

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Title: **Friday, May 10, 1991**

10:00 a.m.

Date: 91/05/10

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **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: **Tabling Returns and Reports**

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the response to Written Question 353, which was accepted in the House on May 9, 1991.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to table the 1990 annual report for the Technology, Research and Telecommunications department.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a response to Written Question 268. It should be of note to members that the government supplies over 40,000 units to low-income seniors in this province.

head: **Introduction of Special Guests**

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Banff-Cochrane.

MR. EVANS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This morning I'm delighted to have an opportunity to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly 48 very enthusiastic and bright young people from Springbank middle school in the Banff-Cochrane constituency. They're all dressed in their band uniforms, and they're accompanied this morning by their teachers Mrs. Moira Thompson and Mr. Pat Worthington and by parents Mr. Tim Anderson, Mrs. Deane Day, and Mrs. Debbie Jewitt. They are seated in the public gallery. I would now ask that they rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

head: **Oral Question Period**

Vocational Schools

MS BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, in 1988 the Computer Career Institute failed as a result of misleading students prior to that point with course names, advertising, claims of equivalencies with other recognized programs, and career prospects for their students. I'll tell you, what those students all had in common at the end of that collapse was between \$7,000 and \$8,000 of debt with the Students Finance Board, which the minister at that time refused to help alleviate, and the current Minister of Advanced Education has continued to resist helping. Now we find out today that the Mary Bara Academy of business has closed its doors. Its owner has apparently left the city, and the students appear to be left holding the bag again. I'd like to ask the Advanced Education minister if he and his department were simply asleep at the wheel in failing to monitor this place or if they've got some new and improved excuse for this little fiasco.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, there are about 100 private vocational schools in the province. Bara Academy is one. They go through pretty exhaustive criteria in terms of being accredited as a training institution. I became aware of the situation yesterday. There are about 24 students involved. I'm awaiting word now as a result of a meeting between the students of Bara Academy and the Students Finance Board.

MS BARRETT: No answer at all, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to point out that in 1988, after the collapse of CCI, the minister at that time, Dave Russell, at least recognized that a change in legislation was needed. He also assured me in the House at the time that regular monitoring of these private vocational schools would be part of the reform that went along with that legislation. I know this minister has been kept up to date, because he's got the old files. I'd like to ask the minister, knowing as he did since 1988 that this company was on shaky ground, whether or not he was monitoring the situation regularly, and if not, why not?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, there have been dramatic changes in policy with the private vocational schools. They're now in a category situation where until they get a track record, student loans from the Alberta Students Finance Board are not approved for their students. They're monitored very closely. I would point out that if an owner of a private vocational school suddenly locks the door, I hope the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands would agree that that's an unusual circumstance. I can assure members of the House that quality in terms of delivering education must be there or student loans would not be approved. I've indicated to the member that I'm looking into it now, and when I'm brought up to date as to where the issues lie with regard to those students, I'll take appropriate action.

MS BARRETT: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that I did support the legislation that attempted to correct the problem. The problem now is the students left holding the bag. I'd like to ask the minister if he's now prepared to reverse his policy and tell the former students at CCI, the people who are left without any credentials whatsoever, that they don't have to pay back the student loans, and the same with the students at the Mary Bara. I mean, that's . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. [interjections] Thank you.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, surely there must be some responsibility on a student who chooses to attend an institution that's offering education and training requirements. The onus cannot all lie on the government. I've indicated to the hon. member that I'm looking into that situation now. I'm not fully apprised of where it's at. But let's not for one minute relieve students in this province, many of them mature students, of the responsibilities they should incur when they enroll in these private vocational colleges.

MR. SPEAKER: Second main question.

MS BARRETT: Maybe they can't get into publicly funded institutions. Maybe that's the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to designate the second question to the Member for Calgary-Forest Lawn.

MR. SPEAKER: Calgary-Forest Lawn.

Economic Policy

MR. PASHAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the latest stats the unemployment rate in Edmonton is an abysmal 8.6 percent, and Calgary's unemployment rate continues to spiral upwards. In Calgary it's up from last month to 8.3 percent, which is an increase of 25 percent over one year ago. My question is to the Minister of Labour. Is she pleased with these figures? What new programs does she have for these unemployed workers?

MS McCOY: Mr. Speaker, of course one can never be pleased when one sees even one person out of work who is available for and wants work. There's no question that we regret any such circumstances. In terms of programs helping Albertans find jobs, those programs fall under the portfolio of my colleague the Minister of Career Development and Employment, and in terms of economic development, no doubt the Minister of Economic Development and Trade may very well wish to supplement my answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary.

MR. PASHAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, this is a sad day in Calgary. Not only has the labour force been decimated by layoffs in the oil patch, but 500 packing house workers at Canada Packers work their last shift today. My question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade. Is the minister prepared to admit that it is his government's policy of providing money on an ad hoc basis to other plants, resulting in chaos in the packing house industry, that has caused Canada Packers to shut down this venerable Calgary institution?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, we answered that question a number of days ago as it related to our involvement in the meat packing industry, whereby I indicated to the hon. member, as did the Minister of Agriculture, that Canada Packers has accessed government programs so they could have funds passed on to them. All packing industries have accessed government funds, and we've done so to maintain a packing industry in the province of Alberta. We acknowledge that there is going to be a rationalization of this industry. We wanted to make sure that this industry was maintained in the province of Alberta, and it has been maintained because of our involvement.

MR. PASHAK: Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary is to the Acting Premier. Is he now prepared to admit that these layoffs in Calgary are a result of his government's policy of destroying trade unions by subsidizing multinationals to displace established Canadian businesses and then making it virtually impossible for new employees of these corporations to get first contracts?

10:10

MR. HORSMAN: No, Mr. Speaker, that is not the case at all. Of all the left-wing, socialist claptrap, that's one of the finest examples I've heard. That's complete and utter rubbish.

Freedom of Information Legislation

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, freedom of information legislation exists in almost every jurisdiction in North America today except for a couple of provinces, this being one of them. Albertans are desirous of getting more information. There is

even an ad in today's newspaper from a tax group asking that the government initiate such legislation. My first question is to the minister of economic development. The minister has hinted at a policy. He is thinking and talking and discussing a policy to bring forward more information that deals with companies that do business with the government. I'd like the minister to tell this Assembly where that policy is and when it will be tabled.

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to repeat for the leader of the Liberal Party in this Assembly that I'm not hinting at it. We've indicated with all our programs that we go through a process of review to make sure they are continuously meeting the demands of the Alberta population. As part of that review, we're more than happy to look at that. More importantly, we're looking forward to this fall when we are going to have a conference on the economy, whereby we're going to ask all Albertans to participate and give us direction as to whether they agree with the strong thrust we have taken as a province as it relates to economic diversification, thus in turn creating jobs for Albertans. We're going to ask for input so we can maintain our leadership as it relates to economic growth.

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, my question was: when will we have a policy for information? That was the question.

My second question is to the Deputy Premier. This week the province of B.C. announced that they will introduce freedom of information legislation. Mr. Deputy Premier, when can we expect the Alberta government to announce similar legislation?

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, the question of information and its accessibility is clearly spelled out now. For anybody who wants to look and listen and learn what it's all about, it's all clearly spelled out in *Beauchesne* relative to the types of information available from the government. In most cases in other provinces and the federal government, those rules have simply been incorporated into legislation. Our government is following precisely the same rules of making information available that other provinces do pursuant to the so-called freedom of information legislation. All it has done – and I repeat this again – all it has done is take the rules from *Beauchesne* which we follow in this Assembly and put them into another piece of legislation. That's a fact, and if the hon. leader of the Liberal Party isn't yet familiar enough with *Beauchesne*, I suggest he read *Beauchesne*.

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, that really is absolute nonsense, and the Deputy Premier knows it. More than 60 percent of the motions for returns and written questions are denied by the government. I want to know from the Deputy Premier when he's going to give information to Albertans. We asked, for example . . .

MR. SPEAKER: No. [interjections] Order. The question was asked. [interjections] Order. [interjections] Order. [interjections] Order.

MR. TAYLOR: I hope you cut him off in his answers.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Westlock-Sturgeon. I'd be happy to cut you off anytime myself.

MR. DECORE: Explain why we can't get answers. [interjections]

Speaker's Ruling Decorum

MR. SPEAKER: No. [interjections] Order. The question . . . [interjection] Just a moment, Deputy Premier, I haven't recognized you yet. I'm waiting for the place to get back to order.

Deputy Premier.

Freedom of Information Legislation (continued)

MR. HORSMAN: The leader of the Liberal Party knows very well that they are placing on the Order Paper questions which under any freedom of information legislation in Canada would not be acceptable, because they deal with questions of commercial confidentiality, they deal with questions which relate to advice which is given within government by civil servants to ministers of the Crown, or they deal with matters which relate to advice given by one minister of the Crown to cabinet. In all cases, in all pieces of freedom of information legislation in Canada, these are prohibited from disclosure. If the Liberal Party wants to keep on asking those questions, putting them on the Order Paper in the same way, they can keep on doing that, but the fact of the matter is that they are not acceptable.

They are also requesting – and I have noted this with a lot of interest – information that doesn't exist. Therefore, we have to reject questions or motions for returns when the information doesn't exist, and they make a great to-do out of rejecting questions of that kind. Or when the information is already part of the public records, they are putting motions on the Order Paper asking for information that, if they had the time and made the effort, they could get by going to the public records.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. [interjection] Thank you.

Gas Pipeline Extension

MR. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, earlier in question period today the Member for Calgary-Forest Lawn said that it's a sad day in Calgary. I'd like to suggest the reverse is true; it's a very good news day for Calgary. The reason I say that is because of the National Energy Board's decision yesterday, perhaps one of the most impactful decisions the NEB has made in recent times. For the benefit of members who aren't aware of that announcement, the NEB has approved an extension of the TCPL system into New York, New England, and New Jersey: a very significant announcement for the industry. I'd like to ask the Minister of Energy if he could quantify for members of the Assembly the implications and the impact of that very important decision. [interjections]

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Let the minister get started, please.

MR. ORMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek aptly pointed out, there was a significant decision made before the National Energy Board yesterday, and that was to approve the \$2.6 billion expansion of TransCanada PipeLines into eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. It was significant because one of the difficulties in the industry today is the tremendous inventory of natural gas that is behind pipe without a market. This approval will certainly alleviate a great deal of that supply.

Along with the \$2.6 billion of TCPL construction, Nova is in the process of expanding their intra-Alberta facilities to about 1

and a half billion dollars, and part of that will be to facilitate this expansion. So you can see that the ripple effect is quite significant. We're very pleased with this decision, and it will have a very positive impact on the future of this province's energy industry.

MR. PAYNE: Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, there are other projects awaiting approval. These projects would take natural gas out of Alberta to the U.S. midwest and to California. I'm wondering: can the Minister of Energy indicate to the Assembly what this most recent NEB decision has done or what implications it has for these projects awaiting approval?

MR. ORMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, from time to time the Crown and the producers make decisions on which projects to support based on their economic viability, but the TransCanada PipeLines expansion has major implications for other parts of this country. Not only will there be this year total revenues of \$550 million, of which the Crown receives between 20 and 25 percent, but I think it's important to note the impact of this project on other provinces of Canada in terms of construction. Saskatchewan will receive \$315 million worth of economic benefits; Manitoba, \$215 million; Ontario, \$1.8 billion; and Quebec, \$235 million. Mr. Speaker, you can see that over the one and a half year construction period the ripple effect of this project, not only to Alberta but to other parts of Canada, will be very, very positive. For that reason it's a decision that's made in the best interests of Canada, not just Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER: West Yellowhead.

10:20 Fuel Contamination Incident

MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the Hinton poisoning, the Premier still thinks it's sufficient to say that accidents happen and the government has done its best in this matter. It's not an accident that someone stole the fuel tanks. It's probably not an accident that the poison got into the fuel to start with, and none of the parties involved – Husky, Petro-Canada, Westcan transport . . . [interjections]

Speaker's Ruling Interrupting a Member

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, hon. member.

Order on the government benches. Just as you need a chance for them to be quiet so you can get your first couple of sentences on your questions, the same courtesy is due this member as well. Thank you.

Fuel Contamination Incident (continued)

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Speaker, it's not an accident that someone stole the fuel tanks. It's probably not an accident that the poison got into the fuel to start with, and none of the parties involved – Husky, Petro-Canada, Westcan transport, the town of Hinton, and everyone injured by the substance – feel that the government has done everything it can to unravel the mystery. I'd like to ask the Acting Premier: given that a number of commissions and inquiries have set out the standard for circumstances where a public inquiry is justified and the Hinton poisoning certainly appears to fit this criteria, will the Acting Premier agree to reverse the government's previous position and hold a public inquiry into this matter?

MR. HORSMAN: I'll refer the hon. Member for West Yellowhead to the *Hansard* of yesterday and the exchange between the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier which dealt with this matter precisely.

