropriate infrastructure and transportation access to all new and existing tourism assets. Number six, Mr. Chairman, is the education and training needs of the industry through the Alberta Tourism Education Council. Seven is an integrated approach to marketing, not only at the regional but national and international levels. The eighth point is a review of all government policies affecting tourism, working with many of you in this room to streamline our planning and approval processes. We are starting at the grass roots in developing a solid tourism foundation at that local level.

What are the increases and the decreases in this budget? The changes in our budget reflect our growing industry partnership, Mr. Chairman. You will note an increase in our budget for planning and hiring of consultants to assist communities in developing their own tourism futures, the need to assist our private sector with destination planning and the appropriate feasibility studies, marketing plans, et cetera, of site self-sufficient projects. In helping the private sector, we must ensure that their projects are viable. Last year we began increasing services to individual businesses and to the industry associations. We are continuing that, and we have increased our professional staff and have increased our industrial grants slightly. We have increased support for our zone associations also. By providing a one-window approach to the entrepreneur, we can provide personal assistance to Alberta's new family businesses. And of those 200 projects that are on the list to date, 51 are under way or expansions or new construction is taking place or completed, and that has only taken the department a little over a year. The value of all those 51 projects that are under way is some \$100 million when they're completed. We are helping ensure their long-term success and the success of this industry.

We also are working to improve and promote the investment environment by working with the financial institutions in the province. We will increase staff in our new regional office in Calgary this year, and as well, new dollars will go into regional tourism development as promised by this government in the Speech from the Throne.

Training programs will increase through the commitment to the Alberta Tourism Education Council. The Alberta Tourism Education Council, chaired by our colleague Stockwell Day, is entering into another very successful year. The council has taken great measures towards strengthening the hospitality sector in Alberta and enhancing careers for Albertans. This year we will see a new attitude and awareness campaign, more standards development, and employment certificates. I hope that Stockwell will report and give us more detail following my remarks.

We have adjusted our advertising strategy, primarily at the regional level, to fit into Team Tourism. Our research has indicated that our successful regional advertising programs have reached peak levels of awareness. Now the private sector can take advantage of that awareness through Team Tourism. With the available resources, we will be putting \$4 million into Team Tourism this year. That \$4 million will turn into \$8 million with the private sector matching dollars. In continued co-operation with the industry, the Team Tourism program will meet the regional marketing needs of Alberta Tourism operators. Designed by the industry itself, the Team Tourism program will strengthen Alberta's position, not only in local but national and international marketplaces as well. This marketing department is experiencing an increase in manpower. The adjustment in our advertising strategy also reflects our efforts to refocus our

priorities, to become more effective in marketing. Research also indicates that we are ready to shift from promotion to servicing; i.e., travel information centres, telephone counseling, industry-specific advertising, use of regional zone offices. And we must move to promoting one- or two-week holiday packages in Alberta with the industry; it's needed.

Finally, the department is increasing dollars under vote 1. These are not straight administration dollars. They reflect our new priorities in policy and strategic planning. As a leading economic sector, tourism needs a co-ordinated strategic thrust, and this department is planning to do just that. Our increasing demands for information from Alberta businesses and all tourism partners have also necessitated an increase in postage and volumes of information.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we have taken this time of fiscal restraint and turned it into a time of growth for tourism in Alberta. We have developed a healthy partnership with the industry, and we work with them on a day-to-day basis and on a project-by-project basis.

I would like to mention our industry association today, the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta, TIAALTA. They're doing just a fantastic job for us and with us and for their industry. Through their innovation and energy we know that future successes are awaiting. We want to encourage their innovation and create the best possible environment for industry success here in Alberta. Only by doing so will we truly diversify the provincial economy through this tourism sector.

As we approach provincial revenues of some \$2.6 billion and employment of over 100,000 people, we see a great deal ahead for the provincial economy. A self-sufficient tourism industry, which we are trying to create, will be worth some \$10 billion by the year 2000, hopefully employing around 200,000 Albertans. It will be worth far more in terms of indirect dollars and benefits to the people of Alberta if it's done this way. Tourism is a priority industry in the province, and we as a government will continue to support this sector. Through the new Tourism cabinet committee, we'll ensure the commitment to tourism planning and growth across government departments. The growing tourism industry will be a major player in the future of the province and its economy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Red Deer-North.

MR. DAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make some quick comments because I know that a number of members want to get in with questions and advice to us. I'd like to acknowledge that my tenure with the council has been for me a highlight in terms of the excitement and in terms of the achievements that I believe have been accomplished, mainly by the industry and their proposals and initiatives. It's been exciting working with this minister who has a vision for tourism and to see it expanded and become the growth industry that it can be. We hear that behind every good man there's a good deputy, so it's been also exciting to work with the deputy minister.

Equal to that, the members of the council itself who give of their time -- and I say "give of their time" because part of the industry's commitment to the Tourism Education Council, the work that is being done and the resources that are being put in by government, is that their members actually serve without honoraria, and that has been a significant time commitment over

the months not just on the monthly council meetings but on the subcommittee meetings. They are to be acknowledged for their considerable input both in time and energy and vision. Many subcommittees which branch off the different council meetings and committee initiatives, too many to mention here -- I wish I could take the time to talk about every person who's had input. But the industry associations have been so solidly working with us in terms of bringing their proposals and concerns, even to the point of actually donating dollars to the ongoing expenses of the council, which shows their support and commitment to see the type of training and hospitality education levels of excellence being met. Of course, a council like this can't operate without a very efficient and proficient staff. Our executive director, Susan Dowler, and the other staff that give the type of professional input that is needed have been an exciting group to work with.

Three things were challenges for the council. People who were less visionary, I guess you could say, said, "You know, when you're trying to achieve the type of excellence you're looking for, it's going to be a challenge for you to get co-operation with businesses co-operating with each other, sharing information and pooling information to see the overall tourism needs met." I'm pleased to report that we have achieved and do have a high level of co-operation with businesses in this industry throughout the province. They are working together to see overall needs met. Another challenge that some people suggested: you'll never get education institutions working together; they're too competitive among themselves. These educational institutes are working together, Mr. Chairman, in an exciting way in and through and around the council, and that's been an exciting thing to see. Then, of course, a challenge that seems to be legendary is the challenge of having government departments work together, and yet also in that area the Department of Education, the Department of Career Development and Employment, the Department of Tourism, and other departments working together and pulling together to see these various goals achieved has been exciting.

