

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Title: **Thursday, June 6, 1991**

2:30 p.m.

Date: 91/06/06

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

head: **Prayers**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us pray.

O Lord, we give thanks for the bounty of our province: our land, our resources, and our people.

We pledge ourselves to act as good stewards on behalf of all Albertans.

Amen.

head: **Introduction of Bills**

Bill 317

Bikeway Development Act

MR. McINNIS: Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce a Bill being the Bikeway Development Act.

The purpose of this Bill is to add to the mandate of the department of transportation the development of bicycle paths, bicycle lanes, the sport of cycling, and cycling as a means of transportation. It provides that 5 percent of all the funds available for construction and maintenance of roads and bridges be allocated towards bikeway development. If we'd had that Bill this year, there'd be \$24.5 million for that purpose.

[Leave granted; Bill 317 read a first time]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Bill Pr. 8

Jennifer Leanne Eichmann Adoption Act

MR. PAYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill Pr. 8, the Jennifer Leanne Eichmann Adoption Act.

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

head: **Tabling Returns and Reports**

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am tabling today the required number of copies of the 1989-1990 annual report of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenarry.

MR. DECORE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg leave to file an analysis which was done by the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired of the government brochure Facts on Seniors' Programs.

Thank you.

MR. DINNING: Mr. Speaker, I rise to file with the Assembly the response to Written Question 375.

head: **Introduction of Special Guests**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Associate Minister of Family and Social Services.

MR. BRASSARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome a group of seniors who have, I think, for the seventh consecutive year joined with us for a tea in the Legislature. They represent the Alberta Council on Aging, the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired, Alberta Retired Teachers Association, and others. I believe there is even someone here from the Kerby Centre. So on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to welcome them and ask that the members join with me in a round of applause as they stand and receive it. Would you please stand.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills.

MRS. BLACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today on behalf of my colleague the Hon. Rick Orman, the Member for Calgary-Montrose and the Minister of Energy, to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly a school from Calgary, the Pineridge community school. We have today 61 very bright students from the school, and they are accompanied by their teachers Don Winchester and Joan McTavish and three parents Det. Sgt. Pollock, Mrs. Field, and Mrs. McNabb. I would ask them to stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, we are blessed with a number of visitors today. I'm particularly pleased that there are some 59 members of the Stettler junior high school who were able to visit with us. They recognize that we definitely have a democracy in place here in the Legislature because they are unable to get into the gallery and are watching the proceedings in the audiovisual room here in the Legislature. They are accompanied by teachers Mrs. Karen Bromley, Don Anderson, and Larry Ambury. I know they are watching in the audiovisual room, and I would ask members to welcome them warmly in that position.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

REV. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also visiting with us today are 10 in a group from the YMCA downtown here in Edmonton. They're with their teacher Mrs. Debbie Smith, who is the literacy co-ordinator of this YMCA's job generation program. The 10 of them, I believe, are in the public gallery. I'd ask that they now please rise and receive the welcome of the members here today.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce to you 10 Medicine Hatters who are here from the Medicine Hat Christian school. Their teacher Renae Bartel is accompanying the group, and I'm pleased that they have come so far to observe the Assembly in session and to visit with us. I would ask that they rise in the public gallery and receive the warm welcome of the members of the Assembly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Smoky River.

MR. PASZKOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege today on behalf of the Hon. Boomer Adair, from the constituency of Peace River, to introduce 34 bright students from the Good Shepherd school in Peace River. They're accompanied by their teachers Roger Ostrosky and Claire Girard and parents Chris McLeod, Melanie Barr, Diane Desjardins, Annette Roy, Larry Tutt, David Porterfield, and Maureen Voce. They're

seated in the public gallery. I'd ask them to rise and receive the recognition of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore.

MRS. MIROSH: Mr. Speaker, thank you. It is indeed a pleasure for me to introduce two of my very favourite constituents from Calgary-Glenmore: Mark and his father Clancy Patton. They're in the members' gallery. Would you please rise, Pattons, and receive a warm welcome from this Legislative Assembly.

head:

Oral Question Period

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Vegreville.

Senior Citizens Programs

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [some applause] They're out door-knocking in Stettler.

Mr. Speaker, there's no denying that this government's mean-spirited cutbacks to programs for seniors have hurt thousands upon thousands of the women and men that built this province. This Conservative government has now added insult to injury by their degrading treatment of seniors who have made their voices heard on this issue. First, we have the Marie Antoinette of Health telling seniors that they have to make do, the Premier talking about his millionaire friends who can afford to pay more, and worst of all the spectacle of the minister responsible for seniors in the province of Alberta telling seniors that they just don't understand, that they're somehow being duped and manipulated by the opposition on the issue. I'd like to give this minister a chance to make amends, a chance to retract the patronizing statements he's been making over the last several days, and ask him if he will apologize to the seniors right here and now for his insulting insinuations that seniors just don't understand what's been happening to them.

2:40

MR. BRASSARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, I already did that yesterday. I said that if the seniors were in some way offended by my remarks, then I apologize. But I make no apology for the statement that I thought that the opposition party has been directing a lot of the misunderstanding and misrepresentation of the programs. That statement stands intact.

MR. FOX: He obviously doesn't even know when he's insulting them, Mr. Speaker. He just did it again.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let's talk about consultation and representation from this government. In debate on the Premier's flagship Bill, the Seniors Advisory Council of Alberta Act, this government refused to include legislative guarantees that seniors would be represented on that council. I'd like to ask the minister who can introduce seniors in the gallery but can't introduce their petitions into the Legislature how he can expect any senior or seniors' group in the province of Alberta to trust him or this government to represent their concerns.

MR. BRASSARD: As part of the clarification of the preamble, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to clarify that the purpose of delivering a petition to this Assembly is to get it to the minister responsible, and this minister went over and received it personally.

Could you give me the rest of the question?

MR. FOX: Well, I just wanted to ask the hon. minister how he can expect seniors or seniors' groups in the province of Alberta to trust him or this government to represent their concerns.

MR. BRASSARD: I do represent the concerns of the seniors of this province, Mr. Speaker. I could allude to some of the changes that have been made to the programs. We talked a little bit about specifics coming from the opposition, and I'd like to give some specifics. I'd like to talk about the almost \$5 million in the independent living program alone that was increased, the \$9 million in the lodge regeneration program that was increased, the almost \$9 million increase in co-ordinated home care, the \$14.1 million increase in Alberta Aids to Daily Living, the over \$5 million increase in social allowance. I could go on. In total it comes to \$75 million, net dollars, going into seniors' programs. It's an increase, and I have a hard time apologizing for that.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, the Premier knows that there is widespread opposition to these cutbacks in the province. Over 40,000 Albertans have demonstrated that by way of signing petitions, making it very clear what they expect this government to do. I'd like to ask the Premier if he will stand in his place and for the benefit of seniors in the province and their representatives in the gallery today announce that he's reversing those cutbacks. Yes or no.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to see the hon. member acting like Perry Mason here in the Legislature with his "yes or no."