MR. DOYLE: Not quite, Mr. Speaker. I was with the injured workers in Hinton yesterday.

Lord Justice Salmon, chairman of the Royal Commission on Tribunals of Inquiry, said:

From time to time cases arise concerning rumoured instances of lapses in accepted standards of public administration and other matters causing public concern which cannot be dealt with by ordinary civil or criminal process but which require investigation in order to allay anxiety.

Speaker's Ruling Brevity in Oral Question Period

MR. SPEAKER: Whoa. Hold it. Hon. member, I'm sorry. I've intervened on your behalf. You continue to go on reading and reading and reading. You've now turned to the second page with respect to the supplementary. I'm sorry; you must ask the question. [interjection] Thank you very much. I don't need your assistance in that manner.

Fuel Contamination Incident (continued)

MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a quote from the Lord Justice.

Once again to the Acting Premier: given that the Acting Premier has acknowledged the failure of the normal criminal process in this matter and given that it is certainly a matter of public concern, how does the Acting Premier explain the difference between his position and the criteria laid out by Lord Justice Salmon?

MR. HORSMAN: There's no question that the hon. member has raised a matter of concern to his constituents and to people who have been harmed as a result of an incident. I'm not making light of that at all. But the fact of the matter is that the hon. Member for West Yellowhead has indicated that given that I have acknowledged certain things and given that I have acknowledged certain other things . . . Mr. Speaker, I have not acknowledged anything of the kind, and I want the record to show that. What the Premier said to the hon. Leader of the Opposition yesterday is that this matter will be carefully reviewed by the government. I repeat it: it is a serious matter that has been raised. I repeat what the Premier said: the matter will be carefully examined by the government. I refer the hon. member to the exchange between the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier in yesterday's *Hansard*. [interjections]

Speaker's Ruling Interrupting a Member

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member, you and other members have been told you don't shout back and forth when you're getting the answer. I'm sorry that you're picking up that bad habit from other members. [interjections] Thank you, hon. members.

Calgary-North West.

Northern Steel Inc.

MR. BRUSEKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade. Northern Steel is one of many examples of this government's

ineptitude in handling business. Yesterday in the House we revealed that the government is in the process of suing a related company and in particular an individual by the name of Del Hankinson, who was the secretary-treasurer and controller of Northern Steel and Precision Manufacturing at the same time. Curiously, Mr. Hankinson left Northern Steel in February of 1990 at the same time the initial claim was made with respect to Precision Manufacturing, where he was also located. My question to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade is: was this individual required to leave Northern Steel as a result of his alleged fraudulent activities that were occurring at Precision Manufacturing?

MR. ELZINGA: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, I guess he doesn't know much at all. My supplementary, then, is: since the circumstances around Northern Steel appear so suspicious and incestuous and deceitful, will the minister commit to doing a full investigation of the transactions between Northern Steel, Precision Manufacturing, and Premier Steel to find out where all the dollars have gone that have been written off?

MR. ELZINGA: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is making a number of allegations which he cannot substantiate, and I must say I am disappointed in the hon. member in that he would involve himself in such accusations without supporting documentation. The hon. member is also offering certain suggestions as it relates to Precision machine and the actions this government has initiated which fall directly under another minister. If the other minister, who is responsible for public safety services, wishes to respond, I hope the House would have the liberty to hear him, but I should leave the hon. member with the assurance that the investigation we have done shows there has been no wrongdoing. In the event that any wrongdoing is uncovered, as this government always has done, we will make sure the full force of the law comes to bear.

MR. SPEAKER: Banff-Cochrane.

Western Heritage Centre

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A report commissioned for the province of Alberta by Equus Consulting Group, which was released in December of 1990, speaks glowingly of a project in Banff-Cochrane constituency, the Western Heritage Centre. It speaks about a number of substantial benefits to Alberta and to my constituency as a result of the project, including its attractiveness to tourists regionally and internationally, an excellent site, authenticity from an historic aspect, and a re-creation of the ranching and rodeo history of southern Alberta. However, there is concern in the report, as it contemplates and projects a deficit of some half a million dollars in the third year of operation. My question is to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. Is he aware of this projected deficit?

MR. MAIN: Mr. Speaker, the consultant's report dealing with tourism studies points out that this project in fact will draw something in excess of 200,000 people, but it also projects a deficit. Now, we can argue about whether that projection is accurate or not, but let me say this and repeat this for the House: as I've said many times to the proponents of the WHC, to critics of the project, to supporters of the project, and to everybody who's asked any questions on this project, if there is

a deficit, if there is an operating shortfall, that will be the responsibility of the operators and owners of the project, the Western Heritage Society, and not the government and the taxpayers.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because government is assisting this project by putting in a maximum of \$5 million after \$5 million has been raised by the not-for-profit society which is in charge of the project, I have great concerns about government supporting such a project if a deficit is contemplated. My question to the minister is: why is government supporting a project if a deficit is projected?

MR. MAIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, we do support the construction side of this project, the capital involvement of about \$5 million matching in excess of \$5 million raised through the private sector. We're concerned, too, about the operation of this centre. In fact, we took a look at the consultant's report. Experts in our department, who have been involved in the construction and operation of many successful historic sites, such as Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, the Tyrrell Museum, and others, reviewed the figures, had a look at the projections, had a look at the assumptions made in the report. In actual fact, when we put it to our expertise in the department and look at it, there's not a deficit of half a million dollars projected; there's a surplus of \$26,000. So, Mr. Speaker, what we have is a project that's said to be successful from a tourism standpoint, an authenticity standpoint, attracting large number of visitors, and making money on top.

10:30

MR. SPEAKER: Edmonton-Belmont.

Employment Statistics

MR. SIGURDSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Deputy Premier. The labour statistics show that Alberta is not an island in the sea of recession that's going on. In fact, the opposite is true. We now have 113,000 Albertans unemployed. Unemployment is down in other provinces, such as Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia, and our rate of unemployment is 20,000 persons higher than it was this time last year. I would ask the Deputy Premier to justify this government's "don't worry, be happy" cavalier attitude and justify how it is that the government can really not care about the unemployed when the rate is going up in Alberta and down in the rest of the country.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, the employment statistics which were released today show a marginal increase in unemployment in Alberta, and that, of course, is regrettable. The government never wants to see Albertans who wish to have meaningful employment unemployed. Of course, we assume that all Albertans wish to have meaningful employment, and therefore it's a sad situation when people are unemployed. Nonetheless, one has to, as a government, assess whether or not one should maintain policies of economic and fiscal stability or whether one should plunge into the same type of red-ink effort to spend their way out of the recession that has been adopted by the province of Ontario. We have decided, and I think it's been clearly pointed out in the budget and throughout the course of debate on estimates, that we are proceeding to have a fiscally

responsible, balanced budget approach and to rely on the private sector . . .

MR. DECORE: What a joke.

MR. HORSMAN: . . . which will provide the engine for growth and meaningful job opportunities. Lavish government spending is not the answer in this time, and Alberta is not – is not, I repeat – part of the recession that has swept through North America and other parts of Canada.

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate is especially bad for those people who fall between the ages of 15 and 24, and while some Tories on the back bench may argue for work camps for young offenders, the New Democrats are simply arguing for meaningful jobs for those young people. If you juxtapose the cost of job creation against the costs of court costs, incarceration, parole, and rehabilitation, you'll find that job creation is a far less expensive venture to undertake. I would ask the Deputy Premier: would he not agree that it's better to spend money putting young people to work before they run afoul of the law as opposed to spending money on young people after they've run afoul of the law?

MR. HORSMAN: Well, the hon. member has twisted himself out of shape on this question, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is that the best way – despite what the Liberal Leader interjected earlier, that it's a joke that the private sector creates jobs. I don't know where he comes from on his economic theories; nonetheless, I think Albertans should be aware that that's his view, and he expressed it earlier in the previous question.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we believe a balanced budget, fiscal responsibility, and management of the economy of this province with the private sector taking the initiative is the best way to find meaningful employment. Phony government spending to induce employment is in the long run self-defeating for young people and everyone else in our society. We believe in this government in a free market economy. We believe that is the best answer for the people of Alberta, and I believe the people of Alberta agree with this government.

MR. SPEAKER: Edmonton-Beverly.

Disaster Preparedness

MR. EWASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning my questions are to the minister responsible for public safety services. Recent tornadoes in the United States have raised the concern of local residents about another possible disaster in our area. In 1988 the tornado victims' committee submitted numerous recommendations to the minister, one of which called for an eight point disaster plan. My question to the minister is this: can he explain what action he has taken on these recommendations?

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the hon. member. I'm not able to report exactly the update with regards to the eight recommendations. It is my intent this coming week to meet with disaster services personnel plus a number of other interested bodies that will be discussing that specific item. I will report back to the member the progress we have made and the progress we intend to make during the year 1991-92.

MR. EWASIUK: Mr. Speaker, the sighting of a twister in the Edmonton area last night reminds us that the season of tornados is possibly upon us. Is the minister taking up the recommendations of the tornado victims' committee to put in place a public education program to alert people and to offer suggestions to follow in the event of a tornado in their area?

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, we certainly will be doing that. I'm sure there are a number of those recommendations in place already. From the tornado that occurred in Edmonton we gained a vast amount of experience, and I am sure a number of those recommendations have already been incorporated into our disaster program, specifically re tornados as such. I will double-check for the hon. member and quickly give him that information to assure him and relieve the concern of residents of this city and other parts of Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER: Calgary-McKnight.

Video Classification

MRS. GAGNON: Thank you. The influence of pornography on children is well documented, and it is destructive. One year ago I expressed a concern to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism regarding the fact that children of any age have access to all videos, no matter how sexually explicit or violent, and that we need new rules to change this practice. The minister replied by suggesting that by the fall of 1990 there would be a recommendation from the Alberta film classification board about the matter. Later, in December of 1990, the minister informed this House that a national film and video classification was being developed through a co-operative effort among the provinces and that this classification would help him develop policy. Mr. Speaker, we have heard nothing about any of this. To the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism: is he exercising any leadership to move these efforts along? We need a plan and now.

MR. MAIN: Mr. Speaker, yes.

MRS. GAGNON: Very good. I'd like to know some of the details, please.

MR. MAIN: Mr. Speaker, there's an ongoing consultative process that involves the film classification branches in the various provinces. These people meet on a regular basis. There's contact at the staff and professional levels on an ongoing basis, but it's a very complicated matter. It involves numerous areas of jurisdiction, not only in the most important matter raised by the Member for Calgary-McKnight, which I believe requires some manner of addressing. We're dealing not only with 11 different jurisdictions; we're dealing with a number of statutes, including the Criminal Code and its obscenity regulations, which have not yet been definitely ruled on by the Supreme Court of Canada. Until such time as there is clear law as to what is and is not pornography, trying to address some sort of provincial or municipal statute in that area is virtually impossible. Nevertheless, the work continues. We agree it's an important problem. Nobody wants to have children exposed to spurious material, but the practical application and the practical means of addressing that are not available to anybody right at the moment.

Lakeside Centennial Loan

MR. CHUMIR: Mr. Speaker, this is to the Provincial Treasurer, by the way. The few tidbits of information we have indicate that the terms of the government's \$15 million to Centennial Packers of Calgary are so generous to the company that bankers would be impeached by their shareholders if they loaned a company money on the same terms. It appears that \$15 million of public money has been loaned to Centennial with interest payable only in the event there is a profit. Now, this \$15 million loan replaces the \$15 million guarantee that was approved by the Provincial Treasurer - he has to approve those - and by the cabinet. I'm wondering whether the minister can explain to Albertans why \$15 million of public money was loaned to Centennial upon terms that could only be dreamed of by his personal bagman.

10:40

MRS. McCLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, that question is clearly for the Minister of Agriculture, and I'd be happy to take it on notice for the hon. member.

MR. CHUMIR: The Provincial Treasurer certainly knows the terms of this guarantee or else there's something wrong with the way in which that government is administering their programs, and there certainly is. I would like the minister to tell us under what program I and other members of the public in Alberta can come and get money in which interest is payable only in the event that we make a profit out of the business venture.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, we've already seen the Associate Minister of Agriculture indicate that in terms of the broad policy, that will be handled by our colleague when he returns to the Assembly. The member knows that the government operates in terms of programs. Programs provide equal access to assistance from the government for all participants who are creditworthy, who satisfy certain checks with respect to the appropriateness of their business plans, and from which the province can take security.

You'll find that when the minister returns, he'll describe for you how this government has in fact made this economy work. Now, we have built on the strengths of agriculture. Agriculture is a fundamental principle. We know the Liberals would have nothing to do with agriculture. Not only would they close the hospitals in rural Alberta, Mr. Speaker, but they'd close the opportunities for farmers to prosper in this great province of ours. We'll come back and tell you about that.