Just briefly, in four main areas which we've been addressing and working at in the area of standards development where employers throughout the province have said, "We want to know that somebody coming from a particular educational institute or even private training institute saying they have achieved a certain level of excellence -- we don't know if they've received the same type of learning in, let's say, a food and beverage server program in an institution in southern Alberta as to one in northern Alberta or in some other institution." There needs to be some competency-based standards so that somebody in the industry, again using the example of food and beverage server, can know that they can take their learning, take their training on site and off site and write an examination, both written and proficiency based, and come away with an actual certificate that has the unified effect of having met certain standards that have been developed by the industry and validated by the industry.

That has happened in a significant and exciting way this last year in a number of occupation areas. Actually, to give you an idea of the industry support just in the development of competency-based standards, just some weeks ago in the province of Alberta we had over 500 employees from between 60 and 70 different properties, different businesses, in this province volunteering to actually write a test examination for the food and beverage server program. That took place throughout the province, and that's been an exciting exercise which we are now reviewing and honing so that we have, in fact, a certification

process in place not just in that particular occupation but in a number of occupations throughout the industry. People can take their tests, achieve the level of excellence, and be awarded a certificate that has meaning throughout the province. Not only does that make them proficient in their business, not only does that bring returns to the business for which they're working, but it gives them that personal self-esteem that makes them the professional that they truly are. So the standards development is ongoing in an exciting way.

The hospitality resource centre is another area where we've seen increased demand in the last year, where we've had to see duplication of many of the videos and training resources that are available through the hospitality resource centre which is housed in the Alberta Tourism Education Council offices. The demand for these types of on-site available learning resources has been exciting to see and just points again to the need of the directives and initiatives of council.

The minister touched on an attitude and awareness program. This government, through being petitioned through the council by industry, has committed a significant number of dollars to the development this year of an attitude and awareness program which will be made available provincewide, which will alert not just people in the industry but all Albertans to the positive effects of trained staff, of people who are aware of the benefits of tourism and who are taking a vital part in making the tourism experience one that will be remembered by people. We're looking forward with excitement as industry groups over the last number of months have been having significant input into what they say needs to be included in an attitude and awareness program. This province and we as citizens of this province are going to see in the coming year an attitude and awareness program, I believe, that will be without parallel in this country and maybe in North America, just alerting people to the benefits of trained people within the industry and everything that brings.

In terms of career awareness, again the demand has risen significantly. We are doing all we can to meet the demand in terms of being available at career fairs, being available in schools, and getting the idea into the school-age population before they leave school that there are career opportunities in the tourism/hospitality industry, that there is an exciting career waiting for those who want to invest their energies and talents in careers that are found in the tourism/hospitality industry. This year for the first time high schools across the province received brochures titled *Careers in Tourism*, alerting students to the fact that this does not have to be for them just a revolving-door type of an experience but that in fact there are long-range career opportunities in the tourism/hospitality industry. We're working very closely with the Department of Education. You'll be seeing in the months that lie ahead significant input from those industry people flowing their concerns through the council into the Department of Education. You'll see woven in the various programs coming out of the high schools the whole aspect of career availability, of professionalism in tourism, and of the entrepreneurial elements that are also involved in the tourism business.

You start to put these together, Mr. Chairman -- the standards development, which incidentally has received reviews from across Canada, with the hospitality resources, the attitude awareness, and the career awareness -- and you see in a significant way how we are driving towards that goal and actually achieving it every year. Each year the revenues go up in terms of tourism, and the availability of career opportunities continues to

increase. We are driving towards a goal which we feel is a realistic goal by the end of this century in looking at a \$10 billion industry for this province, and it's because of the vision of the minister and of the people in the industry who are bringing forward the ideas and the people on the council and the various departments and subcommittees who are working hard to make these happen.

You can have good natural attractions -- which we do in Alberta; the best in the world. You can have wonderful man-made attractions, and we've got some of the best man-made attractions in the world. But, Mr. Chairman, you need the people working in those areas to make the tourism experience complete. That's what we're seeing happening; the progress is good and exciting.

I welcome any questions that people might have on these areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my colleagues and the constituency of West Yellowhead, I'd like to extend hearty congratulations to the minister on his appointment as the Minister of Tourism.

As a previously elected official in the town of Edson, I've had the opportunity in the past to play leading roles in the Evergreen Tourist Association both as chairman and a director, and I have a great understanding of the tourism industry and the great need for further development to help the tourism industry in the province of Alberta. Further to that, Mr. Chairman, I might say that it might be a bit difficult for me to criticize this particular budget, a department which I strongly favour and support. Providing that the funding is given in an honest and open and fair fashion without disrupting our lakes, streams, rivers, or harming the environment of Alberta, I believe this department will run very smoothly.

Today, of course, we're here to address the estimates of the funding of the minister's office and the various departments of tourism. In vote 1, Mr. Chairman, there's almost a doubling of funding for Corporate Development. Can the minister provide the Legislature the true need for this funding with a 40.6 percent increase? Finance and Administration funding is increased by 16.2 percent, with a total of 24.4 percent for the Minister's Office. I might point out that this is a very large increase in management, and there appears not to be very much for the lower end. There is also an increase of five people in the minister's manpower. I'm curious whether these are for the Edmonton office towers, or will some of this new staff be put into rural areas to assist the frontline people in the field?

Vote 2, Mr. Chairman, is the department that has been responsible for the funding of the very popular community tourism action plan. This was a very good source of funding for all municipalities and the plan I had the opportunity to work on from start to finish in the town of Edson. We're certainly now seeing the great benefits of that very popular plan in the signage and other tourist-oriented industry markets. However, Planning has increased an astounding 84.7 percent, and Industry and Business Development, 46.3 percent. This budget's final line looks good to me only because of the cuts in the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement. I'm really not aware of all the departments or all the areas that the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement has benefited. I haven't seen many, but perhaps the minister could sort some of those out. Again, we see a large increase in manpower from 86 to 113 employees, or an increase of 31.4 percent in that department. My question would be the same: is the min-

ister decentralizing some of these positions to the outlying hinterland of Alberta where tourism has the greatest potential, or are they to remain in the office towers of Edmonton?

I know some hon. members will not agree with me, but West Yellowhead is the greatest for all tourism potential in Alberta. It's bursting at the seams and ready for development in tourism; it was clearly pointed out by the regional tourism study that was prepared approximately a year ago with funding in excess of \$100,000 from municipalities from Evansburg to the Jasper park gates and to Grande Cache. The finalized plan is out, and of course we've discussed this with the minister. I hope that some funding from the Canada tourism agreement or the CTAP plan for the ID of West Yellowhead would implement some of those projects that were laid out by the people who did the study.