What I do commit to is this: every year we assess the seniors' programs in our province and every year we make the commitment that they'll be the best in Canada, and then we take the action to make sure they are. This year, as the hon. member has just said, we have increased by \$75 million the dollars for seniors.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I challenge every member to do this. Take a look at seniors' benefits across Canada, and take every province one after another. You take Alberta, and you say, "In Alberta it's covered"; across Canada: no, no, no, no, no. Then you go to another category. In Alberta it's covered; then you go across Canada: no, no, no, no, no. Then you go into different programs that the Minister of Municipal Affairs presents for seniors, and you look and it says yes in Alberta, but across Canada: no, no, no. The hon. members, I know, don't like to hear these facts, but it's the case. It's a commitment that we make to seniors: in this province we commit that our seniors' programs are the best in Canada.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Second main question please, hon. member.

MR. FOX: I'd rather be called . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Second main question.

MR. FOX: I designate the second main question to the Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place.

Environmental Policy

MR. McINNIS: Mr. Speaker, the province is also celebrating Environment Week this week, and it's becoming clear that the province is stalled on several key environmental initiatives. The

recycling program has proved to be inadequate, to say the very least, to those agencies that are going broke trying to do what the government ought to be doing in that area. Proposed environmental legislation has been delayed in the Tory caucus for at least another year, even though the present legislation is unenforceable and a secret report prepared by the Alberta forest service states that there will be widespread, large-scale environmental damage as a result of clear-cut logging in northern Alberta. I wonder if the Premier would indicate on behalf of the government that he will direct the cabinet to buckle down and undertake some long overdue initiatives in the environmental field this year?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the Minister of the Environment is not in the House. Obviously we will take his question as notice and have the minister respond to it.

MR. McINNIS: I can't help the fact that the Minister of the Environment isn't here, but I did want to know what the leadership of the government was planning to do.

The Premier's probably aware that recently international attention has focused on logging practices in Canada. To put it bluntly, some of our very best customers are not very happy with the clear-cut logging and slash burning which the pulp industry undertakes, particularly on lands which may be claimed by aboriginal people. I wonder if the Premier has decided to address this issue before we find ourselves on the wrong end of an economic boycott?

MR. GETTY: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife is not in the House, and I will have to take notice of the question and let him deal with the hon. member when he returns.

MR. McINNIS: Mr. Speaker, there is an overall direction to government policy, and the Premier is the one who likes to brag here about all the economic activity in the province of Alberta. Does the Premier fail to realize that if you're prepared to allow clear-cut logging and slash burning, prepared to waive environmental requirements as was done for the pulp industry, and you're going to subsidize construction of the pulp industry, any fool can create jobs that way?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, a very confused mind by the hon. member in trying to get a question out. What I think he should be paying attention to is that in this province we have growth going on, the only province in Canada. We have the strongest economy in Canada. We have more people working than ever before in the history of our province, and it's because of the government's policies. We also have the best environmental standards and laws in Canada. Therefore, if the hon. member is caught up with what's happening in Europe or somewhere else, that's too bad. In Canada what we have is the best environmental standards here in Alberta and we have the best economy in Alberta. We're able to have a balanced budget. We have the lowest taxes in Canada, and it's because of the government's policies. I would think the hon. member would stop watching socialist governments in Europe come apart and start looking at the kind of thing that's happening here, where we have a strong, healthy, growing province.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Edmonton-Glengarry, on behalf of the Liberal Party.

Senior Citizens Programs

(continued)

MR. DECORE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the minister responsible for seniors. Yesterday the minister received a petition signed by 16,000 Alberta seniors asking for rollbacks on these drastic cuts to seniors. The minister was also present at a meeting where attacks were levied against the government for the distortion that the government in fact is involved in. Now, an analysis was done by the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired on these cutbacks. The minister has heard about this analysis. My question to the minister is this. We know that the minister is trying to deflect the heat on him and the government by saying that the opposition is causing this difficulty for the government, but will the minister tell us today: are the 16,000 people that signed this petition and are the people that made this analysis all wrong and are they distorting the facts and the truth?

MR. BRASSARD: Mr. Speaker, I did indeed pick up the petition from the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired, and it did contain I think three or four boxes. I agreed to bring them back and give them their due review and consideration in front of cabinet. They are before this government to be evaluated. I said that I would do that, and I have fulfilled that.

2:50

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, part of the analysis is an analysis of this brochure that the minister has distributed to seniors at a cost of almost \$200,000. That analysis says that this document is distorted. Will the minister agree, in addition to this review, to re-examine this document and to set the record straight and to get the distortions clear and make sure Alberta seniors know exactly what the facts are?

MR. BRASSARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all, speaking of distortions, the brochure did not cost \$200,000. I said that we had spent less than \$190,000 on a total package, a total package that included some – I don't know how many – newspapers in this province with advertisements saying that if there was any confusion out there to please phone the advisory council and get an answer. That was part of the \$190,000. The advertising for Seniors' Week was also a part of the \$190,000, and we do that every year. As a matter of fact, the mail-out this year for Seniors' Week included that very brochure. So the cost of that brochure was nowhere in the range that he is talking about at all.

As far as the brochure itself goes, it is not filled with distortions at all. The distortion that I was referring to – I'd like to just read a part of this letter. It's a public letter put forward by the opposition.

Seniors are being hit by measures in the budget introduced by the Conservative government which will cost each of them hundreds of dollars more annually.

And it goes on to clarify that: "an average of \$1,000 a year." That is direct misrepresentation, Mr. Speaker. It is nowhere near fact. So if we're talking about distortions, let's get the facts straight.

MR. DECORE: Mr. Speaker, I asked the hon. Premier to meet with seniors to get this whole matter cleared up, but the Premier refuses to do that. Even in the seniors' newspaper it says that the meeting they had with the minister was not productive. I note with interest that the minister responsible has agreed to meet with seniors somewhere toward the end of June. Will the

minister commit to putting a moratorium on these drastic cutbacks until that full and complete consultation process is completed? Will he agree to do that?

MR. GETTY: First of all, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glengarry is once again engaging in the very slippery practice of distorting. This Premier has never refused to meet with any seniors or any Albertans for that matter. I meet with them every day, and I meet with many seniors every week. For him to stand in his place and make that kind of distortion leads us once again to know why all across Alberta he's thought of as Slippery Larry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Cypress-Redcliff.

International Investment and Trade

MR. HYLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. It has been one of the main activities of this government and this government has led provinces in Canada in drawing international investment and international trade opportunities in this province and encouraging businesses to go along with them to introduce trade with this province and other countries in the world. This has been accomplished through various ministers' trips throughout Canada, the United States, and other parts of the world. I wonder if the Premier can share with the Assembly his plans and thoughts about how he would lead international trade in such things as missions, et cetera, over the next short while.