Oldman River Dam

MR. BRADLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Oldman dam is 95 percent complete, and the reservoir is now filling. With a record snowpack in the mountains, residents downstream from the dam have expressed concern to me about the possibility of downstream flooding this year. To the Minister of Public Works, Supply and Services: what assurance can the minister provide this House and Albertans that the dam is safe, and what effect will it have on the possibility of flooding downstream this year?

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, normally and annually there is a bit of a flood that does occur in the Oldman River, and it's very important for the survival of the cottonwood trees that do exist near the Peigan Indian reserve. This year we've got nearly twice the amount of snowpack in the Rocky Mountains. With the warming trend that we're going to have over the next four

to six weeks, there'll be an incredible amount of water that will flow out of the mountains. In fact, the reservoir will probably fill to a depth of about 200 feet, 12 miles-plus in length and nearly two miles wide. There will be a minor, mild, controlled flood that will have to be put in place to protect the cottonwood trees, but there's absolutely no problem with respect to safety concerns for any individual. I would suggest, though, that without the dam there could have been a disaster with the incredible amount of water that will be coming down. But the dam will work, and it will function, and it will provide safety.

MR. BRADLEY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. With the reservoir filling, habitat for deer, peregrine falcons, fish, and wildlife will be flooded. Would the minister advise as to what action has been taken to replace this lost wildlife habitat?

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, the most exhaustive environmental mitigation program ever undertaken on any project in the history of Alberta is being undertaken on not only the Oldman River but the Castle River and the Crowsnest River and in the area surrounding the reservoir. We've built some 80-plus nesting areas close to the Oldman reservoir. Nests on the side of the cliffs for falcons – in fact, even one Canada goose, believe it not, has built a nest on the side of the cliff – are being monitored and will be moved in the event. There are also spots in the reservoir itself that will be above the 200-foot depth where nests can be appropriated. We've also done several hundred kilometres of fencing to protect deer. In fact, the deer population is probably twice what it normally has been in previous years in the site area. I was there earlier this week, and I've never seen so much wildlife, vibrant, flying in and about. Local individuals who have lived in the area have also confirmed that to me and said that they have never seen so many deer and so many birds.

MR. SPEAKER: Vegreville.

Hospital Funding

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The concept of case based funding for acute care hospitals has merit, but the minister's heavy-handed implementation of the acute care funding model on 29 hospitals in the province has caused many problems and raised legitimate fear among those responsible for the hospitals in rural Alberta which are on the list for the second round of implementation. Role statements for hospitals have not been developed, the outpatient component remains unresolved, and, in the words of a nonpartisan academic at the University of Alberta, a large information gap exists with respect to the impact of the acute care funding model. Now, in view of the fact that many of the rural hospitals involved in the first round fear the loss of services, like essential diagnostic services, due to funding cuts, will the minister agree to suspend implementation of the acute care funding model on rural hospitals until the model has been fully reviewed and developed to the satisfaction of the administrators and boards of these hospitals in rural Alberta?

MS BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, the acute care funding model has never applied to the small rural hospitals. At the AHA convention in November I indicated that I was putting together a special study unit as part of acute care funding for those under 60-bed hospitals. For the ones that the hon. member terms as rural that are currently participating in the acute care funding – in other words, those with over 60 beds – the plan is continu-

ing, with consultation with the Alberta Hospital Association, the Alberta Medical Association, the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, and the hospitals involved in the study.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, rural hospitals account for only 7 percent of the total budget, and in those hospitals 85 percent of their costs are fixed, so I suggest that imposing the acute care funding model is nothing short of a mean-spirited and ill-conceived attempt to balance the budget on the backs of the patients in those hospitals, many of whom are elderly Albertans. I'd like to ask the minister if she will at least instruct the committee that is reviewing this model to hold comprehensive, open public hearings so that the people who are in, working at, and responsible for these rural hospitals can have their voices heard and maybe really help to develop a truly effective model.

MS BETKOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member was not listening to my first answer. He went on with his lengthy rhetoric, but he ignored the fact that we have set up a special unit because of the exact reason he identifies: the issue of fixed costs in our smaller facilities. Acute care funding has not applied to those smaller hospitals, because we need to look at the unique needs of those smaller rural hospitals before we implement the acute care funding model. I can tell the hon. member that the acute care funding model is clearly one of the most highly regarded right now in Canada, because people from all over this country – not just from Alberta academics but from all over this nation, including his colleagues from Ontario – are looking at what we are doing in the area of acute care funding in Alberta. I believe we're leading the way in Health, as we are often doing in Alberta, towards making the best use of our health dollars today to ensure the sustainability of our health system in the future. It is worth our efforts.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Technology, Research and Telecommunications wishes to supplement information given yesterday in response to Edmonton-Kingsway.

NovAtel Communications Ltd.

MR. STEWART: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I make reference to a question that was raised in question period yesterday by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Kingsway, and it's set forth on page 1094 of *Hansard*. The reason I do so is because within the question are implications of wrongdoing suggesting, as it were, that some sort of criminal investigation take place in connection with the matter.

I think, for the purpose of the record, that it's important to point out that the vehicle was not a NovAtel vehicle. It was, in fact, a vehicle that was under the ownership of Mr. Lippert. The equipment was in fact partially installed within the vehicle by NovAtel as well as Mr. Lippert. Mr. Lippert did not take a car allowance. He used this vehicle as well, but more importantly the vehicle was used for manufacturing trade shows and other opportunities for marketing. This happened several years ago, so there was no absconding with it. There were some elements of the equipment that, while depreciated in price, nevertheless were on the books of NovAtel, and indeed discussions are under way with Mr. Lippert with respect to settling any of those outstanding claims. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, as I say, I think it's important – people's reputations and so on are involved in this – that the record should be clear with respect to the matter.

MR. McEACHERN: Well, talking of reputations, this minister held a fire sale of AGT, repurchased NovAtel after a . . .

**Speaker's Ruling
Brevity in Oral Question Period**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member, you're called to order. Take your place. This is a supplementary question with respect to the issue that was there; it's not going through the whole issue of NovAtel and this whole department. Let's have the question.

NovAtel Communications Ltd.
(continued)

MR. McEACHERN: Well, after the long list of misadventures with this company, will the minister now resign, like he should have long ago when the \$204 million was announced?

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I'd be very pleased to debate all matters that pertain to the privatization of AGT on Monday night when my estimates will be before the Committee of Supply. Hopefully the hon. member will be able to be there, and maybe even one or two of his other colleagues, in order to participate in that very important discussion.

head: **Orders of the Day**
10:50

MR. SPEAKER: Might we revert briefly to Introduction of Special Guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried. Thank you.
In this order: Redwater-Andrew, Wainwright, and Lacombe.

head: **Introduction of Special Guests**
(reversion)

MR. ZARUSKY: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce to you and to the Assembly a fine group of students from the Redwater school, who I'm sure are studying politics and government. They're accompanied by teachers Fred Hrynychuk, Henry Fiege, Diane Grainger, and many parents. They're seated in the public gallery, and I'd ask that they rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Is Calgary-Buffalo wishing to be recognized? [interjections] No. Thank you.
Wainwright.

MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly 66 students from the Wainwright elementary school in the beautiful constituency of Wainwright, home of the only falcon farm in Canada. They are accompanied by four teachers, Mr. Allen, Mr. Brink, Mr. Marchand, and Mr. Weatherill, and 12 parents. They are seated in both the public and members' galleries, and I'd ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

head: **Committee of Supply**

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

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

head: **Main Estimates 1991-92**

Tourism

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: These estimates are located on page 321 of the main estimates and starting on page 135 of the elements book.

Does the hon. minister have any opening remarks?

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to come before the Committee of Supply to report on another year of successes in tourism in this province. I'm pleased to report new gains that the tourism industry has made in assisting to diversify our provincial economy. Tourism revenues have tripled since the late 1970s. In 1991 revenues are projected to increase to \$2.73 billion, up from \$2.59 billion last year.

We've looked carefully at our budget this year. We knew that we had to continue to strengthen this important economic industry while at the same time we had to answer to Alberta's taxpayers. Sixty-eight percent of our provincial budget goes towards Health, Education, and social programs, and all have had major increases. Albertans have set these programs as their priorities. We have listened to the concerns of Albertans. We are sensitive to the needs of the people who live in this province. Yes, we made some tough decisions, but in tourism we're proud to be assisting in balancing the provincial budget. We all must do more with less.

The key to success has been careful planning and, of course, teamwork. Mr. Chairman, I spoke to you about teamwork in our budget presentations last year and the year before that and the year before that. It is teamwork with Alberta business people, teamwork with Alberta communities, and teamwork with the tourism zones and regions of the province. Those of us in the tourism industry are working together in the development and marketing of projects for local initiatives. We know who our customer is. That is why a small and efficient department like Alberta Tourism can lead the efforts of Alberta's third largest economic industry. We serve and support the tourism industry of Alberta. We must make the industry strong and assist them in attracting their customer, the tourist. We have a close working relationship with our industry and our associations. Because we have fostered these team partnerships, the Alberta tourism industry becomes stronger every year. One dynamic industry group, the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta, better known as TIAALTA, is our partner in such ventures as the Team Tourism program, the community tourism action program, and the Alberta Best program.

The industry is equipped for the long term. Alberta Tourism performed last year on a modest budget of \$31.8 million. We are prepared for our reduction of 14 percent, or approximately \$4.47 million, and as a team we will do more with less. It's not what you can spend that counts; it's what you can get done. Our 1991-92 budget total is \$27,335,350. This does not include the approximately \$10 million of lottery funded programs, like Team Tourism and CTAP.

Through past efforts and continued team partnerships we are witnessing a strong industry growth. Let's take a look at some of our recent successes. In our planning division, communities throughout Alberta are working with Alberta Tourism to develop their economies through tourism. Approximately 6,800 goals and objectives have been identified in 285 registered community tourism action plans throughout Alberta. Each of these goals represent projects of all sizes. Objectives may be as simple as putting up a new sign, adding a coffee shop, or preparing a brochure, or they may be quite a bit more complex.

The community may decide it needs better accommodation, a shuttle bus service, or hospitality training. Many Alberta communities are pursuing major goals, such as 18-hole golf courses with full tourism services and accommodation nearby, entertainment complexes, RV parks, museum projects, family vacation resorts. Alberta communities all across the province are building on their futures. Many of these goals and objectives are now under way or complete. This well-known community tourism action program has won a national award of excellence from the Canadian Institute of Planners as well as the international Gold Award from the Pacific Asia Travel Association last year. I'd also like to mention that this division is working on many major projects, and other destination planning is under way.

In joint marketing efforts 1990 saw tremendous successes. In April 1990 we worked with 35 of our industry partners to host the Travel Mart of the Pacific Asia Travel Association. We attracted more than 1,100 decision-makers here to Edmonton for the first time ever. Our team just came back from PATA in Djakarta. We led a trade delegation to Dinoventure 1990 in Japan, the major tourism exhibit that displayed Alberta to some 1.2 million people, again with the teamwork of other departments and 18 industry partners.

11:00

I'd like to talk about Europe for a minute, Mr. Chairman, and I want to congratulate Horst Schmid for his efforts in the German-speaking tourism markets for Alberta. Horst is truly a leader in the international industry. Just this spring he received the Golden Helm Award at ITB in Berlin, the world's largest international tourism convention and exhibition, and assisted our tourism partners at ITB. The award recognized his contributions in the development of international tourism with competence, dedication, and professionalism. Congratulations should go to Horst.

Let's talk for a minute about the tourism lottery programs. The Team Tourism program administered by TIAALTA and funded by Alberta Lotteries allocated approximately \$8 million to 889 applications to date. The community tourism action program for funding, also administered by TIAALTA and funded by Alberta Lotteries, has allocated \$11.9 million to 446 projects worth some \$50.3 million. Assistance in this program runs anywhere from \$487 a project to \$250,000 per project, but the total value of these individual projects ranges from \$650 to \$9.2 million. Both of these lottery programs are excellent examples of the teamwork between industry and government. The Hon. Ken Kowalski, responsible for Alberta Lotteries, is one of our important partners in the tourism industry.

I'd like to talk for a minute, Mr. Chairman, about the Alberta Tourism Education Council. It is another example of how Alberta's success is gaining international recognition. This council is a tremendous example of teamwork between the members of the Alberta tourism industry, Alberta's education institutions, and the various departments of government, including Career Development and Employment, Education, and Labour. This council is in the process of completing standards and certification for 25 different tourism occupations. I'm proud to tell you about two recent announcements in respect to the council. My hearty congratulations to Mr. Bill Payne, Member for Calgary-Fish Creek, for his position as chairman of the Alberta Tourism Education Council, and I would like to congratulate the council on receiving an international Gold Award at the Pacific Asia Travel Association. On behalf of the council our deputy minister, Bernie Campbell, recently accepted

the award on their behalf, which recognizes the outstanding gains that Alberta has made in hospitality training since the beginning of the council.