Team Tourism, Mr. Chairman, is another program that was popular with the industry, municipalities, and tourist organizations throughout the province. The training and education of frontline people in the tourist industry is absolutely necessary. There is nothing more negative to tourism than going into an eating establishment and getting the wrong view of the area from those people who serve you, whether it be the employees or the employer. I was pleased to hear the Member for Red Deer-North explain further on the projects and education for these tourist areas, and I would hope that the minister would work closely with the Minister of Education to see that programs could be put in place at earlier grades in a school curriculum to train people in the waitress and waiter fields for eating establishments, and for people working in these most used tourist areas, especially young women who leave school at an early age. They quite often end up in a restaurant, know very little about working habits or how to greet tourists as they come in. I think it would be very beneficial to start them at an early age so they know what they are headed for when they get out of school. Also, Mr. Chairman, these young people working as waitresses and waiters get into the insecurity and work of a ghetto they have no way of getting out of because of their lack of education to further them into another field.

Waitressing is a trade like any other -- welding, plumbing, or any other in the tourist industry -- and it should be treated as such. Without proper education in that trade, employers will not be encouraging tourists to spread good words throughout the country and make those people return again and again. Because of their low education and poor training in the tourist industries, their jobs and wages will always remain below the poverty line. I would think the owner of the establishment could be greatly involved in further training for these people, because he or she, in the end, reaps the best benefit. Perhaps Training and Professional Development addresses this problem. I am not clear on that, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to see in vote 3 that the Alberta Tourism Education Council is working for standards for the occupation. Along with co-operation from the private sector and a positive attitude from the people in the service industry, tourism can reach its potential and bring them back again and again, along with the others. Tourism education training is necessary, and I'm pleased that some steps are going in that direction.

The tourism funds in this province, Mr. Chairman, from 1980 to 1988, were spent in unfair dollars. In southern Alberta the population is much smaller than that of northern Alberta, with a baseline at the town of Lacombe to level out the population bases fairly. Yet in the southern part of the province \$421.8 million was spent, while in northern Alberta only \$62.5 million

was spent. I truly believe that all fair-minded Albertans now believe that this expenditure should be addressed and fairness to all should prevail in the development of tourism throughout the province. A dramatic imbalance has existed in the provincial government capital expenditures in northern and southern Alberta, and if northern Alberta is to continue to enhance its current percentage of provincial tourism revenue, it will, in the final end, have a slow return on tourist dollars in northern Alberta.

As I mentioned in the House before, Mr. Chairman, Via Rail is a very important part of the tourism industry in the province of Alberta, especially the well-riden routes between Edmonton-Jasper-Vancouver and Calgary-Banff-Vancouver. Those have the highest ridership in all of Canada. I would hope that the minister would stand by those of us who do not want to see this service disrupted, and lobby hard and long to make sure that it is not. It was the railroad and rail passengers that brought this country together, and I don't think any of us should stand idly by and see our country torn apart.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Member for Calgary-North West.

MR. BRUSEKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like to congratulate the minister on his reappointment to the position of Tourism minister. I'm pleased to see we have an incumbent minister, shall we say, who's returned again and we have someone who knows the ropes and hopefully will use them appropriately. Tourism, I believe, is a very critical industry in the province because it has great growth potential. I wonder how we're going to quadruple our tourism industry over the next 10 years. I think it's going to be a tremendous task the minister has set before himself, and I wish him the best success in it.

I do have a number of questions, and so I'll turn directly to page 325 in the main estimates book. The minister made some mention of computers being purchased, and under types of expenditure we see a capital expenditure increase of 79 percent, approximately \$200,000. I'm wondering if that went towards the purchase of computers or . . . That's where it did go? Excellent Good. All right.

The other area that has already been mentioned by my colleague from West Yellowhead is the 40 percent increase in Corporate Development. I'm sure the minister will address that in due course.

I did want to make a quick comment. Last year in the estimates -- I was reading through the *Hansard*, and the minister was quite proud of an 8 percent reduction in administrative costs. It seems it's more than made up for this year with a 16 percent increase in Finance and Administration and a total increase of 24 percent. So I'm not really thrilled with what I see there.

In vote 2, in the community tourism action plans, I think there are some really good steps, and I think there are some real areas of concern. Destination Planning: an increase of 69 percent, up substantially. I think that's a good allocation of funding. I think what we want to try and do is get more people aware of more locations in the province, and I think that's a good use. I had a question specifically about 2.1.4 and 2.2.4 in the elements book, which both talk about generator planning and generator development. They weren't in the estimates last year. I'm wondering if the minister could clarify what those are, because I'm not sure to what they really refer.

A comment about vote 2.1 in general, the Planning section. We have an increase in development, in planning costs, of 84 percent -- a total dollar value of some \$900,000 -- and my question really is: where is this planning going to be taking us, Mr. Minister? The expenditure on planning is a good idea, but I'm not sure where we're going on it. So I had a question on sort of where we are headed in that direction.

Industry and Business Development: again, I see quite an increase there, presumably about the community tourism action plan. I did write a letter to the minister, and he did give me a good response about that. I have some follow-up questions about the community tourism action plan. I'd be curious as to how many projects have been started as a result of input from communities and how many dollars have been spent by those communities on the projects. Of the dollars spent, how much has the province put in and how much has the municipality put in? I'm curious to see how the implementation of the planning is going.

The minister made some comments initially that we are at approximately 78 percent achievement rate in terms of the community tourism action plans coming forward. I know that there was an initial proposal to have them all in place by fall of 1988. I wonder if the minister could make some comment about when we might see the balance of these community tourism action plans. Are people saying, "Well, it's coming soon," or where are we in terms of the rest of the community tourism action plans?

I have some real concerns about votes 2.3 and 2.4. The Marketing section is down in total 6.4 percent and Advertising specifically, in vote 2.3.7, is down 27 percent. As I understand it, if we're looking to quadruple the tourism industry in the province, it will be necessary to make more people worldwide aware of the province and what we have to offer. If we reduce our advertising dollars by 27 percent, the question I would have is: what type of effect are we likely to see on the tourism dollars being spent if we're communicating to fewer people the excellent province that we do have? I agree with the minister; I think we do have an outstanding province. As a native Albertan I agree with you 100 percent; Alberta is an outstanding province. I'm proud to be a native Albertan. I think more people should come here because I think it's a wonderful place. But we need to tell them about it, and I'm concerned about a reduction in advertising spending.