MR. GETTY: For some time now I have felt the need to increase our profile with investors and people in the United Kingdom and Europe. Now, I wanted to do that last year, but unfortunately my illness and then convalescence created scheduling difficulties that prevented me from doing it. We have, though, Mr. Speaker, been able to put in place now a mission, working with our very capable agent generals in Europe and the United Kingdom and the United States. We have been able to put in place an opportunity for me to travel and meet with investors, heads of governments, various people in Europe and in the United States.

I want to impress upon these people the opportunities to invest in Alberta, the advantages. If you look across Canada right now, I think it's fair to say that with our free enterprise traditions in this province, with a very strong economy, the lowest taxes in Canada, and the abundance of resources, Alberta is certainly the place to invest in in Canada. I want to be able to stress to people in Europe, in the United States the advantages of coming here.

As the hon. member correctly mentioned, Alberta leads all of Canada with regard to investment per capita. That is keeping our economy strong and is keeping more people working. Well, we want to maintain that leadership position, Mr. Speaker, and I hope this visit and this trip will help to do that.

MR. HYLAND: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary, again to the Premier. I wonder if the Premier as chairman of the agriculture and rural development committee of cabinet can assure the Assembly that one of the issues that will be discussed with any officials he may meet will be some sort of stabilization in trade relations, especially relating to agriculture and agricultural products.

MR. GETTY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'm hoping that in the course of my trip I will be able to be in discussions regarding improvements in relationships with GATT. I'm hoping that there are agricultural reforms in the European Economic Community that will allow our farmers and ranchers to compete on a level playing field. I know that if they have that opportunity, they can compete and actually beat anybody in the world. So I will be looking for opportunities to press for agricultural reforms and removal of subsidies in the European Economic Community. We hope that would also lead to the reduction of subsidies in the United States and therefore allow our farmers and ranchers to be able to produce and sell their products on a level playing field. I'm also looking forward to discussions regarding the impact of the Middle East war on oil prices and how OPEC will be projecting prices into the future.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, I think this opportunity for me to meet with these people and to talk to members of governments and members of organizations in Europe should help me as we plan in Alberta for the future growth and strength of our province.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore.

Women's Pensions

MS M. LAING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Associate Minister of Family and Social Services. Many times in this Legislature we have argued that the Alberta widows' pension discriminates against lower income seniors between the ages of 55 and 65 on the basis of marital status, something that is against our human rights protection Act. The Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta in its 1990 annual report also urges this government to extend the widows' pension to all low-income persons aged 55 through 64, not just those who are widowed. My question: considering that this government says that it is listening to seniors, will it now act on these recommendations and introduce amendments this session to address this unacceptably discriminatory law?

MR. BRASSARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, as the member is no doubt aware, this matter is before the courts and has not been resolved, so it would really be inappropriate for me to respond.

MS M. LAING: Thanks a lot.

My second question is also to the Associate Minister of Family and Social Services. Another area of concern for seniors is the adequacy of pensions, particularly for women, who we know in their later years suffer an extreme amount of poverty. A year ago the Minister of Labour in a letter to the Seniors Advisory Council stated that one of the initiatives of the Alberta Action Plan for Women is to establish a mechanism to investigate pension options that would assist women to save for their retirement; the feasibility of the homemaker pension will be evaluated as part of this initiative. My question to the associate minister: what assurance will he give that he will in fact act on this and work towards the establishment of a homemakers' pension?

3:00

MR. BRASSARD: Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a question that's been coming around for quite some time, and I don't deny it's got merit. I do believe we're in an age when women are contributing more and more actively in the work force, and I'm sure that's why the consideration was being given by the Minister of Labour. I think it's got some merit. It's going to take an

awful lot of discussion; I can't see it happening tomorrow by any stretch of the imagination. I do believe that women becoming more active in the work force are looking for more individualized pensions, and even those that are staying at home raising a family, but I don't have any legislation in the immediate future on that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Calgary-McKnight.

Advanced Education Demand

MRS. GAGNON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Education is advocating the idea of year-round schooling at the postsecondary level to deal with the backlog of thousands of qualified students who desire an advanced education. I know that many of Alberta's postsecondary institutions are looking into the idea, yet they inform me that they cannot afford the money because they don't have sufficient operating grants from the province. To the Minister of Advanced Education: will the minister provide money to postsecondary institutions to permit them to operate at full capacity year-round?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, as members may be well aware, if one looks at the postsecondary system in Alberta relative to other jurisdictions, we find, for example, that British Columbia with 3.1 million people has some 4,000 less university students than Alberta, so advanced education obviously is not only popular but very important to Alberta. We provide amongst the highest per capita grants in Canada for operating. I've yet to receive any formal proposals from the postsecondary system to go to a trimester or some other system, and until I do, I don't think I'm prepared to make any comment.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Supplemental question.

MRS. GAGNON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is evident from the Education minister's lack of knowledge about the grade 12 returnees that there's very little consultation or co-operation between the two departments. To the Minister of Advanced Education again. Given that millions of dollars are spent offering high school courses to repeating grade 12 graduates who can't get a university equivalent program, will the minister work with the Education minister to stop this incredible waste of money and resources as well as time which is caused mostly by lack of consultation and co-operation? Perhaps we should only have one minister.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I am not all that confident that the hon. Member for Calgary-McKnight knows whereof she is speaking. I spend a great deal of time with my colleague the Minister of Education. I would hope that people recognize the changes in our society today. We're finding that university students in traditional four-year courses are taking five years, and similarly in high school, because they choose to have part-time work and so on. This I understand. I fully understand the reality of that, where students in Alberta are choosing different life-styles. I don't believe it's incumbent upon the government to impose its view on the self-governed boards of governors of our institutions that set these admission standards. I'm committed and will continue to be committed to do all I can to see that any motivated and qualified Albertan has the opportunity to access our postsecondary system.

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

Electoral Boundaries

MR. DAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Attorney General. When the select committee on electoral boundaries was consulting the views of Albertans on the question of equality of voting power, some people were suggesting that we depart from the Canadian experience and follow more closely the American model of representation, while a larger number of Albertans suggested to the committee that we follow the Canadian history of maintaining a fair and equitable balance of voting power by allowing some variation where justified, since in Canada we don't have the luxury of the balance of an elected Senate as they do in each of the states in the United States. I wonder if the Attorney General can tell us: in light of the Supreme Court decision today on the Saskatchewan boundary question, which appears to uphold the Canadian experience and to subsequently uphold the direction of the Alberta select committee on electoral boundaries, will the government of Alberta now be withdrawing its own request to the Alberta Court of Appeal in relation to this question?

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, the short answer is no. But to put it in context, when the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act was passed by the Assembly, there was a commitment to have that Act referred to our Court of Appeal to find if it was good legislation. The Supreme Court has enunciated principles which we think are foursquare with our Act. However, because those principles came from evidence that is a little different than our Act, I think it behooves us to continue on with our reference and get our Court of Appeal to pass judgment.

MR. DAY: Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that some Alberta municipalities, the city of Edmonton being one, invested, albeit unsuccessfully, in the Supreme Court challenge. I wonder if the minister can advise whether there's any type of provincial contingency fund which the city of Edmonton could apply to, or will they have to bear their legal costs on their own?