There's a lot of people who have been instrumental in bringing this award to Alberta, especially Susan Dowler, executive director, who's been there with the council since day one, and I'd like to congratulate Stockwell Day, the Member for Red Deer-North, the original chairman, for his excellent work and his insight into the tourism industry. Brian Evans, the Member for Banff-Cochrane, took over from there and has taken the council to where it is today with a range of exciting new standards for a number of occupations in the industry. I want to extend my best wishes to our new chairman, who is rising to the challenge of taking this successful council to a new stage in Alberta's tourism industry. The chairman will speak about the council's activities following my presentation, and I'm sure you'll be very interested to hear about these outstanding initiatives that are happening here in Alberta. We are working closely with the council and the industry on the new Alberta Best program, a hospitality training program designed to ensure that Alberta visitors receive excellence in service.

Our business development branch is assisting businesses across the province. Our offices in Edmonton and Calgary are working to facilitate an estimated 220 major tourism projects across the province. Projects range in value from \$20,000 to \$150 million per project, and we are serving a range of Alberta entrepreneurs in facilitating everything from small wilderness lodges or small rural projects to Alberta's first five-star tourism resort. To date we are working with 96 projects at the development permit stage and the construction stage. This represents an estimated value of about \$515 million in tourism projects provincewide. Over and above that the business development branch is working with numerous entrepreneurs on possible future ventures: approximately 50 projects in the conceptual stage and 75 projects in the planning and financial stage. I want to commend the staff for being facilitators, for helping make things happen in the industry all over this province.

Mr. Chairman, I want to remind Albertans that this successful business development branch does not disburse funds. It is facilitating hundreds of Alberta projects with counseling and business assistance services. These activities will continue in our future even in light of the budget reductions. We will see new successes and continued growth.

The Canada/Alberta tourism agreement ended in March of 1990. The \$56 million agreement had assisted over 450 projects worth some \$335 million in tourism activity. The money in this year's budget will be used to make payments on those contract arrangements.

Let's go to a budget overview, Mr. Chairman. The industry is moving forward, and we are moving realistically. We have built upon teamwork, and we have worked with the industry that is in a strong position to help themselves. This budget year will see a balanced budget with continued support to the tourism industry. The Department of Tourism is looking at an overall budget decrease of 14.4 percent to assist in meeting the requests of Albertans to balance that budget, like many other departments.

In this presentation I'd like to run through the changes in the order of our department's four main areas: Corporate Development planning, Industry and Business Development, and Marketing. As observed in our estimates, you will notice that Alberta Tourism experienced an increase in salaries of 6.9 percent as a result of merit increases and new union wage settlements. This carries over all four divisions. We have had

downsizing in all four areas. We reduced 15 full-time equivalents. Through good management the department avoided layoffs.

In vote 1, Mr. Chairman, Corporate Development, we have an overall net decrease of 8.9 percent. We've reduced our research budget, postponed some research initiatives to future years. This will have little effect, though, on our current operations. We maintained our research priorities. We will complete the important nonresident and resident surveys for industry, complete phases 2 and 3 of the tourism impact monitoring survey. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution our industry is making to the cost of this necessary research.

In vote 2, Planning, we have an overall reduction of 3.5 percent. Here we have maintained all essential day-to-day functions in large projects, decreasing some support services. We've reduced 15.8 percent to the community services branch, primarily by the elimination of support materials, the tourism development network bulletins, and the *Communities on Tap* newsletters. This branch will continue with its strong role in consulting on tourism action plans and related activities. The consulting and counseling services, which are the backbone of this program, are being continued. Reducing literature will not have a major negative effect on the community planning. We've also reduced 5.9 percent in the generator planning. We will be a little less able to financially assist with development related studies, but we will continue to assist proponents in development planning of major tourism generators. However, we will reduce our cost-shared role in such studies as site self-sufficiency, infrastructure requirements, market demand, and feasibility.

11:10

In our Industry and Business Development unit, an overall reduction of 36.8 percent. This is primarily by a reduction of \$2 million by not proceeding with the regional generator development program. The funding is not available to go ahead with this program at this time. We will continue with the efforts to our one-window business counseling assistance and with current programs that assist major regional projects.

We've reduced funding for Industry Organization and Development. We have canceled tourism scholarships and reduced the tourism zone assistance grants used for administration and promotion purposes. Survey results have told us that particular scholarships no longer serve the needs of the breadth of the industry. In terms of the zone assistance grants to TIAALTA, we recognize that the industry association has matured a great deal since the beginning of the grant program and has become much more self-sufficient since then. Some zones are operating as self-sufficient operations already. I'd like to congratulate Calgary's tourism zone, for instance, for setting an example of what our zone associations are capable of. Tourism is a strong economic industry. I look forward to working with all of the zones and the Tourism Industry Association to help them realize their goals for self-sufficiency.

In Marketing, Mr. Chairman, we have an overall reduction of 13.5 percent. We reduced by 27.7 percent in marketing administration. This reduction in the Assistant Deputy Minister's Office resulted in a branch consolidation and the loss of one position. We've reorganized to meet our priorities. We've also reduced 53 percent in Marketing Planning. A cut in these particular activities would not affect our current day-to-day operations. We've also canceled a literature review and a market modeling research. The remaining dollars which were used for one-time events such as the Pacific Asia Travel Mart

and Dinoventure in 1990 were redistributed to other areas within the marketing division.

The marketing area is undergoing a reduction in operation of the travel information centres, with most centres remaining open until Thanksgiving in 1991. The Calgary and Edmonton field information centres as well as the Milk River Travel Information and Interpretative Centre will remain open on a year-round basis. Last year the information centres were open year-round on a trial basis, and survey results indicated that about 85 percent of all inquiries were made during the summer season while 15 percent of the inquiries were spread over the rest of the year. It is not cost-effective to keep the travel information centres open on a year-round basis under the present method of operation.

We reduced some 34.9 percent to the Team Tourism Administration, and this will be totally taken over by TIAALTA in this coming year. We've reduced 9.3 percent to meetings marketing. This is one area where the private sector is very active, and the expertise is growing rapidly. At the same time, we have maintained representatives in New York, Chicago, Washington, Geneva, although we've reduced activities in Chicago and New York. We will continue on our client identification role, a role which is currently held by government, and we will reduce advertising support in favour of maintaining salability. Some support will be reduced for special promotions.

We have reduced 13.7 percent in advertising, but by participating in joint ventures and relying on our advertising expertise, we're going to do more with less. We'll work with what we have and limit our new creative work, and we will reduce our production costs somewhat while maintaining quality campaigns throughout the advertising and marketing.

Before I close, Mr. Chairman, let's talk for a minute about new initiatives. We're looking forward to new things, new successes. We'll be working side by side with the industry to create a future vision through the framework of Tourism 2000: a Vision for the Future. As a major economic industry tourism is also participating in the conference on the economy this fall. We're now completing two studies on resident and nonresident tourists in Alberta, which will give Alberta industry a leading edge, and we're working with our private sector to substantially increase the number of trade shows this year in our national and international markets. Through teamwork and doing more with less, we will be involved in 31 trade shows this year, an increase from 20 shows in 1990. We are working on a team effort with the federal government to establish a new international marketing agreement which should add approximately \$2 million a year to our marketing budget. We will plan to reach new heights in the Team Tourism program; the community tourism action program; the business development projects; the number of communities to complete action plans; the number of regional tourism action plans; the number of trade shows, as I've mentioned before; and increased marketing efforts.

With the recently announced results of the Trail of the Great Bear, we're looking at an important tourism trail which will link major national parks in Canada and the United States. We are now working with the northern Alberta mayors on a joint venture to identify the investment and marketing opportunities in the north. As well, an innovative new training program on travel information centres will help Alberta's tourism centres work towards becoming self-sufficient in all areas of the province. There are many excellent examples of travel information centres that are site self-sufficient with built-in opportunities for profit in cities such as Calgary and Drumheller, in towns throughout Alberta such as Rycroft. We encourage our partners

in all tourism ventures to pursue only those tourism projects that are site self-sufficient. That's the first question we ask when we are approached by an entrepreneur or a community.

Tourism will certainly continue as a leader in the diversification of this province, and I'm looking forward to more team initiatives with industry, especially, as I mentioned, in marketing. Our budget in 1991-92 shows a commitment to fiscal restraint and an even stronger commitment to industry growth.

Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to invite the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek to supplement my remarks in his position as the new chairperson for the Alberta Tourism Education Council.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please. Just prior to proceeding, could we have unanimous consent to revert briefly to Introduction of Special Guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Opposed?
The Member for Lacombe.

head: **Introduction of Special Guests**
(*reversion*)

MR. MOORE: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to members of the Legislature 59 students from the Lacombe Christian school. They're accompanied by teachers Anita Zudhof, Steve Stuka, and Denis Hainsworth. They're seated in the members' gallery, and I'd ask them now to rise and receive the traditional welcome of the Legislature.

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, since we've reverted to introductions, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce Deputy Minister of Tourism Bernie Campbell; assistant deputy ministers Peter Crerar, Bill Warren, Jim Engel, John Zylstra; and our staff in Tourism. Thanks for all the good work last year, and we're looking forward to a great year in the future.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

head: **Committee of Supply**
head: **Main Estimates 1991-92**

Tourism (*continued*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

MR. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, thank you. As the minister quite properly pointed out, I'm almost a new kid on the block when it comes to Tourism and specifically the Tourism Education Council, having been in that job just a few weeks. Therefore, I appreciated the time the minister took today to cover some of the things that the council does. I should, however, in addition point out to some of the members in the House today that on page 326 of your estimates book is a very succinct and useful summary of the work of ATEC, and for those of you who aren't familiar with the Tourism Education Council, I would refer you to that page in the estimates book.

11:20

I welcomed also the minister's quite appropriate reference to my two predecessors: Stockwell Day, the Member for Red Deer-North, and Brian Evans, the Member for Banff-Cochrane.

It goes without saying that that's two pairs of shoes that'll be very difficult for the incumbent now to fill, but I'll give it a good shot.

I might mention also, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, that in recent days as I've oriented myself to the work of ATEC, I've chaired a two-day meeting with the members of council, 16 largely private-sector participants in the process. I'm certainly heartened by what I see in terms of their commitment, their experience, and how prepared they are to marshal their efforts in the benefits of tourism education in Alberta.

I might also mention, Mr. Chairman, that I have obviously met with all the staff of ATEC on more than one occasion, and I'm frankly very impressed with the calibre and commitment of the staff at ATEC. For those of you who may not have recognized them in the galleries today, perhaps I could take a moment to point out that the executive director of ATEC, Susan Dowler, is, I believe, above my left shoulder in the members' gallery, and Project Manager Rick Baker is with us also, in the public gallery. I might ask those two people to stand and be recognized by the Assembly.

Now, even though I'm fairly new to the task, Mr. Chairman, I would like to share with the members of the committee today results of my recent research and review of the estimates and what in fact is ahead. I might mention that much of what I'm about to say impacts, obviously, the province as a whole, but I daresay that it's safe to say that most, if not all, the constituencies represented by the members on both sides of the Assembly here today directly or indirectly will see the benefits of the programs whose estimates they're reviewing this morning.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make, first of all, a comment with respect to the obvious need we have to attract the right kinds of people to the business. Whether we're talking about bellhops, bartenders, hotel desk clerks, hotel managers, restaurant food servers – whatever we're talking about – I think it's obvious that if we're to build a long-term, healthy, vibrant industry that affects very positively tourists to our province, we need to exert considerable efforts to attract first-class people to the tourism industry. In order to do that, we've joined forces with TIAALTA, the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta, to promote tourism hospitality industry careers to our high school students across Alberta. This program, slated to start in several months, September of 1991, marks a concentrated effort to attract the best and the brightest of our young people to attractive careers, rewarding careers in tourism.

Now, ATEC has also been working closely with Alberta Education and the Minister of Education to co-ordinate input for the design and development of a tourism curriculum to be introduced in Alberta's high schools in the fall of 1992. That's still a year and a half away, and even though it's not directly involved with the estimates today, I knew that members of the committee would want to be aware of that development in our high schools in 1992.

We're also successful in launching the development of some 20 new tourism programs at the postsecondary level. Now, this is especially significant, Mr. Chairman, when you consider that in Alberta we have currently about a hundred thousand people employed in the tourism industry and that number is expected to double by the year 2000. To put it another way, nine years from now here in Alberta we could have as many as 200,000 people involved in the tourism sector.

Now, tourism is not only a major employer in our economy, Mr. Chairman; it's an industry that holds great promise for employment well into the future. In other words, it's an industry

that holds long-term promise for Alberta. This is no short-term consideration that's before the members today. It's essential that we reach potential tourism employees now as well and prepare them for a successful future in this flourishing industry.

The education council, Mr. Chairman, is also striving to reach people that are already involved inside the industry. We want to make them aware of the need for professionalism and how they as employees can benefit from providing visitors with exceptional service. I think it's fair to say that all of us in the Assembly this morning want all of our tourists, especially from outside of the province and from outside of our country, to come to our province and as they leave observe to themselves and to others, "This has been a great travel experience," not only because of the obvious tourism features that this province offers, not only for its institutions and its major tourism related events, but primarily because of its people.