Once again in Public Relations we see a bit of a drop there, but perhaps that's being picked up in vote 3. Sales and Promotion is also down 5.4 percent. I think there's a real concern in that area about, as I said, just getting the message to the people so that we can get more information out there. Team Tourism Administration I see is a new category, and I wonder if the minister could make some comments about that. This is under vote 2.3.3. It was not in the estimates of last year, and the question I have is: why do we suddenly need to spend almost half a million dollars on this particular subject area?

Section 2.4, the Canada/Alberta Tourism Agreement. In reviewing last year's *Hansard* I noted that it was cut in last year's estimates by some \$2 million. I see this year it's cut approximately a little more than \$5 million, a drop of 48 percent. In the estimates book the definition that goes with this is to "draw tourists from national and international markets." I see this as being a marketing kind of strategy, and I applaud the concept of bringing up the total tourism dollars to \$10 billion, but I fail to see how having this kind of cut in a budget will, in

fact, promote the tourism industry. It seems to me to be counterproductive. Last year the minister referred to some 1,600 new jobs being created under this particular section and maintenance of another 1,000 jobs, for a total of 2,600 jobs. If we cut this dramatically, as is proposed here -- almost 50 percent -- will that not mean lost jobs, Mr. Minister? I'm very concerned about that, and I'm sure we've heard that concern on both sides of the House. We want to have jobs in the province and we want the tourism industry to grow, and so I'm concerned when I see that. Last year it seemed to be a great thing, and now we're losing potentially 2,600 jobs. I'm puzzled, and I would ask for some clarification in that particular subject area. Those were the main areas of concern that I had directly from the estimates.

Vote 3: I applaud the Member for Red Deer-North for the incentives that are being created in this area. As a person who enjoys traveling myself, the people you tend to meet as a tourist are the people in the restaurants, service station attendants, and so forth; if it involves going to a different country, the people at customs offices and so forth. If these people are trained to adequately meet the needs and desires of tourists, I think it will create a very positive image, and I applaud your direction in providing training in that area.

There are a couple of areas that I have not seen addressed in the estimates at all, and I would have some questions about that. Going back to vote 2.2, the community tourism action plan, the questions I had about that are not addressed in the estimates. They're more of a philosophical nature, I guess. The questions I have about the community tourism action plan are: are the communities that are providing the plans given any sense of direction as to a total provincial scheme, or are they left, sort of, to create their own plan on an ad hoc basis? Is there any concern that if they do that, they might be going against a provincial thrust, shall we say, in tourism? The minister made some reference to, I believe, 127 community tourism actions plans that have come in. I've already asked the question of how many are being implemented. I guess the question I had is: what is the rate of success between proposals by municipalities and actual government acceptance and implementation of these proposals?

Under the Team Tourism concept -- again, I would sort of wonder. There's an overall cut in marketing. Team Tourism has been proposed as being a very good concept. I guess my questions are twofold: number one, how many ventures has the Team Tourism concept funded successfully and, number two, what effects might cuts in the marketing section have upon the Team Tourism planning areas?

There were some comments last year by a number of members who spoke and addressed the next issue of concern that I have. That is that there is some overlap between the parks department, between culture, and Tourism, and even perhaps transportation as well. I wonder if the minister could make some comments on how they overlap. Transportation: I'll talk about Via Rail in just a moment, but I'm also talking about road development because it's important to get the people in here. What kinds of cultural events are done in combination between the culture minister and the Tourism minister? What kind of planning occurs between the parks department and Tourism? Clearly there is a tremendous amount of overlap in this area.

The parks department specifically: I'm a little bit concerned about our provincial parks. We have some very fine provincial parks. But my understanding is that the provincial parks are utilized, generally speaking, quite well on the weekends of the

summer months, and I'm wondering if the Tourism minister has any proposals to increase the use of those parks on a year-round basis and also on a through-the-week kind of basis so we can get more bang for the buck, so to speak.

On a different topic, recently we had the proposal for an increase in the Sunshine ski area, to increase the capacity both in terms of the lifts and in terms of accommodation. I'm wondering if the Tourism minister has a particular point of view or position, shall we say, on the expected revised proposal of Sunshine. Where do we anticipate going with that, and what impact will this Tourism minister have on that development?

In a similar vein, of course -- and I'm going to head down the mountain range a little bit -- I don't see anything in here in terms of the Westcastle ski area development. I believe there was a commitment to investigate the development possibilities of Westcastle. There have been some studies done on the Westcastle area. There was some suggestion to develop a four-season resort. I'm wondering about what studies have been done and where we are going in terms of the Westcasde area.

With respect to transportation, if I could just echo the sentiments of my colleague from the ND caucus, I'm sure the minister is well aware that Via Rail has both a historical significance but also a tremendous tourism significance to the province. It's been suggested by other individuals that if the Via Rail lines could be increased and utilized more fully, this alone could really boost the tourism rates in the province of Alberta. There have been a number of proposals that we've seen in the media, and I'm wondering if there is any concept or proposal to look at the province of Alberta putting in money to boost Via Rail services directly. Of course, that will potentially step on the toes of the federal government. But I think clearly we have a very self-interest to promote the province, and perhaps there could be a cost-sharing arrangement -- I'm not sure. I would also be interested to hear what the minister can tell us about what specific proposals are being made. I know there is a commitment on the part of this province to make representations to the federal government to maintain Via. I'd be interested to hear what presentations are being made to the federal government. I think it's clear that Via is dying a slow death. It's been neglected by all governments since the cars went on the rails back in the early 1950s, and it's slowly dying a death of neglect. I think all the federal governments that have been around since that time can take credit or blame, however they wish to view it.

Another issue I don't see in here that I would ask the minister about is that I'm sure he's aware of a proposal by Mr. James Gray of Canadian Hunter regarding the development of science centres across the province. Now, as a science educator myself, I would heartily endorse Mr. Gray's proposals. I have had the opportunity to visit the Vancouver science centre. I have had the opportunity to visit the science centre in Chicago. The number one tourist attraction in Canada is the Ontario Science Centre. It brings in something like 1.3 million visitors annually. Now, if we could propose something like that as a tourism draw in the province of Alberta, I think it could really tremendously boost the tourism dollars in the province. There is an additional spin-off here. This is what I call a triple E industry. It's environmentally and educationally and economically a very viable industry. [interjection] Good, eh. I thought that one up all by myself. The education side of it -- and I can speak on a firsthand basis -- is that when you get in there and they see that science is an everyday kind of thing . . . I've had firsthand experience with students who go in there and go, "Oh, what do I

need to learn science for? It's not going to do me any good." When they left the Vancouver science centre when we were there on a field trip to Expo, they were excited about science. So I would endorse that, and I'd be curious to hear what the tourism minister can tell us about where we're going in the development of the science centres.