MR. ROSTAD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any fund that pays for the municipality representations, but I don't think the municipalities should feel that citizens within a particular urban or rural area were unjustly treated with the Supreme Court judgment. I think Justice McLachlin's statement, saying that equality is the nub but absolute equality is not possible and what really matters is to have effective representation, applies just as well for urban municipalities as rural.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.
The hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder.

Senior Citizens Programs (continued)

MS MJOLSNESS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Premier. Unlike Conservative governments, Albertans young and old cherish and support the principle of universality of health care and social programs. All seniors remember that in 1985 Brian Mulroney's Conservatives tried to deindex seniors' pensions, and now Albertans are quite aware that this government is cutting back on benefits which directly relate to the healthy well-being and independence of seniors. This government says it does not have enough money, so it's asking some

seniors to give up oxygen so others can have power wheelchairs. I would ask the Premier to explain how his government can find millions of dollars to bail out failing companies but can't find money to maintain the universality of basic and necessary programs for seniors. [some applause]

MR. GETTY: I guess the applause is for reading the question correctly.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is incorrect. The government has kept care solidly where it is necessary for seniors. As we've already discussed in the House, and the Minister of Health will be here . . . [interjections]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

MR. GETTY: . . . and will deal with this matter . . . [interjections]

MR. McINNIS: Nonsense.

MR. GETTY: . . . and has dealt with it many . . .

Speaker's Ruling Interrupting a Member

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Edmonton-Jasper Place, will you keep your mouth shut? [interjections] Edmonton-Jasper Place, are you looking for a trip? If not, keep . . . [interjections] Order.

Hon. Premier.

MR. GETTY: It's a shame, Mr. Speaker, that when we give the courtesy of listening to the question, we then have a member who is so discourteous as to not even allow a reply. It is an important matter, and it is a shame that they treat the Chair in this way.

Senior Citizens Programs (continued)

MR. GETTY: However, Mr. Speaker, I want to come back to the commitment I made earlier in the House, and that is that in Alberta every year we assess our seniors' programs and give the commitment that our seniors' programs in all areas will be the best in Canada, and we will continue to do that.

MS MJOLNESS: Mr. Speaker, the truth is that this government is charging seniors for things like oxygen and other items that are directly related to their health. That's the truth, and that's shameful.

Between the mismanagement of this government with taxpayers' money and the \$27 million cut in transfer payments from the Conservative federal government, our universal social programs are disappearing, as evidenced by the cuts to the seniors' programs. I would ask the Premier again: will he reverse these cuts and today guarantee to Albertans that this government will stop the attack on universal social programs?

3:10

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, there is no such attack, and the hon. member is incorrect. As has been pointed out already and as the hon. minister responsible for seniors' programs has pointed out, the government has increased by some \$75 million the total dollars going to our seniors' programs. I come back to the position I've already laid before the House. If you go across Canada and look at the various seniors' programs provided to

Canadians, you will find that here in Alberta we have programs that when you check with all the other provinces you find: not covered; not covered; no, we're not covered. We are committed here to making sure our programs are the best in Canada, and our comprehensive package far exceeds any other package for any group of seniors in another province in this country.

Municipalities Funding

MR. WICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, off-loading to municipalities combined with the steady decline in grants to them is unfair, harsh, and morally questionable. Let me give you a couple of examples. Community recreation and cultural grants: a high of \$20 per capita, this year \$8 per capita, next year \$6 per capita, the year after possibly nothing. The family and community support services: a high of \$13 per capita; a few years later, 1992, \$12.60 per capita doesn't even meet the original \$13, let alone the inflation. Now we realize the possibility of the community facility enhancement program expiring September 1. To the Premier: will he explain to this Assembly why he continues to show such little regard for municipalities throughout this province by squeezing them financially into an impossible position?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Municipal Affairs may well wish to augment my comments, but I find it remarkable to have the hon. member talking about the squeezing of municipalities. As a matter of fact, we have consistently increased our payments to municipalities. Now, the hon. member and his leader are unable to use dollars effectively. We know that when they were with the city of Edmonton, we had the disgraceful fact that the city was left with discharging raw sewage into the river because they weren't capable of managing dollars correctly. We know that they poisoned the attitudes of the communities around Edmonton, unable to work out providing the simple basics of a dump for the future of the city. Now, that's what they do with the dollars. I mean, we could hardly be responsible for that kind of mismanagement by those two.

MR. WICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have the facts right here. I'm prepared to table the comparisons. Maybe there's a hidden agenda to replace the CRC dollars with lottery dollars to allow the minister responsible to keep that political abuse going. My second question to the Premier: will he inform this House as to the future of the community facilities enhancement program and the community recreation/cultural program?

MR. KOWALSKI: Mr. Speaker, what's really interesting is that a few days ago the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud put out a rather thick document, an evaluation of the community facilities enhancement program. Remember how they ridiculed it? They've just downplayed it. Well, it is so filled with error that it's absolutely incredible.

Unfortunately, until today no one has asked me the question about the community facilities enhancement program. I've got an analysis, Mr. Speaker. You look, I guess, at the area you're most familiar with, and I looked at the constituency of Barrhead. This Liberal research orientation grouping that they have, \$500,000 – in the constituency of Barrhead alone there were nine errors in fact. They put this document out that says, you know, that there are certain allocations here. In Lethbridge-East, their paper said that there were seven projects for \$1,158,000. The actual figures were: there were three projects for \$390,000. They listed a grant to one very worthy group in Lethbridge for

\$765,000; the reality was \$76,000. There's no accuracy in what they say. The reality is that they continue to make these inaccurate comments in question period, and it's impossible to respond to a question that's based on inaccuracy, on inaccurate information. That's the tragedy of dealing with Liberals in Alberta today.

MR. MAIN: Just a tiny note of supplementary information on the community recreation/cultural program, Mr. Speaker. It's true that the program does expire soon. My colleague the Minister of Recreation and Parks and myself and other members of cabinet and caucus are, as we speak, involved in an ongoing discussion about the future of that program because we care and we realize it's very, very important to continue to support these kinds of facilities. So we're having an ongoing discussion, as a responsible government should.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Wainwright.

Agricultural Trade

MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture. The federal government and the European community are now in the process of reviewing the importation of European beef to Canada. The previous, expired five-year contract was countervailed to protect the cattle industry in Canada. To retain this countervail is of utmost importance to the industry. Given that there are also very strong rumours of European beef being contaminated with the very serious disease called mad cow disease, what is your department doing to protect the province and our industry here not only from the influx of European beef but also from the possibility of importing this serious disease?

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, the member does identify a serious concern facing the cattle industry in Canada and western Canada at this point in time, and that is the expiration of the countervail against the European Economic Community. But I would suggest that the contamination of that meat is more with subsidy than disease. I haven't seen any scientific evidence to link scrapie in sheep going through cows and having any impact on people. So I would say the major concern is not with respect to the quality of the meat; the major concern is with respect to the subsidization of that meat which, if allowed with those kinds of subsidies to enter our marketplace, will certainly undercut our marketplace.