If I could be permitted a personal digression, Mr. Chairman: my wife and I spent a few days in Tennessee last August, and we have a great desire to return, not because of the country, not because of the great events and other tourism facilities but because of the people that were there. The people involved in the tourism business created just a great desire on the part of myself and others that I was traveling with to return. That's exactly the kind of thing that we want to foster and to develop and to build here in Alberta.

So we need to make those of our people who are involved in the industry aware of the need for professionalism and how they as employees can benefit from providing visitors with exceptional service. To put it another way: by increasing the hospitality skills of those in our hospitality and tourism industry, not only does our economy benefit, not only do our tourists benefit but perhaps most importantly our own employees within that sector obviously benefit as well.

To that end, then, we're working closely with Alberta Tourism to co-ordinate industry input for the design and development of the innovative Alberta Best program. This program, which was launched just last fall, is designed to teach all Albertans to give visitors their Alberta best. I would encourage the members of the Assembly here and their families and friends and acquaintances and constituents to join with us in this provincewide effort to give our Alberta best to those who visit our province.

I might mention, Mr. Chairman, that response to our Alberta Best training seminars, which began in January, has been excellent. Already more than 20 organizations across the province have signed up as seminar sponsors. Over 30 seminars have been held with close to 700 participants, and we've been hearing extremely positive things from them. This fall the Alberta Best public awareness campaign will be launched, and we're excited to be spreading the word about hospitality excellence to the rest of the province.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say thanks to the ATEC people who developed quite a few other notes for me to use today, but in view of the fact we have but 90 minutes remaining and because of, I think, our shared interest in seeing the opposition Tourism critic as well as other members participate in the debate, I would like to just conclude by suggesting that I will be sending to the members additional information and would like to reassure the members of the Assembly that I'm available by phone or by letter or by note for any information on ATEC. Obviously, I'd be proud and happy to share the efforts and the information about that fine organization with the members of this Assembly.

Thanks for the opportunity to participate.

Chairman's Ruling Speaking Time

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just before recognizing West Yellowhead, I would like to thank the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek for his reference to the need for having time for other members to speak and just perhaps hesitantly but nevertheless remind the committee that it is customary to stay within the 30 minutes in presenting the initial statement from the department, unless of course there are two ministers involved.

Debate Continued

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for West Yellowhead.

MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will do my best to stay within those 30 minutes, and I can assure you I will.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to first begin by congratulating the minister on another full year. He came through almost totally unscathed, I guess, by the amount of questions that were asked by the Official Opposition and the members of the Liberal Party. I think the minister must have done a good job, but this could, of course, never have been done without the help and support of such good people as your Deputy Minister, Bernie Campbell. I think Bernie, and his staff of course, had to work pretty hard to keep the minister on line this year after all the complaints we had last year. It certainly must be a benefit to the minister. I thank Mr. Campbell and his staff for assisting the minister on good behaviour and good spending in the past year.

11:30

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank the executive director of the Alberta Tourism Education Council, Susan Dowler, and wish her long success as a very great promoter of education for the young people who have chosen to be involved in the tourism industry in the province of Alberta. Susan has a great record over the years of listening and performing properly when it comes to education of those involved in the tourism industry.

[Mr. Moore in the Chair]

Tourism is the third largest industry in the province today. I did have high hopes that tourism would be in first place by the year 2000, but after going through the budget estimates this year, Mr. Chairman, I have some doubts and some worry and some concerns that because of the increase in fuel taxes, the speedways to get through the border to the United States that have been promoted by the federal government, the GST – all these things are going to not be very easy on promoting people to come to Alberta. In fact, this morning I did recognize on the news that the chambers of commerce from Montana were in Alberta. Many of them said when they arrived that they thought Lethbridge was a very fine place to visit and was very remarkable but had never heard of it because of not enough promotion from the communities of southern Alberta to advertise Alberta in the United States.

However, I did find that under public works there's been somewhere over \$4 million spent at West Glacier, Montana: another \$2.4 million spent this year, \$1.7 million last year, and \$140,000 I believe it was the year before, Mr. Chairman. We have not spoken about this before, but I'd like to ask the minister to respond as to why he's never mentioned this money spent for a tourism information centre in West Glacier, Montana. How many Canadian people or Albertans could in fact be

employed that far south of the Canadian border and how many tax dollars would be returned to Alberta, except for the odd person coming that route and being encouraged to come into Canada?

Mr. Chairman, I'd also like to congratulate the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek for his appointment as chairman of the Alberta education council. I did have some thoughts when he said that he was the new kid on the block; that's the first time I ever heard of a new kid on the block to be sitting in the Legislature and drawing a pension at the same time. I truly hope and I'm sure the Official Opposition truly hopes that the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek does not waste Alberta taxpayers' money on a world trip like the member previous to him, the Member for Red Deer-North, who traveled the world. I never did hear in this Legislature what he accomplished or what he learned or what the benefit was to the taxpayers of Alberta after touring around the world at taxpayers' expense. As a taxpayer I wonder what we did accomplish by the member traveling for such a great time overseas and not reporting back to anybody as to what benefit it was to Albertans.

Mr. Chairman, I do find that the 5 percent increase . . .

Point of Order Relevance

MR. DAY: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. member, a point of order.

MR. DAY: The citation in *Beauchesne* regarding relevance.

The particular trip that he's talking about had nothing to do with the Department of Tourism. He doesn't read the newspaper. He doesn't read the information he's sent. He has a hard time reading the speeches that are written for him now. That had nothing to do with the Department of Tourism. Relevance, member, relevance.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Carry on, hon. member.

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Chairman, these are written in my own handwriting. [interjections] I didn't waste taxpayers' money on research on such wasteful projects as what this member did.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order. Would you please address the Chair. This cross House conversation just doesn't go.

Debate Continued

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Chairman, the 1989-1990 annual report of Alberta Tourism stated that on March 30, 1990, the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement was ended, and the minister will remember that I met with him and the deputy minister in his office. I had learned this, but I wonder if the member could explain to me why there's just about \$3.8 million under Canada/Alberta Tourism Agreement. I don't know whether this is a carryover. I'm not too sure whether the project has started up again or why this almost \$4 million is in the budget this year; it's only cut by 2.3 percent.

Mr. Chairman, indeed the community tourism action plan was one of the greatest plans that was ever put forward by the Department of Tourism. Communities all over Alberta have had a great benefit from the community tourism action plan. In fact, I sat on the committee and was one of the first to have it

completed for the community by such good people as Rita Stelter and many other people in the community of Edson who are real shakers and movers who could see what was necessary in tourism in that area. They certainly benefited greatly from that particular project. There's \$115,000 in that budget this year, and I was wondering if the minister was perhaps looking at some continuation of a program such as that for those who did not benefit and had extra ideas within their communities, or if there was money left over in some other department that could assist them to further develop some tourism action plan goals. Indeed, it has helped in my riding with many facilities, especially a park for RVs on the east side of Edson. I would hope that many people will be using these facilities, because the taxpayers have put quite a few dollars into them.

Under the Canada/Alberta Tourism Agreement, Mr. Chairman, 2.4.3, Alpine Ski Facility Development. We've had some serious accidents in the past in these alpine ski facilities. I'm wondering if this is into heli-skiing or is this just normal skiing like many of us do in Jasper, Banff, and anyplace we can find good skiing when we do find an hour or two to enjoy private life with our families.

Mr. Chairman, if we go to vote 3, the Tourism Education Council has an increase of 18.8 percent. As a member of the Official Opposition I have no qualms with that. Indeed, we have to assist these young people who for some reason - some of them, I would say - have fallen through the cracks or left school and chosen to go into restaurant services and hotel cleaning and all these different types of services and do need upgrading and training, upgrading perhaps also in education. In fact, in the province of B.C. - I wonder how close we are in Alberta to some of their figures in the *Trade and Commerce* magazine of April '91. The B.C. tourism industry accounts for 103,000 jobs, but it has been an inherent weakness as a source of employment income. Low wages, for instance: workers receive an average salary of \$244 per week compared to the provincial average of \$507 per week. I would hope that through this spending of the Tourism Education Council and the upgrading of these young people many of their salaries will increase and, in fact, the profits for the facilities in which they're employed will increase. I believe that proper training under this department will assist those people.

Vote 3.0.2, Standards Development. It's my understanding in speaking with the minister outside the Legislature that we now have completed the standards development and we know each trade, one by one, in the tourism industry. I was wondering: is that the reason, Mr. Chairman, why a lot of the money has now been handed over to Employee Certification? Will that now bring them up to training on some kind of training program, apprenticeship program, or whatever to make sure they have their certificates like many tradespeople like myself have after going through training and educational programs? I would hope that there would be certificates for these young people, because indeed it's not always their fault that they have fallen through the cracks and ended up in this low gutter of employment. I hope we can continue to encourage them to continue and do better. In fact, it would help the industries they work in, because the more they work and the more professional they are, the more money their companies or the people they work for in hotels will make.

11:40

Mr. Chairman, I was looking at the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta's report from their great president, Joe Couture, from Jasper. Indeed he questions the 14.1 percent cutback in

the Alberta Tourism budget. Cuts to marketing and industry development come at a critical time in Alberta's future, a time which should be devoted to increasing Alberta's image as an international tourism destination. In fact, he'd like to point out we should wear red on Monday, and I'm sure some members of the Legislature will wear red on Monday, May 13, the kickoff to National Tourism Awareness Week, to show that they're a part of the tourism team.

Mr. Chairman, I do have to question, though, on one resolution they have – in fact, it comes from the area of my riding – and that's the twinning of Highway 16 through Jasper national park. I'm on record more than once as saying that I cannot support this resolution. I believe those parks were built for Canadians to enjoy, and it will be the decision of Parks Canada and the Canadian government whether twinning is done through Jasper national park. I can assure you that many people and many of the citizens in Jasper and area will not support the twinning in Jasper park, and I would hope that the minister does not take this resolution seriously. In fact, if the minister wants to be involved in something, perhaps he should look at years ago when they moved the natives from Jasper national park and gave them no settlement, that they in fact spend that money to settle that issue that's long overdue rather than wasting money on twinning highways and putting up fences that will cause people not to stop but rather to just rush right through.

It does always seem to be a problem, Mr. Chairman, with one department and another. Transportation, of course, is the one that builds highways, and of course it is good to have nice highways in Alberta for tourists to travel on, but four lanes kind of whisk them right through into the next province. Run them through quickly is the attitude of transportation sometimes, whereas Tourism believes, and I believe, that we should have highways close to communities where people can pull in, stop, spend their dollars, stay overnight, and in fact enhance all those communities along the highways. Putting a four-lane through Jasper park would not allow our children in the future to enjoy the things that we have enjoyed through that park and in fact have people drive slowly and carefully and enjoy what has been preserved for them by future leaders in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I would say that a better resolution in fact in that particular area – transportation does have a lot to do with Tourism Alberta – would be to repair such roads as Highway 40 between Hinton and Cadomin to bring people into that great tourism area over the Cardinal River Divide down into the Rocky Mountain House area and Nordegg and those particular areas. Once they got to the Cardinal River Divide they'd probably turn around and come back if they had a good highway though. It is great country and great scenery down in that particular area, very remote, and many people haven't visited it. I would hope that that tourism association would look at supporting the upgrading of Highway 40 between Hinton and Cadomin, because it was staked during the last election. It never was repaired, and tourists constantly complain about the horrible condition of that road. It's just a mess, and petition after petition, letter after letter have gone to the minister. The stakes have fallen down and polluted the roadways, but nothing has been spent on repairing that road where people go to work and tourists try to go to see the beautiful country in the Coal Branch. They wreck their vehicles. Perhaps that helps garages, but it doesn't help the tourists to return to that particular area.

Also, Mr. Chairman, last night I attended a meeting in Edson with the committee of municipal administrators from across the province who are meeting in Edson doing some courses. I was asked by some people from Fort Saskatchewan to ask if Tourism

or Tourism and culture combined were putting money into the old Fort Saskatchewan jail. They certainly would like to see something done in that area. I believe they had plans sent into the government some time ago; I recall reading something about that.

I'm very pleased, of course, Mr. Chairman, to see that Grande Cache in my constituency is pushing forward to develop a ski hill through the private sector. Perhaps they'll need some assistance on road construction or signage or other Tourism funding in getting this ski hill to go ahead, if in fact it is financially viable.

I was also looking through the Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental's annual report, Mr. Chairman, showing the tourism offices in different parts of the world. I was quite surprised to see offices in Asia and overseas, Europe, Hong Kong. Only .7 percent of the people that come to Alberta actually come from Hong Kong, and I believe we have facilities in that area. It must be an awful expense to the taxpayers with very little return. Japan, of course, has a return of tourists to Alberta of 4.63 percent of the tourists that in fact come to Alberta. It was very noticeable to see that of the tourists that come to Alberta, 82.2 percent actually come from the United States. I think there are natural trips that people take by following a world atlas or whatever promotional material they might have, but certainly we're not attracting many by having these very expensive offices in many of these countries. In fact only 5 percent of our tourists come from the United Kingdom, which is not that far offshore.