Finally, a sort of personal question I have here with respect to going back to the Westcasde area. I believe the minister is also aware of a guest ranch in the area called the Gladstone Mountain Guest Ranch. This particular guest ranch is in serious financial difficulty because of a variety of different occurrences, perhaps poor management, perhaps poor policies on the part of the forestry minister. But really my question with respect to the Gladstone Mountain ranch is: has that particular guest ranch facility been considered in conjunction with the development of Westcastle, in conjunction with the transportation minister providing a new road to go through there to bring the two areas together a little more closely? Right now the distance to travel from Westcasde to this guest ranch is a very long loop. A road could be put through on a temporary road allowance and shorten the distance. That would boost this facility and so forth, and perhaps it would become more viable. As I said, it is in danger, I believe, of being foreclosed upon almost immediately. I'd be curious to hear if he has any proposals for maintaining that particular facility. I believe it needs some extra development as well to make it more viable.

Those are all the questions I have. I look forward to your answers, please, Mr. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Drumheller.

MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to congratulate the minister on being reappointed to lead the Department of Tourism. I believe he has demonstrated very fine leadership in that department, but he does have a very good group of people working with him to develop this third industry in our province.

Today I'd like to spend a moment or two asking the minister about his department's level of support for private sector driven tourism developments in our province. As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Drumheller, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of a major tourist generator in an area. That generator I'm referring to is the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, which opened in September 1985 and has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors to the region since it opened. In fact, on the July long weekend, on the Sunday of that weekend, over 7,000 visitors attended at the Tyrrell Museum. There are at least 500,000 people a year who come to Drumheller to see the Tyrrell Museum. The influx of visitors has been great for our area. But we do realize that we don't have the facilities to cope with the hundreds of thousands of people who come on an annual basis. Many tourists visit the museum but don't take the opportunity to spend any other time in the area; therefore, the full potential of the economic opportunities are not met.

We do have a very proactive Department of Tourism, and they have been helping the people of my constituency to develop their resources so we can strengthen this destination in the quality of services and attractions it can offer. The Department of Tourism has assisted the people of Drumheller by helping them with their community tourist action plan and with the Team Tourism program. Both of these programs are proving to be very effective not only to the immediate Drumheller area but

to other areas. I was at the Rockyford rodeo on Saturday. It was able to benefit by assistance under Team Tourism, and their participation in the rodeo events was up. Their attendance was up significantly as a result of the activities of the Department of Tourism. Alberta Tourism is also helping the Drumheller area to find a suitable site for the development of a family vacation destination resort.

All these projects are vital to improving Drumheller's tourist industry. The Department of Tourism's assistance will enable those people to carry out the development of objectives and keep visitors in the area for a longer period of time. Any extra days, or even hours, tourists spend in the area will significantly increase the economy. The people there are certainly looking forward to continued support in order that they can reap the benefits of this major generator. Mr. Minister, the question I would leave with you is: will your department continue working with the private sector to ensure tourism has a continuing strong growth centre in the constituency of Drumheller?

Before closing, I'd also like to say that the efforts of your department in helping the development of the Newcastle Beach area, in helping the city of Drumheller to develop that with an eye to involving the private sector, is greatly appreciated. I would hope there'd be a continued commitment to the use of the private sector in making this the third industry of our province and achieve that desire of having a \$10 billion industry by the end of the next decade.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

MS CALAHASEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to congratulate the minister for his reappointment to the tourism portfolio, and also the Member for Red Deer-North being reappointed to the Tourism Education Council. I worked with the deputy minister on previous occasions before I became the Member for Lesser Slave Lake, and I know you have a really good deputy in place there, Mr. Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: And a big one, too.

MS CALAHASEN: Yeah, a big one. Pretty tall.

I'm really pleased to see that Alberta is getting to have the third largest industry, which is tourism. I'm really pleased to see that. However, I'd like to see more thrust for dollars to be allocated to northern Alberta. I'm sure most of the northern MLAs would agree with me in terms of getting some dollars into northern Alberta. I think we have to start capitalizing on our natural resources. On that note, I would like to see somewhere in my constituency a designated tourist destination area. Seeing that dollars are 69 percent up in terms of the tourist destination area, I'd sure like to see that, particularly when we're looking at my area in terms of Lesser Slave Lake. I view Lesser Slave Lake as the jewel of the north, and I would really like to make sure it remains the jewel of the north. As most of my legislative colleagues know if they have ever gone fishing in that area, it is one of the most beautiful spots, so I would like to put in a plug for our area.

[Mr. Schumacher in the Chair]

I would like to ask the minister if he would outline to me what process my constituency could take to have this area desig-

nated as a tourist destination spot. To become more specific, I would like to ask the Hon. Don Sparrow about his intentions for native tourism in the province. Through the new programs of the minister's department, tourism has become a very important economic industry with attainable benefits, particularly for the native communities in my constituency. The Lesser Slave Lake area has been looking at tourism in a totally new way. In fact, there is a new wave of support, a momentum that is building among my constituents and particularly the native constituents. Tourism has become a focus of attention as communities realize that this industry can provide the main opportunity for income generation in many native areas. As a matter of fact, a native consultant from Alberta Tourism has been made available to our native constituents to help them realize their tourist potential and plan for their futures. Many of our reserves and communities, particularly in the area I come from, have lakefront locations. If we are going to capitalize on tourism, we should be able to do that, because I think we should start looking at those lakefront communities and really building upon that.

Through the community tourism action plan the communities are taking steps toward much-needed improvements such as better access to lakefronts and restoration of the beaches. The Department of Tourism is helping take advantage of their location and helping all the people in my area take advantage of their unique cultural identities. The native communities are learning how to create new opportunities through projects such as camping facilities, RV parks, arts and crafts displays, tourist information centres, and various retail opportunities along the highway. This I would like to see encouraged and continue. I'll give an instance, and that's the Sucker Creek Indian Band. They are looking to relocate their buffalo paddock during the summer months so that it can access tourists along the highway. I think this has great potential. This popular paddock has great tourism potential, as it not only promotes our wildlife but reminds me of the traditions of the native culture, and this I would sure like to see enhanced.