MR. FISCHER: How, then, would this subsidized meat affect the free-flow trade we have through the free trade agreement with the U.S.?

MR. ISLEY: Keep in mind that the U.S. trade laws are much stronger than Canadian trade laws. Once they countervail, that countervail remains until such time as you can prove it should be removed. Our law runs out in five years and must be reviewed and reinstated. It would be my concern that if that subsidized European beef started flowing into Canada, under the terms of the free trade agreement it would find its way south; the U.S.A., in reacting to it, would then probably impose the same countervail against Canada as they do against the European Economic Community, and that would be disastrous. That's the reason we're pressuring the feds with every vehicle we can encourage to complete that review and reinstate that countervail.

That push is being joined by the Canadian cattle commission, the Alberta Cattle Commission, and the Canadian Meat Council.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

National Safety Associates Ltd.

MR. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs yesterday acknowledged that he had indeed received complaints and notice about the deceptive sales practices of National Safety Associates as early as 1989. The minister also received at that time a report, a copy of which I have for filing, by Mr. Larry Feaver, in which he details matters consumers should be aware of when dealing with water filter sales companies. The minister acknowledged the value of this report and forwarded it to federal authorities. To the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs: given the surprising growth of water filter sales at the time and the minister's knowledge of unscrupulous and deceptive sales practices in the industry, why did the minister not at least make consumer protection suggestions and report the matter to the public so they might be informed and make proper consumer decisions?

3:20

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, as we indicated yesterday, there were several complaints received in 1989. Each of those was resolved to the satisfaction of the parties involved; in other words, those who complained and the company we were dealing with. The particular issue he speaks to was one that was more appropriate for investigation by the federal government, and again as we said yesterday, that was forwarded to them. We are not in a position to investigate the quality of the product itself, only to ascertain whether the facts we know to be true are consistent with the facts they're placing forward in the advertising. So we wouldn't be prejudging either in 1989 or today that particular product but rather the claims they were making with respect to it. I might add that we have not had complaints since that period of time on the particular product in question. If members of the public want to call our department to discuss possible remedies or give information, we'd be more than happy to receive that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Supplemental question.

MR. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are deceptive practices that affect a host of Albertans. Retail purchasers of NSA filters aren't the only victims of the company's questionable products and deceptive sales practices. NSA used the multilevel marketing scheme that required individual distributors to buy filters wholesale and resell them. There have been many complaints, and I'm sure the minister will certainly be aware of them. To the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs: will the minister immediately pass regulations or enact legislation to ensure that distributors in multilevel sales companies also have protection in such cases and are fairly compensated?

MR. ANDERSON: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member would have to be more specific with regards to his question before we could do something as sweeping as pass regulations immediately that would protect all people with the definition he was speaking of. I assume that in the preamble to the question he was speaking of possible pyramid schemes or other misleading ways of defining the product's financial viability. I know there are

complaints in that regard. Once again, that is under the federal government Act, and we are happy to collaborate and are indeed collaborating with the federal government to give them any assistance possible. Again, it's with respect to the federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I don't know if the hon. member is suggesting or would want us to duplicate the public dollars spent with regards to this jurisdiction.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon.

Alberta Wildlife Park

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Premier. The Premier is no doubt aware from his Minister of Recreation and Parks that there was a news conference this morning saying that the wildlife park and Aunt Helen's zoo will be moved, if financing and other things can be worked out, to the Enoch Indian band land outside town. Now, this is interesting, because the zoo was in Tory country before and Freddie the giraffe is now going to be an NDP'er, I think. The Premier has met with Helen Ridgeway. He well knows that Helen Ridgeway put her life savings, over \$100,000, into the wildlife park, which it now appears will be disassembled and moved. Has the Premier made any arrangements to recompense or help out Mrs. Ridgeway for her donation? She's kept something alive for the children all these years.

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ridgeway is a very charming, delightful Albertan, and I enjoy meeting with her. I found her to be a person who has a belief, and much has been created in our country by people who believe in things. Therefore, I respect her very much.

Now, I would like to see some type of foundation or some type of perpetual support for the Helen Ridgeway petting zoo in any arrangement we or the foundation can conclude for the continued operation of the Alberta Wildlife Park at the Enoch location or any location. I would hope that we will be able to make sure Helen Ridgeway's efforts are recognized and continued.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker, those are good words, and I hope the Premier will live up to them.

There is a possibility, Mr. Speaker, that the Enoch band, because federal funds are involved and regulatory processes changed around, will not go ahead. Would the Premier then give his assurance that there will be no more dillydallying and if the Enoch band doesn't go ahead Aunt Helen can continue with her dream in the park where it's at?

MR. GETTY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is raising a hypothetical situation, and I wouldn't want to speculate on something that might or might not happen. What I would like to see, though, is the Alberta Wildlife Park continue, hopefully as is currently being suggested, and I would also like to see it opened as soon as possible.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we proceed any further, would there be unanimous consent to revert to Introduction of Special Guests?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Family and Social Services.

Introduction of Special Guests (reversion)

MR. OLDRING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a real pleasure for me to be able to introduce to you and through you to the Members of the Legislative Assembly a very special young lady in my life. My daughter Kelly is here, and she's accompanied by 71 of her fellow grade 6 students from Mountview elementary school. They in turn are accompanied by teachers Mr. Louis Pelletier, Mr. Descortes Auguste, Mr. Greg Atkinson, Mr. Frank Dallaire and by parents Mrs. Maryann Brown, Mrs. Val Sandall, and Mrs. Audrey Oram. They are seated in the members' and public galleries. I would ask that they rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Rocky Mountain House.

MR. LUND: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce to you and to other members of the Assembly some 49 students from the school in Caroline, the home of the three-time winner of the men's world figure skating championship, Kurt Browning. They're accompanied by their teachers Mike Leavitt and Karen King, along with teacher aide Valerie McLean and parents Brenda Edwards, Wonda Pengelly, Velda McQuiston, Betty Bugbee, Leslie Detta, Shirley Morrell, and Dave Weaver. They're seated in the public gallery, and I would ask them to rise while members give them the traditional warm welcome.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Jasper has given the Chair notice of a point of order.

Point of Order Factual Accuracy

MR. McINNIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to draw all members' attention to *Beauchesne* 410, which is the most recent pronouncement of the Speaker regarding question period in the modern electronic age, and, if I may, in particular to subclause (5) which states that

the primary purpose of the Question Period is the seeking of information and calling the government to account.

Now, earlier in question period efforts were made to do that in respect of certain cutbacks and services to senior citizens, and the Premier in particular denied that any cutback had taken place. It was at that point that I attempted to draw the Premier to order, because I really think you can't deny the experience of seniors who have to pay for what they didn't have to pay for before.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. member, the reason the Chair interrupted is that the Chair has a duty to promote decorum in the Chamber, particularly since the introduction of television because television tends to distort some things. The perception of heckling during question period is not good to anybody who observes the proceedings. It also wastes time, and time is scarce in question period. As the hon. member knows, *Beauchesne* also says that no matter how many times a question is asked, there's no way in the world of forcing an answer that is satisfactory to the questioner.