One very displeasing thing, Mr. Chairman, was the fact that in a recent promotional magazine put out called *Travel and Leisure* that has been funded through a tourism promotional grant of \$320,000 through the Western Diversification Office – they put out this book in the United States. I've talked with them over the past weeks and asked them why they did not include the Yellowhead Highway on their particular maps for when people travel through western Canada. Many pieces of it are left out. It's very discouraging to the municipalities all along the way. Alberta Tourism, in fact, has a number in there, so obviously they've had some contacts with them, and if they have those contacts, why was the Yellowhead Highway not included in that map? Will the minister try and have those people retract that magazine and put out another one free of charge to the people and point out what a great area it is to travel on the Yellowhead Highway? The Yellowhead Highway Association is very proud of their hard work as volunteers to promote the Yellowhead Highway. In fact, the Deputy Prime Minister made it the north Canadian route through western Canada, and now it's not even on the maps that are sent around the world and around the United States for people to come into Alberta.

Mr. Chairman, I was reading also in the annual report of Tourism that a study was done on the Kinky Lake development some time ago. I would like to ask the minister if he can supply me with a copy of that study on the development at Kinky Lake or inform me whether it would be in the library or where I could receive a copy of that study to the Kinky Lake project because many people are concerned about it. The environmentalists, as the minister I am sure is aware, are concerned about the salamanders. The area has been used by many people freely on hikes and trails and for their family picnics. Many of these people are concerned that a development will take place there that will wreck the environment of that particular area. I would like to see a copy of that particular study that was paid for by the taxpayers of Alberta so that I can share it with those people who are so deeply concerned. I have, in fact, met with the developer and with environmentalists like Gadd and Rocky

Notnes from Hinton, Tom Rycroft* , and others who are very concerned. Many of the councillors in Hinton have raised their concerns over this particular development. However, there's not very much information for us to compare with.

11:50

Mr. Chairman, in summing up, I think the minister would wonder what happened to me if I didn't mention that great and beautiful *Bullet-nosed Betty* from Jasper and its great leader, Harry Home, who has worked hard to preserve 6060. I'd like to ask the minister what the plans are for 6060 as far as tourism and the Department of Tourism are concerned and if 6060 will be removed from Alberta to go to some train shows, I believe, in Santa Fe or in California, and what the fee is to go on that. How much is it going to cost the taxpayers for that particular trip to that great train show in the U.S.? And a guarantee that 6060 will be returned to its rightful place – that is, to the town of Jasper where its great leader, Mr. Harry Home, can visit her every day and not be lonely.

Mr. Chairman, again I would like to compliment the people from the Department of Tourism and the minister for a job that I would say was quite well done over the last year. However, many people are concerned about the 14 percent cuts and wonder how much this is going to affect programs that they've planned on putting forward. In fact, I want to compliment the minister on watching the dollars that the taxpayers give to him for his department.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Calgary-North West.

MR. BRUSEKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to begin with just a comment about the minister's opening comments with respect to tourism. He mentioned that this year he's anticipating a \$2.7 billion, \$3 billion expenditure in Tourism compared to, I think he said, \$2.59 billion last year; I believe those were the figures he quoted. Now, if we reflect upon the provincial throne speech of 1989, volumes 1 and 2, there was an indication, a direction there that the goal of the Department of Tourism was to have a \$10 billion industry by the year 2000, which is a scant nine years away. If we do some rough calculations based upon the figures quoted by the minister earlier today, the tourism industry might be a 4 billion or 4 and a half billion dollar industry by the year 2000.

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

The reason I raise that is that I believe that tourism is an appropriate industry to be promoting; I think it is an appropriate industry for Alberta. We've got some terrific natural resources that are world renowned already, and I'm a little concerned when I hear the minister saying there's growth but not quite as much as what was originally predicted, I guess. So my initial question to the minister is: given the kinds of projections that I see happening, how are we going to overcome the shortfall? I raise it not only from a business standpoint but also that if we have a \$10 billion industry in tourism, there's a terrific potential, of course, for revenue not just for the Department of Tourism but for the entire government as well. If we have a \$10 billion industry in the province and the taxes that would be created, boy, it would sure go a long way to ensuring a balanced budget down the road. Too bad it won't be this year, but that's another issue. So I guess that's an opening comment.

I support the concept of the development of tourism. I think that the province as a whole, the Alberta public, supports the

concept of tourism, and it needs to be developed and promoted a little bit. The minister said that this year there was a 14 percent cutback, and I'm troubled by that, because I think that tourism is something we should be promoting even more. When I look at a budget of \$27 million and realize that most of that \$27 million is going to come from hotel room taxation, it looks to me like the industry is basically supporting itself. So I'm a little concerned when we see a reduction in a direction that was supposed to be a major direction of this government. There's a reduction in the expenditure, and I think a reduction, therefore, in commitment to helping develop tourism.

There were a number of things that the minister referred to in his opening comments, and I would like to just raise some issues as well with respect to tourism. I recognize that part of the problem in terms of economic diversification is always a saw-off between one type of development versus another type of development. The development I'm referring to, of course – and the minister made some comment about northern development, tourism developments, and so forth. But some of the studies that have come out of the University of Calgary have suggested that as a result of pulp mill development in northern Alberta we'll see a net reduction of jobs in the tourism industry. My concern is the quality of job that is going to be created. If you provide a job at a pulp mill that may last 50 years or 100 years, whatever the economic life is of that pulp mill, and you go in and clear cut all those trees and create that job in the pulp mill at the expense of a job in the tourism industry, then it seems to me that in the long run, looking at being stewards for the province of Alberta in the long haul, the net effect is that in fact it's going to be a negative impact on northern Alberta and the northern Alberta economy. So my question to the minister, then, is really: could he give us some details in particular about northern tourism project development, especially in light of the pulp mill development that's coming on stream?

Last year, of course, the provincial government in other departments was involved with the sale of the Cormie ranch, and there was some proposal at one point about a potential of a \$1 billion total investment in the Cormie ranch, now owned by a company called Createm International Alberta Corporation. Recently the news has not been particularly favourable with respect to the future direction of that project because the implication is that the market is not there. I'm wondering what kind of reaction or interaction or relation is happening between the Department of Tourism and Createm International in an attempt to promote that tourism project that was talked about and debated in this Legislature.

In a similar vein but in a different part of the province, there have been a number of proposals made with respect to developing the Bow corridor. I know that some of them are going ahead. For example, the Hyatt Regency is planning on going ahead with their hotel development and condominium and so forth and golf course development. I'm wondering if the Department of Tourism in conjunction with Environment or in conjunction with Forestry, Lands and Wildlife or with other departments has looked at the viability of those accumulated projects. There's quite a number of proposals. I'm wondering specifically what's happened with respect to environmental impact assessments, because these projects that are slated or at least considered for the Bow corridor area – this is around Canmore, and I know the minister is familiar with it – could have some very profound impact on the area in terms of water quality, in terms of air quality, in terms of land use. So there are a number of overlapping concerns, and I'm wondering if the minister has looked at that in particular.

*This spelling could not be verified at the time of publication.

Another tourism development, at least the way I look at it, is the proposal for the Kananaskis golf course to expand and have a third 18-hole golf course down in the Kananaskis Valley. I'm wondering in particular if the Department of Tourism is planning an environmental impact assessment or a needs assessment, or what kind of market research has been or is planned on being done with respect to the development of that proposed golf course.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Alaska Highway. The celebration, as I understand it, is going to be called *Rendezvous '92*. It's being organized between British Columbia, Yukon, and Alaska, but the Department of Tourism in Alberta has chosen not to become involved. I guess Alberta is bound to be a route through which a number of these tourists are likely to travel to attend celebrations or drive the highway or whatever, and I'm really wondering why the government has chosen to not involve itself in this particular venture. I think it's one that could have a terrific impact not only right now but down the road as well; down the road meaning in years not just down the road of the Alaska Highway. Those are some general comments that I would make.

Turning in particular now to some of the votes that are before us, vote 1, Departmental Support Services really does not show much substantive change. I think that's appropriate in light of the minister's comments, both this minister and the Treasurer, with respect to attempting at least to balance the budget, a small step in the right direction there, and I think we've got some good improvements.

12:00

I'm going to vote 2 fairly quickly here, because I think really that's the essence, the nuts and bolts of this particular department. The first comment I would like to make is with respect to the Assistant Deputy Minister's Office. I note that it appears in three different locations, 2.1.1., 2.2.1, and 2.3.1. It shows in some areas going up, some areas going down, and I'm wondering if the minister could talk about that a little bit. He didn't refer specifically to the role, and it seems there's a change in the role of that office, that individual, with respect to some of the directions. An increase in Planning, an increase in Industry and Business Development, yet a decrease in the Marketing section – did I miss one? – so there's a bit of change in that area.

When we look at the tourism planning area, Community Services is shown to be down by 15.8 percent, and I'm wondering if the minister could just sort of enlighten me a little bit here why we're seeing a reduction in that particular area. It seems to me that that could be something that's important, and I'm wondering if that's tied in in some way to being taken over by CTAP. Is that where that particular thing is going, that service is being provided? All right.

The Industry and Business Development area shows a drop of 36.8 percent, and I guess I am a little concerned about that because we see a number of areas that have been hard hit. Now, the minister has already referred to a regional generator, that just simply there's not the money available to be provided, so that was simply eliminated altogether. I can understand the minister's comment about having to cut somewhere. I wonder, though, if he might just elucidate a little more why that particular area was chosen simply to be eliminated completely. There are other areas that have shown some declines, but this area was chosen to be simply wiped off the map, as it were, and so I wonder if the minister might make a little more comment with respect to its total elimination.

Industry Organization and Development shows, again, a decrease of 45 percent, and similarly I'm a little concerned about that particular area as well. If we see a decrease of that extent, how are we going to get the message out to, first of all, Albertans and then to other Canadians, to other North Americans to get them in here?

That leads us into my biggest, I guess, concern. It deals with the marketing and the planning of that area. Overall we see for subvote 2.3 a reduction of 13.5 percent. Now, the minister made some comment that some of this is going to be going to TIAALTA. My concern with the Team Tourism program is not necessarily with the program itself; the concern I have is that the funding is going out of lottery funding. We've really only got part of the story here because lottery funding is not shown in these budget books. It's very difficult to make a comment and say, well, it's inappropriate to cut Advertising by 13.7 percent, for example, when we don't have the Team Tourism figures, on the other hand, to show us where the makeup is. Overall we see a total reduction, as I said, for Marketing of 13.5 percent in vote 2.3, and getting the message out, getting people aware of what we've got in Alberta – I mean, we know all about it here in the province, but there are other people out there in other provinces and in states in the United States that don't know about it. We've got to get the message out.

Marketing Planning shows a dramatic cut in excess of a million dollars, a 53 percent cutback. I like the minister's comment about doing more with less, but I'm really having to question how it is he anticipates being able to do more when you see cutbacks to that extent. Now, maybe they've identified the markets and they don't need to plan it that much. On the other hand, we see cuts further down in Advertising, we see cuts in Public Relations, we see cuts in Meetings/International Liaison, we see cuts in Team Tourism Administration, and we see, as I said, a net cut of 13 and a half percent. I firmly believe that we have to be supporting and promoting our province to get the message out. I'm not persuaded by what I've heard from the minister today with respect to this topic of marketing that we're really going to get the message out to enough people to learn and want to come here, because we've got to make them want to come. One of the comments from the Member for Calgary-Fish Creek, the new chairman of ATEC, was that one of the things he enjoyed so much about a trip – he went to that other country south of the line – was the quality of the service that he got. That in itself – he comes back as a walking billboard, as it were. We need to do more of that in promoting our own province.

Now, the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement. I must confess I'm really puzzled about this one. The minister did not make much comment at all, as I listened to what he was saying, with respect to the Canada/Alberta tourism agreement. My understanding was that this program had expired last year. If the program has expired, then why do we have it in here at all? It seems to me that it just doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

In particular, I look at some of the things under here. Alpine Ski Facility Development: the minister didn't make any comment about that at all. A 424 percent increase, which dollarwise is not a big amount of dollars – it's \$400,000 – but he obviously chose a substantial change in the commitment and the philosophy of this department under this particular vote. I'm wondering why that is. The reason I raise it is because earlier on I asked a question of the minister with respect to Fortress Mountain. The owner of Fortress Mountain would like to have the opportunity to develop a condominium resort plan. He doesn't want dollars from the government, doesn't want a grant,

doesn't want a loan guarantee or a loan. He just wants the permission to go ahead. So here it seems like we have a commitment on one hand to develop alpine facilities – and I'm not sure where or why or how – yet on the other hand a fellow who is already in place and would really like to have the opportunity to go ahead seems to be being stymied in his desire to proceed. I'm wondering if the minister could make a comment in particular on vote 2.4.3., Alpine Ski Facility Development.