Currently we have six bands looking at tourism, particularly the tourism action planning: the Driftpile Indian Band, the Duncan's Indian Band, the Grouard Indian Band, the Sawridge Indian Band, Sucker Creek, and Swan River. Through the help of the native consultant I alluded to earlier, these bands are learning to take care of their economic futures to decide how they can become economically self-sufficient. As an economic initiative, tourism holds particular benefit for Indian bands and Indian communities and every community in my area. By making it possible to open doors to the native culture, many of our businesspeople, our artists, and our community members stand to benefit. Local recreational opportunities and facilities are improved. This program provides the native communities with an opportunity to decide where and how to direct tourism traffic. It is up to the individual bands how they want to promote their tourism assets. It is up to them to decide how they wish to develop an appreciation for their cultural, natural, and historical resources.

We have also been assigned an Alberta Tourism consultant to investigate the Woodland Cree interpretive centre which is to be located in Grouard, my home town. This anthropological interpretative centre could play an important role in preserving the local culture and generating new dollars. A feasibility study has been completed, and the department is investigating funding opportunities. Mr. Minister, we have seen an incredible momentum build in the native communities of the Lesser Slave

Lake region and in all communities within our area. We are helping our communities make solid plans for long-term economic development. I would like to see our native communities maintain this momentum. Can you tell me what these communities can expect in the future, Mr. Minister, in the way of support for their rapidly growing initiatives?

I would like to end off with a note that I would really like to know what we can do to be able to get my constituency be a designated tourist destination spot. Thank you.

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, some very good ideas and some very good questions have come forward. With all the notes I have here, I'd like to answer some of those questions before the clock turns too far.

I'd like to thank the Member for West Yellowhead for his comments about the department and the note he sent me a few days ago saying it's very difficult to criticize what the Department of Tourism is doing. We thank him for that. With reference to the 41 percent increase in vote 1 that he mentioned, we would like to point out that basically it's covered in two areas -- manpower in numerous parts of the vote, and maybe I could cover all that as one because it's been mentioned several times, also by the Member for Calgary-North West.

Manpower increases will provide new staff members that will support a number of new and enhanced programs. This includes several areas throughout the total vote, so rather than going into each one and getting the percentages, they cover the destination planning that is taking place now along with the department of culture and parks when they have projects where they plan to bring major lures or attractions. We will be doing destination planning around them and with them. We're doing that around Tyrrell, around Reynolds, around Remington, in southern Alberta, and projects they have on their lists that are major in scope will receive destination planning in conjunction with them in the future. We're actually backtracking into other areas like I've just mentioned.

More staff in community services. Of course, the expansion in the community tourism action planning has drastically increased the need for not only additional staff to facilitate that planning but additional consulting dollars to provide the facilitators to those communities so we're not holding up that planning process at the community level. We provide a staff member or facilitator to work with each of the communities in the community tourism action plan as a facilitator to work through their planning process but making sure it is their plan when they're finished. We do give them guidance when asked about what the province is doing, but we are waiting and want to have tourism development in the future generated by those initiatives at the local level. To give you an example, of the 127 communities that have already completed their plans, your average goals that have been set would be around 30 per community. That's over 3,000 goals and ideas that are coming forward, and when you multiply that times the total number of communities in this province, there's a lot that can and will take place right at the community level with the funding that's in place either through Team Tourism or through the community tourism action program, which is 75-25 funding, 75 provincial government and 25 community and/or private sector or non-profit group in that community, to do those and achieve those goals in those plans.

We're also looking at increased staffing for Generator Planning. As I mentioned just a minute ago, along with culture and

parks, that's possible new and exciting cultural or recreational generators at the provincial level.

Business growth and development is also receiving additional manpower, and that's to work through the one-window approach. As I mentioned in my speech, we now have some 200 projects that group is working with. A year and a half ago we had one person working with that area, and we anticipate opening up, as I mentioned earlier, a regional office in Calgary to primarily work with private-sector proposals, community proposals, in the southern area of the province to give them the consulting services and facilitation they so need.

There was some comment by the Member for West Yellowhead that he would like to see some of these dollars spread into regional offices, and that idea has been discussed thoroughly within the department. We are trying out a new office in Calgary, and it's our first office outside Edmonton. I would hope recommendations come forward from the tourism zones requesting additional branch offices throughout the province, because we were planning on doing them. At their last convention -- I think through some miscommunication -- they put a recommendation through that they didn't want us to have zone offices and they thought this might be an encroachment into zone activities of their own. So we are working with them, though, and I think that communication has been straightened out in several areas. But we'll be talking to them at their next annual meeting.

We also have increased manpower in Regional Generator Development, and that's working with communities and the private sector right through the province. The workload in the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement now that we have some 369 projects under way -- the value of those projects is some \$209 million. That's taking about \$36,269 million of provincial money to generate that \$209 million of private-sector work. That's about a 5.7 percent leverage factor we've been able to get out of that. We've also got 99 additional projects over and above that that are pending. But as we near the end of that agreement, the administration work has increased, and monitoring of them along with the applications, and we understand and we hope that proponents will come forward under that program to bring forward many new projects so we make sure that by March of next year all the funds available through that program can be utilized. Also, there's going to be increased staffing in the Alberta Tourism Education Council. So I've answered quite a number of questions by tying it back to that one, and that has driven a number of those budget items for increases.

We would like to then move on to West Yellowhead's comments about Via Rail. We've talked about that, and I can assure the member that not only my ministry but the Minister of Economic Development and Trade is working with us and communities along the Via Rail route to make sure we address the issues within that report when it comes forward. We have made presentations to them already, and like everyone else we know that that rail service, Vancouver-Jasper-Edmonton and Vancouver-Banff-Calgary and on into the east, is so vital to this province. If it's not going to be in the same form of service as it was before, we're getting the feeling that there are many, many private-sector proponents out there that would love the opportunity to look at sections of that Via Rail service to not only market it and increase it but to take over rail transportation.

One of the very exciting proposals we worked on with Via Rail through the department last year and the year before is the mountaineer service. That one has very definitely shown that

with increased advertising and marketing on a specific product like that, it became one of the most successful rail runs they had, and the leaks from the report are saying they're looking at doubling that. I think that model can be used over and over again on other runs within the Via Rail system and should be considered as smaller products, like one section of a rail service like that.

I will look forward to my colleague the chairman of ATEC answering any questions with reference to attitude awareness and standards.

I'd like to thank the Member for West Yellowhead for his support that he showed in his memos and in his talk today.

With reference to Calgary-North West, quite a number of questions with reference to the changes in the budget. If we could sit down and go through the budget together, we could give you very, very pointed and specific answers on each and every one of them. I've answered some of them in my general talk already, about the generator planning, the corporate development increase. With reference to your opening comments about page 325, yes, computers are being purchased, and that's the main increase. Generator planning I've touched on.