Orders of the Day

3:30

Written Questions

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I move that the written questions appearing on today's Order Paper stand and retain their place except for following: 349, 385, 388, 389, and 390.

[Motion carried]

Peat Marwick Thorne Inc.

349. Mr. Chumir asked the government the following question: What is the purpose and what are the terms and conditions of the \$2,500,000 Crown guarantee advanced to Peat Marwick Thorne Inc. for the year ended March 31, 1990?

MR. GOGO: The government rejects that question, Mr. Speaker.

FC Communications

385. Mr. Decore asked the government the following question: In all contracts awarded by the government to FC Communications, did that company take part in a tender call before the work was awarded to that company in the fiscal year 1989-90?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, the government will accept Written Question 385.

Olympia & York Office Lease

388. Mr. Decore asked the government the following question: With regard to the payment of \$2,349,994 to Olympia & York Developments Ltd. by the Department of Public Works, Supply and Services during the fiscal year 1989-90, (1) did Olympia & York participate in a public tender call before being awarded the government's business; (2) at the time the lease was signed, was there less expensive space available on the market; and (3) before the lease was signed, did the government evaluate other available space as an alternative to the Olympia & York space?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, the government is prepared to accept Written Question 388.

Hemisphere Engineering Inc.

389. Mr. Decore asked the government the following question: In the case of the payment of \$49,027 to Hemisphere Engineering Inc. by the Department of Public Works, Supply and Services during the fiscal year 1989-90, did Hemisphere Engineering Inc. participate in a public tender call before being awarded the government's business?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, as well, the government is prepared to accept that question.

Hayhurst Public Relations

390. Mr. Decore asked the government the following question: Did Hayhurst public relations participate in public tender calls with respect to services for a \$34,400 payment by the Public Affairs Bureau during the fiscal year 1989-90?

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, the government will also accept Written Question 390.

head: **Motions for Returns**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

MR. GOGO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that Motion 216 should prove most interesting to all members, the government would move that all motions for returns appearing on today's Order Paper stand and retain their places on the Order Paper.

[Motion carried]

head: Motions Other than Government Motions

Education Partnerships

216. Moved by Mr. Hyland:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to stimulate the building of an effective partnership between schools, parents, businesses, and communities by encouraging parents, businesses, and communities to become better involved in schools.

[Adjourned debate June 4: Mrs. Gagnon]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Calgary-McKnight.

MRS. GAGNON: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will try to pick up the threads of the debate which we began on Tuesday on what I think is a very important motion which talks about the need for partnership between schools, parents, businesses, and the community. On Tuesday when members spoke to this motion, we all talked about the need for volunteers in our schools. I know that 25 years ago I was a volunteer co-ordinator in my children's school, and we had up to 60 parents a week coming into the school to volunteer, so it is extremely important. Schools are one of the few institutions which are trusted by the community. Many families choose a school, build their home near the school, and then build their life around the local schools. Schools are extremely important, and it is wonderful that we have partnerships.

Today, however, I want to concentrate on another aspect that was not mentioned, or very little, if at all, on Tuesday and that would be the need for partnership between business and community and school. The main focus of these programs, of course, as with the program of partnership with parents – the purpose of it is to increase the human resources available to the students and the staff. In the case of the business and community partnerships, it is to extend the experience of both the business, the community, and the students. In Calgary there are 34 corporate partnership programs in place, and in Edmonton there are seven. These allow both students and businesses to gain greater insight into each other's worlds, something that is very, very important.

Those programs which are in place at the senior high school level spoke of the way in which the program allows and provides insight into the real world of work for the student. Some of the knowledge which is supplemented for students and which is provided, therefore, by the businesses is marketing techniques, new computer technology, hands-on work experience, exposure to business decision-making and problem solving, and volunteer experience in the public relations orientation of many businesses.

Businesses gain as well. When Stuart Olson Construction got new computers, the computing students from J. Percy Page high tutored the staff at Stuart Olson. At the elementary level the partnership provides students with role models in nontraditional occupations. This is particularly applicable in such areas as women in engineering and the science professions. They also engage in a number of projects, including displaying student

artwork in the business place and sponsorship of writing contests, science fairs, and design contests for logos and emblems. The businesses also provide guest speakers for the schools on a variety of topics. The schools then may tour businesses and other related environments which the businesses have as colleagues, and in some cases corporations also provide career counseling, including mock interviews and résumé consultations.

In my own riding at John G. Diefenbaker high school in Calgary there's been a partnership with IBM for two and a half years. IBM does all of the above plus has also helped to place students in work/study groups and has set up a yearly tour of IBM that is designed to show students the real work environment. This includes having students find their own way to the offices and allowing them to observe office protocol and dress requirements. As well, employees have accompanied students on biology field trips and have at year-end compiled an anthology of student artwork and writing and made it available to all students. IBM also provided an individual to take part in a recent mock parliament, which was attended by both the Member for Calgary-Mountain View and myself at that same school. The partnership with business is extremely positive. I think it helps to allay the fears or get rid of the myth on the part of some businesses that nothing is happening in our schools and that our students are not receiving what is truly a quality education in a number of areas.

As regards the community partnership with schools, here in Edmonton partnerships also take place with service groups. Again, I think it is important to note the partnership between Jasper Place composite high and the Misericordia hospital, and Duggan elementary school and the Golden Gate Lions Club. The students from Jasper Place high school and the Misericordia hospital engage in a number of service activities together. These include tutoring ill students in the hospital, volunteer media coverage – they do a number of newsletters – and the students perform music for geriatric patients in the hospital. The beauty culture students do the hair of hospital patients, and they also provide friendship and opportunity for discussion especially on the part of seniors in hospitals and young people, which gives the seniors a sense of belonging, of knowing what is happening in the community, and of knowing how the students' perceptions change and how values are changing through the years. It does provide a type of experience in the reality of the life of students. The program is subject to ongoing evaluation by hospital reps as well as school officials, who meet monthly. It is a very, very positive approach to education.

At Duggan elementary school here in Edmonton, the partnership with the Golden Gate Lions Club has been official since February 14, 1991. Every class has been involved in activities, such as grade 2 students canvassing with the Lions Club members for the Kidney Foundation, learning-disabled students helping prepare meals for the needy at the Bissell Centre, kindergarten kids who bring a toy from home for the poor, having bake sales at the CNIB, and recently grade 1 students taking other children from the Bissell Centre to the zoo and then out for ice cream. They took them there as their guests. I think this is extremely positive and again shows that it is possible to create community if we arrange for experiences between students, staff, parents, and members of the broader community. I would like to note that as regards the Duggan elementary partnership with the Golden Gate Lions Club, they were disappointed that they got no media coverage, and I did promise when I did research on this matter that I would mention

their project specifically in the House because it is certainly worthy of notice.