I see that Administrative Support has gone down, under Canada/Alberta Tourism Agreement. I presume that's related to the fact that this program is in decline, but it again seems rather unusual that we should have that administrative support at all when the program, I believe, has come to an end.

Again I want to raise a concern that I've mentioned earlier: Market Development, a 68.4 percent reduction. Now, whether it's under Canada/Alberta Tourism Agreement or some other section, I think reducing Market Development while trying to attract more people to our province is the wrong way to go. We need to be increasing or at least maintaining the dollar expenditures. If we've targeted one area and we've done really well in there, let's move on to another area, another area around the States, around North America, around the world, so we get more people knowing about what we've got. I don't see why we're cutting Market Development in that particular area.

Vote 2.4.5. Again I'm a little puzzled right here. It can't even show a percentage increase because the number is such a terrific increase from what we had before. Training and Professional Development I thought would have fallen under vote 3, Tourism Education and Training. So it seems we've got kind of a mixed message there. I wonder if the minister could tell me why he's planning on spending \$606,000 under vote 2.4.5, which I believe should go more appropriately with the Tourism Education and Training area.

Moving on to Industry and Community Support, again a reduction here. Is that simply a reduction indicating again the end of the program, or why do we see such a drop in there?

Tourism Education and Training I believe has been praised by the minister. It's been praised by the new chairman for ATEC. It's been praised by the Member for West Yellowhead. I, too, would like to add my support for this program. Generally speaking, I have always been a supporter of education and training. I think that on the long road, regardless of the profession, education and training is an appropriate direction, so I applaud the direction of ATEC. I've had the opportunity to meet with the executive director and have been impressed by her dedication to ATEC. I think that it's an appropriate direction, and I applaud the minister and the department for that. I think it's a terrific job that's being done, and that's really all I wanted to say on that particular area.

12:10

One question that I do have. On page 329 of the large book there's what's referred to as the Tourism Revolving Fund. I note that on the previous page it said, "the legislative authority for this revolving fund expires on March 31, 1992," not quite a year away, and the minister again did not make any comment with respect to this particular fund. I did want to raise two questions. Question number one is: is it anticipated that the revolving fund will, in fact, expire on March 31 of 1992? The second question that I had in here was with respect to Promotional Materials. Under Tourism Revolving Fund there's a mention of \$266,000 revenue from the sale of promotional materials and an expenditure of \$224,000 to create, I presume,

or print promotional materials. I'm wondering if the minister could explain a little bit about to whom and for whom these materials are produced in the first place and then sold. I note that last year there was an anticipated profit of \$142,000, so it's going to make money, but I'm wondering if the minister could just kind of clear that up a little bit for where we're going down the road.

Just really to sum up, I think that the minister has referred to a number of good directions. He's talked about an increase in the number of trade shows from 20 last year, in 1990, to anticipated participation in 31 trade shows this year. I think that's a good improvement, but I think it's not just trade shows; I think it's advertising. I think about the times when I turn on the television set to watch the news, and I see advertisements on the TV from other states or other provinces saying to come to that state or that province. Of course, that's appropriate for those areas to be doing, to promote what they've got, but I sure hope that we can do more of that kind of advertising, because I'm proud to be a resident and a representative here in Alberta. I think we've got a terrific province, but I think we do need to really get out there and get the message out to more people and bring them into what is a terrific province. I'd really like to see this minister strive, I think, a little harder for that \$10 billion goal that he'd like to have by the year 2000, because I think tourism is something that is going to keep us going after the oil and gas are gone and we don't have that revenue. We've got to have something to replace it. I think tourism is probably the best long-term direction that we can go, and I think that we should on this side of the House, and hopefully his colleagues in cabinet, support him in promoting tourism in the future.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Grande Prairie.

DR. ELLIOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to pick up on a couple of items from the previous speaker, particularly in support of some of his comments about the funding of some very good programs and those funds apparently coming out of Alberta Lotteries programs. I have some preamble before I get into my question.

My concern is with the community tourism action plan and, of course, the Team Tourism program, as has been mentioned, because these two programs are extremely important in our Grande Prairie area. Speaking again with two hats – I'll be speaking with the hat of an MLA for the Grande Prairie constituency as well as chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council – we've been making some pretty good plans in the area for economic growth and diversification through tourism, because we happen to think that tourism is one of the largest potentials we have for diversification, for growth. Up to this point we think it's been almost one of the best kept secrets that we have in the north, that there is something there for tourists to see and for tourists to do. We're supposed to cash in on these opportunities lying right there at our doorstep, and using these two programs, the community tourism action plan and Team Tourism, is one way of bringing these assets right into reality.

When it comes to marketing, Team Tourism of course is our key program and provides much-needed guidance and assistance in the marketing of the various capital development projects that we have under way. Through this program we've also seen groups of tourism operators and organizations coming together for the first time in a whole new sector of the industry to promote their activities with matched tourism dollars from these

programs. I don't believe we'd otherwise see this level of operation if these funds weren't there and this program wasn't in place.

As chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council I'd like to stress the importance of the two programs right clean across the north. We're making excellent headway in developing tourism in some areas of our energy sector and our promotion programs with industry. In fact, on May 14 and 15 the Northern Alberta Development Council is co-sponsoring a seminar at Lesser Slave Lake to provide more information to tourist operators and to communities on how best to . . . [interjections] Yes, Lesser Slave Lake. I pronounced that correctly.

MS CALAHASEN: It's Slave Lake.

DR. ELLIOTT: It's Slave Lake? Through the community tourism action plan process the MLA for Lesser Slave Lake will be in Slave Lake taking an active part in this program.

Two hundred and eighty-five communities and municipalities have completed their tourism action plans. Of these, 168 are northern Alberta communities, and we're turning tourism into an economic development opportunity. We have destination resorts that have been prepared for several regions, including Cold Lake, Lesser Slave Lake, Dunvegan, and Lakeland. As well, this planning activity has made way for some very innovative private-sector planning projects, such as the Trumpeter regional initiative project in the Grande Prairie area. Now, the minister made reference to the northern mayors. They're working in co-operation with the Alberta government to prepare a tourism study of the north, which of course will reveal more of these good opportunities I'm referring to.

I would like to make reference to some of the things that have been put together to show how the plan has worked and the good things that are coming out of it. We can talk about a proposed zoo project in Peace River, the innovative old western theme town called Em Te Town, near Alder Flats. For anybody who hasn't seen Alder Flats, there's an opportunity for a tour. The Capital City raceway which opens tonight in Edmonton is a product of this program; ski resort projects in Hardisty and Barrhead; the Reynolds transportation museum in Wetaskiwin; the revitalization and historic redevelopment in Sexsmith; events such as the Golden Walleye Classic at Lesser Slave Lake and the major ball tournaments at Edson; Fort George-Buckingham House; the theatre project at Grande Prairie; a Cree interpretive centre at Grouard; backcountry lodges and wildlife lodges near Grande Cache, Fort McMurray, and Fort Vermilion; the family resorts of Goose Hummock near Gibbons, Half Moon dude ranch near Cooking Lake, Mighty Peace on the Peace River; as well as resorts at Cold Lake, Grande Prairie, Eden Lake, and Hinton.

There's a tremendous level of tourism activity in the north, and this is as a result of good, solid planning as these opportunities come. Our tourism industry is indeed growing. We're laying the groundwork, and we're watching our economy strengthen through tourism. We're setting up the infrastructure, we're expanding our accommodations and services, we're developing innovative tourism projects, and we are promoting ourselves. We have been working hard, and we're working in a co-ordinated direction, thanks to the guidance of the department being reviewed this morning.

For that reason, I feel the community tourism action program and Team Tourism program hold particular meaning to the tourism industry in our part of the province. Both these programs emphasize co-operation and planned economic growth.

They are both vital to our tourism industry in the north. I know that in your contribution to a balanced budget for Albertans you have cut tourism dollars to the administration in the Team Tourism program, but as other speakers have said, we have to do everything possible to defend those programs and keep funding in place or have funding restored. These programs are beneficial. We have to keep them. They contribute to the long-term economic growth of the regions of Alberta. They strengthen the entrepreneurial base and the tourism industry. My question to the minister: can he tell what effect the budget reductions will have on the support given to tourism operators through the community tourism action plan and the Team Tourism marketing program?

My other question to the minister is that we have for many years been attempting to get his department to establish a regional office, or a single one-person office at least, somewhere in northern Alberta. I'm strongly recommending Grande Prairie as a place where he can maintain contact with the entire north on the major issues that we are referring to this morning. His is one of the very few departments that does not have representation north of Edmonton in some regional office, and we would ask that he give it every possible consideration.

We look forward to the responses, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12:20

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Banff-Cochrane.

MR. EVANS: Thanks very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased to have an opportunity today to speak briefly to the estimates of the Department of Tourism. I'd like to begin by thanking and congratulating both the minister and his department for the tremendous co-operation that I and my constituents receive in Banff-Cochrane from this department. Tourism is truly the word that we will hear constantly in the 21st century, and it will be heard throughout our province thanks to the many initiatives from this department, but particularly in the Banff-Cochrane constituency.

To have had the opportunity over the past year to chair the Alberta Tourism Education Council and to work with executive director Susan Dowler and with Rick Baker and other people in the department has been a great opportunity for me. I thank them for their tremendous co-operation and the contribution that they make to ensuring that Alberta's tourism market is served in the best possible way. I'd like to take the opportunity as well this morning to indicate my support for the new chairman, and I'm sure that support is echoed by my colleague, the first chairman of the Alberta Tourism Education Council, Mr. Stockwell Day, the MLA for Red Deer-North. We are both convinced that with the years of experience and the many, many friends and acquaintances that Mr. Payne has made during his years of service to the government of the province of Alberta, he will make a substantial contribution to the Alberta Tourism Education Council.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister about his department's activities in southern Alberta and specifically in the Banff-Cochrane constituency. Before I go into that, I'd like to thank him for consulting with my constituents in respect to tourism development in Banff-Cochrane. We've been kept up to date on the status and the results of various studies: the environmental issues analysis, the market demand study, and the integrated resource plan, to use only a few examples. Public input, of course, in today's world is an essential element to

tourism planning, and I appreciate the minister's great respect for public participation in determining the future of the industry in our particular area. We all know that tourism holds significant economic potential in the Bow corridor, not only in terms of the number of jobs that would be created and the provincial tax base but also in respect to spin-off benefits. As well, we're aware that tourism can benefit the quality of life if it is handled properly and is planned recognizing the environmental considerations that are so important in alpine and subalpine regions such as the Bow corridor.

We are located in an area rich in sustainable tourism resources. The Bow corridor in fact has been receiving attention for quite some time. In terms of infrastructure, natural resources, transportation access, and tourism appeal, there's been a great deal of interest in tourism development. As well, we are situated in an area of Canada that will see significant tourism growth in the next several years. Alberta's appeal as a world-class destination is certain.

I look around southern Alberta and I see many exciting projects. I'm delighted to see that the Bow corridor fits into the diverse range of tourism attractions that we are planning in central and southern Alberta. We're developing the cultural, the recreational, and the historical appeal of Alberta, and I can point to many diverse projects in the southern part of the province in which your department, Mr. Minister, is involved. For example, the Crowsnest Pass ecomuseum; the Lake Louise railway station in my own constituency; the Remington museum in Cardston; the Saamis archeological site near Medicine Hat; Paradise Canyon resort in Lethbridge; the Canyon ski hill near Red Deer; Kananaskis guest ranch, again in Banff-Cochrane constituency; the western heritage centre at the Cochrane Ranche in Cochrane; the Oyen family destination resort; the Chinese Cultural Centre in Calgary; the Badlands river tours; and the Westcastle resort: all very positive projects, Mr. Chairman, that will have a tremendous impact on tourism in Alberta for the rest of this decade and into the next century. We're truly diversifying this tourism industry, and we're doing it through careful planning. I think it's important that our industry hold broad appeal, and I'm excited that Banff-Cochrane can participate in that process.

The proposed Canmore alpine resort, for example, is one project that could heighten the tourism profile of our province as a whole. This would be considered, Mr. Chairman, the first five-star resort in Alberta and possibly even in Canada. I'm very pleased that it's proposed in my backyard in Canmore in the Bow corridor. Phase 1 of the project, which is scheduled to open in May of 1994, would consist of a four-season resort complex, including a 500-room Hyatt Regency hotel with full conference facilities, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, hot pools, and even waterfalls. The resort will include an 18-hole championship golf course and clubhouse, with tennis courts, riding stables, and, importantly, an archeological/historic interpretive centre. Phase 2 is proposed to include room additions to the hotel, staff housing, a new hotel, residential units, and highway development.