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

With reference to the community tourism action program, you wanted to have some idea of the changes and the numbers of projects there. It's fairly early to do an estimate with reference to your question. To date we have 57 projects that have been approved; that's about \$1.3 million in grants. That has helped and assisted the development of some \$10.5 million in project value. Now, that's \$9.2 million from the communities and private-sector proposals versus the \$1.3 million from government. So we're getting a very good leveraging factor, and that's similar to the leveraging factor I just mentioned about the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement. We hope that maintains itself, but we do not have very rigid control on the funding of projects at the community level because we have delegated that to the municipalities. If ideas are in their community tourism action plan and the community approves that plan, the community also then approves each and every application for funding under the community tourism action program. That application then goes through to the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta, TIAALTA, and receives their approval.

We are here to facilitate, to work with those communities. The main objective they have to prove to us is that these community tourism action ideas are site self-sufficient, and/or the community can say to us in their application that they will look after the operating long-term needs, or they are site self-sufficient and look after themselves. So we don't look at anticipating an operating/funding program coming at us in the years to come because of these projects. I hope all members of the Legislature would help me continue to make sure of that with these applications that have come forward.

Yes, we do have Team Tourism administration dollars to work with TIAALTA and the 14 zones, and that's new this year, as you noted.

I've covered, basically, your comments about CATA and the number of dollars and the numbers of projects. Our communities are given direction in planning; our consultant, who works as a facilitator, and/or our staff try to let the community create their plan for their area. Of course, they can answer any questions they see fit with reference to other communities, but we do

encourage co-operation of regional ideas so that several communities can get together so they can create a theme for their total area. Many communities are doing that, where several villages, a town, and a county, for instance, are getting together with their planning approach. [interjections] The idea is of either having just one plan that will cover them all or including in each of their plans . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. SPARROW: . . . those ideas that will complement the adjoining communities' planning needs.

With reference to our cut in marketing, we don't look at it as being that. We know we have an increase and a new program under Team Tourism where some \$4 million will be going out in the first year. I talked about that in my opening comments. Undoubtedly our Take an Alberta Break program has been a very, very effective program, and there are many parts of that that can be looked at to be picked up by the private sector for expansion. Though we do have a decrease in direct advertising in the budget dollars, overall I think we're going to be further ahead with the new program because of the size and scope of it. There are opportunities for us to meld the Take an Alberta Break program into the Team Tourism concept, and logos will be used into the future with the Team Tourism program.

You asked about the co-ordination of cultural and Recreation and Parks programs and planning. Yes, we do have a committee at the deputy minister level and one at lower levels than that. Those ministers will be on the Tourism committee at the cabinet level. So co-ordination and co-operation has increased immensely between Recreation and Parks and culture and Tourism, and we look forward to teamwork into the future, with the new cabinet committee to make sure of that.

With reference to ski area development and about the new proposal, no, I do not have any idea what's in the new proposal. I'm interested to see it. I can only say that very definitely our ski product must stay competitive. In order to be in the marketplace, we have to make sure of on-hill accommodation. That's a demand that the skier wants. We have to look at high-speed equipment for chairs, for quad chairs; that's coming to us loud and clear. If we don't stay up to what the market demands of the industry, we'll see the erosion of our share of that market. So it's very important that we do have proposals come forward that are environmentally sensitive and do not have a problem of construction within a sensitive environment. But I think we can all say very strongly that most people feel skiing is an acceptable use of our mountain parks, so the facilities that go along with that sport have to be placed conveniently for that tourist market. We can see what's happened in the last few years with Whistler and how that demand for on-hill accommodation and high-speed chairs has driven their projects there to become very, very successful, because they're going after what the marketplace wants and what the skier wants.

With reference to your comments about Westcastle, it's in the early stages of planning with the Westcastle authority and the local community. Yes, the ideas of a road in that area by the guest ranch have been considered and should be considered. All regional development in that area should be considered when that proposal goes forward, because if they can create what they're talking about in the Westcastle area, it would be a real success for southern Alberta and a very good product. But again, they're just in the study stages, and it's too early to say

whether or not it's going to go forward.

Again, your comments about Mr. Jim Gray's science centres. I'm excited also, as many of our other ministers are, and we have a committee working with them looking at this proposal. I do personally support the idea. It's been happening worldwide, and it's a very ambitious proposal. We do have to research and make sure that if our full support as a government goes behind this type of project, it can be done in such a manner so that they're site self-sufficient and, when we're complete, so that the future generations of this province, your kids and mine, won't be paying for our mistakes in building white elephants. I'm thinking that if we all take that idea into the planning process and decision-making process, many, many projects will become site self-sufficient into the future and not be dependent on us for future tax dollars for operations.

Mr. Chairman, we also would like to address the questions from my colleague from Drumheller and thank him for the very positive response. In answer to his questions, very definitely we are and will work with the private sector to make sure there are site self-sufficient projects in that area. He makes a very good point that when Tyrrell was built, it was a lure, and destination planning has been lacking. We are in that process of doing that now with the community, and special reports and ideas have been worked with them over the last number of months.

He mentioned the Newcastle Beach proposal. That's a very exciting one; it shows that a park can be done through the private sector with profit centres on it that would generate revenue for operations. Not only that: that study on Newcastle shows that there's enough funding on an operation base to retire debt if it was done on a private-sector basis.

There are many other things that are happening in that Drumheller area with private-sector proposals, and I'm looking forward to having those private-sector proposals being made public. But in all cases they are made public at the wishes and the timing of the proponents and not by us. There's quite a number of them throughout the province. To give you an example, I think there were some 51 projects that I mentioned earlier under the new business development unit that add up to some \$103 million when they're all completed. There's 19 of them under existing projects, under expansion; completed projects, 15; and new projects under construction, 17. That's the biggest category. There's about \$65 million that goes in that category. So it's exciting to work with those types of proposals. I can give him some examples, Mr. Chairman, of the types of projects, if he so wishes, that are in those 51. There are family vacation destination resorts, regional ski areas, golf courses, campground expansions and development, a steam train that is near that area, guest ranches, native cultural centres, expansion to existing year-round destinations, and road access to existing tourism facilities. They're all involved in private-sector development that he talked about.

The Member for Lesser Slave Lake. I like your enthusiasm. I'm sure that each and every member would like to have a tourism destination in their area. I agree with you that Lesser Slave Lake is a jewel of the north. By the way, Mr. Chairman, I think Lesser Slave Lake sent us a jewel in their MLA. The enthusiasm she puts into the job, and especially with tourism, is very gratifying.