3:40

There are few arguments against enhanced partnerships. The ATA, for instance, has some serious reservations, although they have no official policy on these programs, and here I'm talking about the programs of partnership between business, corporations, and the schools. They would caution that the programs must be kept at arm's distance, and they would not want the students to become captive audiences to the corporate partners. They also worry that the program would accelerate and become an American style adopt-a-school program, which would allow the department to back out of some of the funding arrangements and allow the corporations to take over some of the funding. They also worry that the businesses may exert too much pressure or influence over curriculum choices. I would note as an example that they are concerned about too much of a heavy emphasis on the science courses, although I certainly would not think we have to worry about that at this time. The ATA also is a bit concerned about the danger that at the elementary level young students have not learned to be somewhat skeptical of the influence which they are subjected to.

Mr. Speaker, I realize we must take seriously the caution of the ATA in this matter, but I don't think we are in any danger that any of these areas of concern would become problems as long as we are all quite vigilant. An individual at the local school board in Calgary, the Calgary board, also expressed some reservations, although not with the partnership program but that some difficulties may arise through partnerships with service groups as opposed to partnerships with businesses. Service groups who rely on a small volunteer base and don't have a huge resource of volunteers may begin to depend on the schools to provide them with their volunteers, something that school officials must be cautious about. There also exists a danger, although remote, that volunteer service agencies may wish to participate in a program specifically to access additional volunteer adult labour through students' parents. Again, I wouldn't be too concerned about it, but it is something that school officials must guard against.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, I think that all of the schools which are involved in partnerships with business and community are very, very pleased with the programs. Unfortunately, as was mentioned earlier this week, many of these programs are somewhat exclusive to the cities and need to be expanded into the smaller communities. I don't think it would be especially difficult to establish partnerships with community agencies and community service organizations. As I say, the benefit of creating a sense of community and a sense of co-operation is so important that I'm sure that once the program is well known, a number of people would want to be on board.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased that the member brought forward this motion because I think it has given many of us an opportunity to think carefully about the kinds of communities which our schools relate to. The schools cannot operate in isolation. They definitely need to be in touch with the community, with the service groups, with the volunteer groups, with the business groups that create the wealth in the community, so that the schools feel a sense of belonging, a sense of being part of it all.

Mr. Speaker, I support this motion, and I am very happy to move it at this time unless there are other members who wish to further the debate. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Smoky River.

MR. PASZKOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's also my pleasure to rise and speak in support of this motion. I feel very strongly about this form of education and as we discussed in Motion 204, which unfortunately the opposition chose not to allow to proceed. I think that was an opportunity that our Alberta youth was deprived of, and I feel very, very displeased for the youth of Alberta as a result of that. I want to basically indicate that Motion 216 follows in the pattern and in the footsteps of what Motion 204 was about, and that was basically the introduction of entrepreneurial education into the education system of Alberta. This is a further step and one that I think we all have not only a right but a duty to support.

There's been a fair amount of work done in the Smoky River constituency, particularly in the Sexsmith area, where a partnership agreement is going to be signed this coming Monday. As I understand, the minister will be there as well to help participate in the official signing ceremony between the Sexsmith high school and the Northern Lite Canola plant. It's going to allow the students to participate in their first opportunity to become involved in the business world, in the commercial world, in finding and feeling what the workplace is all about. For that I'm very pleased, and I know that the children as well as the business community within the area are very excited about it.

The consultation process in the development of this has been in the development stage for some time. The parents have taken a very active interest and have been extremely involved. The children have been involved. The plant itself and the employees as well as the staff of the plant have been involved in the development of this process. I think that's really what we want to encourage. I am pleased that the previous speaker was very supportive of this motion as well, and I think that's a very positive, objective approach to the issue.

The education of our young people is one of paramount responsibility to us all as Albertans, and certainly it behooves us as politicians to be supportive of this very venture. I want to compliment the hon. Member for Cypress-Redcliff, who's developed this motion and brought it forward. I think it's a very, very positive step in the development of the education process in Alberta. I think he should be recognized for his contribution.

I think we should perhaps in the process spend a little time exploring what some of the other jurisdictions within Canada are doing as far as a partnership in education is concerned, not only Canada but all of North America perhaps, because we're not the first. There have been other jurisdictions that have developed and spent some time in the development of this process.

Let's look at British Columbia, for example. There are several government initiatives in the education process that are similar to those in Alberta. For example, business has been involved in the development of curriculum through a steering committee comprised of educators, representatives from the Business Council of B.C., and the B.C. Chamber of Commerce. More recently, through the partnership in education initiative, businesses actually come into the school and give presentations about their businesses and about what skills or courses are necessary to succeed in their field. One aspect of this initiative, the preapprenticeship program, allows employers to come into schools to discuss the skills and courses necessary for entrance into their apprenticeship programs.

Spend a moment in Saskatchewan. Parent/teacher advisory boards are very notable in Saskatchewan, and as in Alberta, the Saskatchewan parent advisory boards are associated with one

school. The mandate of these boards is to meet with other parent groups, obtain input on specific education issues from them, and advise the school staff accordingly.

Let's look at New Brunswick. New Brunswick has recently embarked on an interesting partnership initiative in an effort to mold budding entrepreneurs throughout the school system. This ties in very closely with their entrepreneurial program as well. In the past year I had an opportunity of meeting with some of the educators from New Brunswick, and I think it's important that we note that they have placed this whole process in a very, very high profile, and they felt that this had to be one of the leading developments in the formulation of a new education policy. I think it's important that we recognize the need for it in Alberta as well.

3:50

In New Brunswick they consulted with a Toronto-based organization, the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education. This group helped to redesign the school system from kindergarten to grade 12 by infusing it with the language of business. That is so important. So rather than "See Dick and Jane run," it's now "See Dick and Jane balance the books." Instead of math problems involving apples and oranges, it is profits, losses, and bottom lines. I know the opposition members next to us really don't spend a great deal of effort and concern about profit and loss; it's just a matter of government providing more and more. I think that's unfortunate, because profit and loss is really so important to us as we develop in our own business process.

Gary Rabbior, the executive director of the organization, who helped to redesign the New Brunswick curriculum, feels that students need to learn in an environment which encourages self-confidence and allows children to set short-term goals. Obviously, this opinion is shared by others. As a recent news article states, the province hopes that by giving young people an understanding of business concepts, it will produce citizens who can turn around New Brunswick's chronic have-not status.

Let's look at the United States. Several years ago American partnerships such as the adopt-a-school program in California began when American businesses were dissatisfied with the attitudes and low skill levels of the youth pool from which they were hiring. They were also concerned about the poor status and training of teachers, the need for textbook upgrading, longer time periods in school, improved levels of technical training, more intensive career counseling, and increased levels of funding for education. They felt that with their help, many of these problems could be alleviated, with the result that they would have better prepared, trained employees for the workplace. To some degree, these partnerships have been successful. To some degree, they've failed, but that's no different than any other process. What they did for Alberta was influence development of the Calgary board of education partnership program, which my colleague has already alluded to.