Now, all that sounds very impressive, but let's get down to some details. The economic impact of the construction of phase 1 is estimated at \$280 million, Mr. Chairman. This construction will create over 3,000 person-years of employment as a one-time impact. More than 3,000 person-years of employment are expected to result from operations and tourism expenditures during the first year of operation. Tourism expenditures are estimated to surpass \$120 million in the first year, and that doesn't include the many side trips the tourists are expected to

take to other locations within Banff-Cochrane and elsewhere in the province of Alberta.

The tax revenues, Mr. Chairman, for phase 1 construction and operations are expected to reach almost \$14 million, Mr. Treasurer, while tourist expenditures could add another \$4.5 million in tax revenue. This is merely the tip of the iceberg. By the time phase 3 is completed in approximately 2002, most economic impact figures are expected to be triple or more. This will mean huge economic spin-offs in many areas of our economy in various regions of Alberta. My constituents have expressed a great deal of interest in the contributions that will be made through the tourism industry.

We recognize that the many potential benefits are as a result of potential in the industry and will require very careful planning. The local municipalities, the public, and the business community want to ensure that they play a part in that decision-making process. Someone had to take the role of co-ordinating the information so that the proper decisions could be made. For that reason, I'm very interested in the Tourism department's framework, which involves the co-ordination of various groups, including the town of Canmore, the municipal district of Bighorn, the Calgary Regional Planning Commission, and various government departments. This framework is bringing together various groups to co-ordinate efforts on a range of issues, such as the important need for staff housing, the management of natural areas, and the transportation study, to name just a few.

My question to the minister relates to the next element of the tourism framework, the visual impact assessment. When is the study going to be complete, Mr. Minister, and will it be available to the public for review and input?

With those brief comments and with that question I again wish to thank the minister for his co-operation in tourism initiatives in our constituency and to indicate that I look forward to continuing to work with him in this coming year. Thank you.

12:30

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Paul.

MR. DROBOT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that when we talk about tourism, we must also take into consideration the terrific tourist potential awaiting development in northern Alberta. Certainly the constituency of St. Paul typifies some of the excellent tourist features of the north. We have magnificent scenery, the friendly people, the gorgeous lakes, the great camping, lots of wildlife, and a rich historical and native history.

Then, of course, our people are full of imagination. Many of you may have heard of the St. Paul UFO landing pad, for instance, and of course Elk Point, a gateway to the Lakeland. If you haven't, I would encourage you to come and see it. Northern Alberta offers a terrific getaway, a relaxing and affordable opportunity for tourists from Alberta and elsewhere. The constituency of St. Paul consists of many communities which are participating in the community tourism action program, and as the minister mentioned, they are identifying objects and goals for future economic development in the area. As well, I am aware of a number of regional initiatives such as the Lakeland destination area study, which is in the public input stage.

Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of people in the north who are doing some hard work on tourist development, but because we have a smaller population and a somewhat smaller tourist market, it is important that we have some co-ordination of activities. The north needs a co-operative thrust in the tourist industry.

I would also like to know more about your joint effort with northern Alberta mayors. Will the study take into account the large number of wide and varied tourism features in the north? For instance, in 1992 Elk Point will be celebrating the establishment of Fort George-Buckingham House, established 200 years ago on the North Saskatchewan River. This bicentennial will also honour Peter Fidler, a surveyor who traveled and recorded history from Fort George and Buckingham House to the Cypress Hills, and communities along that route are preparing for a gigantic bicentennial celebration. It'll be a great tourism promotion and attraction. Of course, the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism and his department deserve thanks for their input into an interpretive centre for Fort George-Buckingham House to attract tourism and bring about interest in some of Alberta's early history.

Mr. Chairman:

You can keep your provincial politics
I am tired of working overtime.
To my MLA colleagues good fortune,
Enjoy what's left of summer time.

Tell the minister I will miss him,
Tell the Party Whip I'll miss him, too.
But the rat race has me cornered
And there is something I must do.

Though I have some social functions
Which I promised I would keep,
The telephone jangles got to me.
I can hear them in my sleep.

I will get my gear together, I reckon.
Beautiful lakeland lakes do beckon.
No more dreaming, no more wishing,
Goodbye gang, I'm going fishing!!

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, after listening to that last bit of excellent poetry – it ties so well into our tourism industry – I think we should start to answer the questions in reverse order.

The member did ask about the northern mayors' study and more information about it. We hope to summarize in that study the inventory of existing assets in the north, to work with the communities throughout the north to set marketing objectives for these assets, and to identify the investment opportunities and the market opportunities and potential of economically viable tourism assets in the north. That's a commitment by the steering committee of the northern mayors, and our department is working with them now. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that that study is done in time for the conference on the economy this fall, as that's going to be a very important time to identify those investment opportunities, hold them out to the investment community, and make sure that continued development in the north takes place.

Also in northern Alberta we are working with a group who is looking at a very exciting project on the Peace River to tie into Rendezvous '92. I hope that that gets off and built in time so that we can encourage the wildlife viewing and canoeing and river activities on the Peace River during the coming year and especially in 1992.

Mr. Chairman, I will not have time – I'm looking at the clock – to answer each and every question that has been asked, but I'm sure we will follow up after reading *Hansard*. I'm sure that a lot of the questions that were asked were answered in my speech. Especially for the Member for Calgary-North West, there's quite a number of the answers. I could see that you had a prepared text; so was mine, and they crisscrossed. I should have given it to you an hour before you wrote yours. But we

will follow up on the detail of some of the confusion that's in the questions.

The Member for West Yellowhead was wondering about the West Glacier project. That is a Canada/Alberta tourism agreement, where we're looking at building a tourism information centre at West Glacier to replace the one at St. Mary. It's been on schedule for quite some time. We're going to attract the tourists at that point entering into the park, and it should be up and running for the 1992-93 year.

CATA funding was another question from both the members. We have contracts we have to honour. It ended, as I said in my speech, in March 1990, and all we will be doing for the next two years is honouring those contracts. We pay after the fact with proven invoices, and the funds are not advanced up front, so you will see this item carried on in budgets this year and next year, until all of those contracts and the paperwork are cleared up. The payments come after and not before.

I did like the references from several members, and especially the Member for Grande Prairie, who lobbied for an expansion of Team Tourism, an expansion of CTAP. I noticed the Member for West Yellowhead looking for extra funding from CTAP, and I can assure you that the communities around the province are going to be putting pressure on each and every one of you in the years to come. Already TIAALTA, the Tourism Industry Association of Alberta, has made presentations to the minister in charge of lotteries to expand Team Tourism. There's a real need for it to be expanded right now and go from the \$4 million a year we're putting into it up to \$8 million a year, because the challenge that we threw to the communities and the zones throughout this province to do tourism marketing plans – they have really come forward. This current year every dollar in every zone will be used by that zone, and none of the zones will be turning in any excess funds. That program has been very, very successful.

I hope you all check with your zone managers and give the minister in charge of lotteries your advice. If it's similar to the way we read it and the way TIAALTA reads it, there's one area that definitely needs an expansion. The department worked very well in setting up this program with the industry. The industry is matching the \$4 million we put in with another \$4 million, and it goes well beyond that. I think we're getting about \$2.50 or \$3 spent for every dollar that comes out of the program. For most members I read in their presentations that there is a need for expansion of those two programs, and they appreciated them very much.

12:40

The component of alpine ski definitely was not for heli-skiing. It was for what was designed in the program in 1985 to assist each of the hills. It's just being paid for now. As far as the standards and development certificates, I really do have a problem, and I should talk to the Member for West Yellowhead about where he inferred that the people getting into the tourism industry got there by default and that they were low – and I don't want to use that word that he used. There are definitely some excellent people in the tourism industry. From ATEC's standpoint we all can improve our abilities, and the industry has agreed that that was one of their major priorities. We're leading the world, bar none, here in Alberta with the activities of setting up the job standards and coming forward with a certification program. We're definitely moving from setting up the standards to implementation of those standards. That's going to be a very, very important part of the future. Also, the new chairman will be working with myself and the federal minister and the four

western provinces to expand the standards and certification program. We have seven under way and 20 out of the first 25, and we're working towards the next 25.

We do not have an office in Hong Kong that is tourism oriented. We do have staff that work out of Tokyo, London, Geneva, and New York, as I said in my speech, and Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs do have people in Hong Kong. As far as your 6060 plan, I will leave that to another discussion, but definitely it is not going to the show in the U.S., as you asked. They ran into some problems getting the railroad right-of-way, but I think you will see some exciting other things happening in the year to come with 6060 here in Alberta and here in Canada.

I'd like to answer a few of the questions from Calgary-North West. In setting up the goals, I think he brought up a very good and valid point, and that's why we're going through and asking industry to work with us to build a business plan towards 2000, setting goals for where do you want your industry by the year 2000? One thing about setting goals, even if the \$10 billion is too high and we only get halfway there, we've got a lot farther down the road than we would have by not setting a goal. We're going to try and get a realistic goal, and I think someplace between the \$5 million and \$10 million is a realistic goal. I hope that comes out in our future documentation and plan.

I think maybe I was remiss in not saying in my opening remarks the number of departments that are involved in tourism. We have excellent co-operation from the minister of culture in all the multitude of projects that they have brought on stream. One in my riding that I'm very proud of is the Reynolds-Alberta Museum. The Remington is coming on stream and very much so. I have to appreciate the ingenuity and give credit to the minister of culture and his staff for getting us into Dinosaur in Tokyo. We spent a lot of money. It didn't cost your department a lot; you did it the right way by getting your Japanese partners to pay all the bills. I think with the teamwork that was demonstrated by your department and ours and their private-sector staff, it was exciting to see what happened. Also, the department of transportation, the Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, the Department of the Environment: all are very, very important. The department of parks for their participation and assistance in tourism – several of the questions referred to other departments, like transportation.

As far as looking at the issues that you mentioned, about the northern mayors' study, I've answered that. The pulp mills versus tourism: one thing is that in well-managed forests we find an increase in wildlife, we find an increase in many of the opportunities for tourists, and that's been proven time and time again. For example, right in Banff national park, when the course went from 18 holes to 27, about 200 new elk showed up on the scene to be fed right there at Banff. So there's a lot of benefits from having a well-managed, open area created by the forest industry to expand on our tourism resources, and our department has worked very well with forestry to do their planning so that it is not detrimental to our industry.

There are four assistant deputy ministers, and there have been changes in each of the divisions; that's why the changes there.

Rendezvous '92. Definitely we are working with the communities in Alberta that are participating in the Alaska Highway program. We've got about three groups working on it; maybe we're not on all of them.

You talked about the 53 percent cut, the 13 percent cut in marketing. I went through that in my speech. Mr. Chairman, I think the key that I heard, that I hope you pass on to the Provincial Treasurer next year, is the good support for several of our programs, the expansion that needs to take place in

programs that are being handled by TIAALTA, and the good work that our department is doing.

Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that if I've missed any of the key questions – we'll go through *Hansard* and make sure that each and every question was answered. I know that the visual impact assessment in the Bow-Canmore area is due, and it will be out. It's part of our framework to answer some of the questions from the member that has most of the tourism assets in his riding and has because they're natural. I wish you well in the Banff-Cochrane area. Most of your projects are exciting projects.

As far as the cumulative effect that you're talking about, Calgary-North West, if you read *Hansard* and listen to what the member said about his riding, he's answered the question for me. The department is working on – and has been with all of the communities, all of the other departments of government – a framework for decision-making, and the latest part of that is a visual impact study that should be out and complete near the end of May. If any of the documentation on that framework is needed by anyone, it's available as it comes off the press. Because of the tight budget we're charging so much a copy for each of the studies that we do; that's something new that's in our budget.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to close with those comments, and thank you for the opportunity of speaking to the questions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ready for the question?

HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Agreed to:

1.0.1 – Minister's Office	\$318,380
1.0.2 – Deputy Minister's Office	\$326,910
1.0.3 – Corporate Development	\$2,292,220
1.0.4 – Finance and Administration	\$2,519,970
Total Vote 1 – Departmental Support Services	\$5,457,480

2.1 – Planning	\$2,299,200
2.2 – Industry and Business Development	\$3,784,200
2.3 – Marketing	\$11,253,450
2.4 – Canada/Alberta Tourism Agreement	\$3,793,510
Total Vote 2 – Tourism Planning, Development and Marketing	\$21,130,360

Total Vote 3 – Tourism Education and Training	\$747,510
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12:50

MR. SPARROW: Mr. Chairman, I move that the estimates be reported.

[Motion carried]

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee now rise, report progress, and request leave to sit again.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

DR. ELLIOTT: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions, reports as follows, and requests leave to sit again.

Resolved that a sum of not exceeding the following be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1992, for the department and purposes indicated.

Tourism: \$5,457,480 for Departmental Support Services, \$21,130,360 for Tourism Planning, Development and Marketing, \$747,510 for Tourism Education and Training.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the Assembly agreed with the report of the Member for Grande Prairie?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried.

[At 12:54 p.m. the Assembly adjourned to Monday at 2:30 p.m.]