She mentioned the native tourism projects and especially the one that we're working on with the department of culture at Grouard, the Woodland Cree project. It's an exciting project. We're doing a destination study plan in and around the Lesser

Slave Lake area so that if a project like that went forward, the private-sector opportunities would be identified throughout your group of communities so that you could see a site self-sufficient package in the destination. We wish you all success in future by pushing that project. It's just one of many, remember? There are a lot of projects like that that should be driven by the private-sector component and not by us as government.

You asked: what can we expect? We can expect that we'll return the same type of enthusiasm you gave us to the many private-sector proposals that come from any community in this province. We would like to make sure you know that our one-window approach through the business services unit is available for any project in any community. We will assign it a project number, assign a facilitator to that project so that you have a direct communication with the Department of Tourism on projects within your area. We'll also give you summaries from time to time of what's happening in a constituency or a community if you ask for it.

Mr. Chairman, the Member for Lesser Slave Lake also listed the many advantages of having the native tourism planning process take place. Last October the department saw fit to hire native consultants to work with the native reserves, and I'd like to give you a little report card on that consultant and the native reserves. I believe there are about nine reserves that have their plans completed. I've even seen two that have received funding or are in the process of receiving funding under the community tourism action program. There are about 18 that are well under way and will be finished, hopefully, in the next couple of months. Another nine are just getting started and have had their first introductory session. The other eight are reported just getting started. So I think we've had some very good, strong indication from the native community that they will be and are taking economic expansion in their communities through tourism very seriously. We're looking forward to working with them, working with that consultant on a project-by-project basis after their plans are completed, like we will with any other community. We also are working with the Metis settlements, and they are getting involved also with their new Metis settlements. I would hope that a year from now we'll see them all completed, and you can sit back and help those communities achieve the goals they've brought forward.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the chairman of the council, the Member for Red Deer-North, to follow up on the questions I've missed, about his participation on the council and the questions thereto.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Calgary-Mountain View was previously recognized, followed by the Member for Red Deer-North.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I notice today, Mr. Chairman, that the minister finally tabled his report on a defunct chess tournament that was originally scheduled to begin in Calgary, I believe it was this week. Obviously, it's not coming about, and there have been lots of concerns aired about how it was that that chess tournament failed.

Initially I began with some questions to the minister about the role of his brother in the acquiring of the funding for this particular chess tournament, and he initially denied that his brother had any role to play whatsoever. But as he is well aware, Mr. Chairman, as are all Members of the Legislature, certainly for those who were involved as organizers of this tour-

nement, they themselves believe that he, Mr. Jim Sparrow, had a significant role to play -- or certainly some role to play -- in getting government approval through the Tourism department.

Mr. Chairman, the minister also initially left the impression that he had only a minor role to play in the ongoing approvals of funding to this chess tournament from the time that the proponents originally approached his department. Later on he had to correct that impression by indicating that he was far more actively involved than we had first understood him to be, and as a result of the fact that at each stage in the answers to these questions the minister had to amend or change or clarify the statements he made in this Legislature, eventually he gave a commitment that he would give us a report that would -- I quote him.

I've asked my department to do a complete file for the House of our involvement, and we'll be tabling that to clear the air and the concerns.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I was very interested to get a copy of that report this afternoon. I don't know whether it was the minister's report or the city of Calgary's report that he tabled this afternoon, because in looking through the document he gave us, there is a big thick one here about a proposal for the city of Calgary made by the proponents, not made to the province. Then we have the largest bulk of this report now, a report of the city of Calgary administration to members of city council. There is nothing entailed here in a reply to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Then we have documents dating back to July 1988 and a covering letter from the acting city commissioner, Mr. Holmes, a covering letter to a commissioner's report to city council.

Then finally we get to a contract, Mr. Chairman. This one is between the Associated Canadian Travellers in the city of Calgary -- nothing mentioned there as far as the role of the Minister of Tourism. Included also are excerpts from *Hansard*. That was very nice, to put them all in one bundle. They were already a part of the public record. Finally, we come to one letter from the deputy minister to Mr. Hamilton. Finally, we get something on the letterhead of the Department of Tourism. There is one other letter here to the minister, of October 27, 1988, from Boby Curtola, indicating a change in the responsibility, and there are another couple of letters again from the Department of Tourism and the minister himself. We do get, interestingly enough, a contract, finally, that was signed between the department and the proponents, and a summary report from the minister. Well, Mr. Chairman, looking at the report . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, hon. member. I would request that you indicate how this is related to the estimates before proceeding, please.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Well, Mr. Chairman, included in the report from the minister is an indication that \$50,000 of this fiscal year's estimates have already been spent towards this defunct chess championship, and I would like to use some of the time this afternoon to refer to that. I guess the point I would make this afternoon . . .

MR. DAY: Point of order.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: . . . given that I haven't had much time to speak to estimates this afternoon . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, there's been a point of order raised by Red Deer-North.

MR. DAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Beauchesne*, in talking about the business of supply -- and you can begin citing 914 and then onward from there -- clearly designates estimates of the department. Now, the member opposite after your admonishment has given some indication that he's looking at estimates of the department. However, he's already summarized the estimate, and with respect to his right to follow through, this issue has been raised by the member opposite continually. The minister today tabled an in-depth documentation of the situation which he's concerned with. More directly, I feel it's appropriate to acknowledge that the Member for West Yellowhead specifically and others asked some very specific questions before this member got up about the estimates. Those questions were very specific. The minister has indicated that he would like to allow some time . . . [interjections]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order. Perhaps you could conclude your point of order as quickly as possible.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, I will. Thank you.

The minister has indicated, at the request of members of the opposition who request time for questions -- he has asked that they specifically be addressed, and what we are witnessing now from the Member for Calgary-Mountain View is actually an unnecessary filibuster and taking away from his own opposition colleagues the ability to have their questions addressed. Those were good questions, Mr. Chairman, which we're not . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, I think I've got your message.

Proceed.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I congratulate the minister and the government caucus for expending such considerable effort to prevent me from speaking to these estimates this afternoon. There are lots of unanswered questions. If the hon. member would have just simply listened, he would have given me the chance to get to some of those questions.

Mr. Chairman, I think the minister should give us the . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, I must interrupt and call upon the hon. Government House Leader.

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

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order in the whole House, please.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the motion, those in favour, please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

[The House recessed at 5:29 p.m.]

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed, please say no. Motion carries.