Let's look at some previous partnership initiatives. Alberta Education has paired up successfully in the case of the Alberta Chamber of Resources and the Chamber of Commerce as well. In this partnership the education committee of the Alberta Chamber of Resources is sponsoring a comparative study of science and mathematics programs in Japan, in Hungary, and in Alberta. In this co-operative effort, the Alberta Chamber of Resources is providing the project manager and Alberta Education is providing the appropriate textbook and office space. While this successful venture certainly is to be commended, it is not enough. More needs to be done to ensure that Alberta students obtain the best education preparation for

their entrance into the work force or into the postsecondary institutions.

I'd like to turn now to how Alberta can benefit from increased community, business, and parent participation in the education of our students. First of all, it must be clear that all partnership initiatives must be guided by the principle that both the partner and the school must see mutual, ongoing benefits in the partnership agreement. If this is not the case, there is little reason for the partnership to continue. However, if it does exist, everyone benefits. There is considerable goodwill between the community, business, or parent involved and the school. The student has an increased chance of being successful in today's complex world. The business has benefited from the positive PR that has been generated, and the school has a better idea what skills must be taught to the students in order to enable them to succeed.

I feel it's so important, Mr. Speaker, that we recognize the true need and the true intention of what it is that we are trying to educate the students for. We have to recognize that these students are being prepared to enter the workplace, and we must provide them with the ammunition and with the information that they need to be successful in this workplace. It's a very competitive workplace and one which you must recognize the needs for. At this time I think this type of a process would be very supportive and very helpful in the development of the needs of our students. I think it's important that we train our students to become leaders so that students recognize the need that this type of development takes in order to be a leader. Even if they're not the leader in the community, they recognize what the needs are of the leaders and they better fit into the overall pattern, rather than the followers that we are today educating.

We really don't have any established, formal process where we train the children to become the leaders in the community or the business developers. What we do, basically, is train our students to be involved in the community of the workplace, and I don't think that's fair to our students. I think it's important that we allow our students more of an opportunity to be the basic designers of the direction that our country follows. Once we've achieved that, I think our goals will never ever be set too high, because our students will be surpassing them on an ongoing basis.

Again I want to compliment the hon. member for bringing this motion forward, and I would urge that all members in the House support this motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

MS CALAHASEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed an honour for me to be able to support the hon. Member for Cypress-Redcliff's motion regarding partnership in education. As a former teacher I certainly see something which I feel is very important in partnerships in education, for not only are we talking about the education of children, but we are also talking about education for the society, the whole cultural society we have today.

I think that when we look at what's being taught in schools, we have to include all stakeholders, not only the parents but also the businesses and the community at large. When we do that, we ensure that those ideas that the people from our community are giving are going to be taken into consideration, and partnership is just one way. Partnership does not mean only talking about how to educate children, but it's also talking about how to include some of the curriculum that is relevant to ensuring

that our students are ready for the 21st century and forward. Mr. Speaker, I think of not only including parents within this whole context of teaching the children but also in reviewing curriculum. I think it's very important for parents and businesses to be involved in a co-operative manner in ways that we can ensure that education becomes meaningful for all students in the province of Alberta.

To talk about education, I believe that we also have to be able to take care of some of the diversities and particularly some of the concerns within the rural communities in our province. Sometimes the rural communities are forgotten when we're looking at curriculum and particularly in dealing with some of the information that should be taught within the schools. I believe that whenever we talk about the differences that there are between a federal government and a provincial government, we should consider the small communities in order for us to be able to see certain things happen which will reflect the rural community's views in education. The community schools concept is certainly one way we can go to ensure that every single stakeholder involved in education is brought forward to be able to deal with their curriculum content, the subjects that are involved, the way students should be taught. Parents should be involved in not only delivery of education but also to ensure that in anything that has to do with educating children, they are indeed partners with all the people involved in educating those children.

I think there's a need when we look at the whole of the students. Sometimes we only think about the subject matter, and I think education must have an end in view, for it is not an end in itself. I think it's something that we have to take into consideration when we're starting to develop a curriculum which will involve educating children to be able to meet the needs of the next century or so. I believe that with this matter in mind in terms of making sure that we have a partnership involved, this will ensure that not only parents' views get heard but also the businesses, and that we also take into consideration every other stakeholder in education. I believe education is not just one group's responsibility but rather the responsibility of all people in the province: all people who have children in education and all people who are contributing to our society. Children should know the parameters of education and its boundaries. Without that, without the involvement of all people, we will not know what boundaries there should be within the educational field.

4:00

As we begin to educate children without them knowing the parameters within which they should be going or should have, I feel that we're developing children who do not know what should be done or what they should be prepared for and that sometimes when it becomes only one group's responsibility, then those particular views are not being listened to. I believe we have to begin to do that. I think when we're looking at that, we have to start looking at the benefits to the community at large and we have to include the parents in order for us to be able ensure that we begin to meet the needs of not only the students but also of people within our community. I think sometimes we forget about that.

When we listen to some of the people speaking, we forget sometimes that education is a journey we have to be able to lead the kids through. What is the journey? I think the journey is what we call the voyage of life. I believe when we have the responsibility of this particular mandate of making sure that we involve everyone, we have to look at what it is, what kind of journey we're making our kids go through, what voyage they are

going through. It's like the song Doris Day sang: *Que Sera Sera*, whatever will be, will be. Mr. Speaker, I think that particular song really does not lead the students to make sure that they set goals for themselves or at least the community at large be able to set for themselves. The difference, I think, between losers and winners in that sense is what the song should have been, and that's "Que quero sera": whatever you wish or whatever you will or whatever you want, will be.

I think we have to start making sure that we begin to change the system in order for us to be able to meet those needs and to be able to see that we can lead the students to be able to do what they need to do. I think that as we begin to see people change, we have to make sure that they have the basics of education, and the only way I feel you can get basics in education is to involve all stakeholders in any decision that's going to be brought forward regarding education for all our students. Without that I believe we are going to be at a loss, and I think we have to make sure that those particular parameters, as I call them, of education or developing educational items or the delivery of education, be considered where there is the partnership forum.

I believe my colleague from Cypress-Redcliff certainly has a vision here which I feel has not been dealt with in as good a detail as it should have been for the years to come. I think we have to start involving people, because it's not only the content but also where we're leading the people as they set the voyage. We have to start looking at how we are going to be able to accomplish those particular goals in order for us to be able to lead the children to paths which I feel they need to be led to. I'm thinking about not only do we include the parents and the businesses from the passenger's seat where they are presently, but we move them into a driver's seat, which means they then have to be able to think of what it is that they have to do and be able to cater to those students in order for us to be able to get these students in that passenger's seat instead of always changing like a thermometer. Then they become the thermostats and are able to set the thermostat to what it is that they have to achieve. I think there are many things that we can do there.

When we move from a passenger's seat to a driver's seat, we have to be able to have the appropriate resources. In that I must reiterate the fact that we've got to involve everybody and any resources that we have; two, that we've got to have the skills to use those resources; and third, I think we have to have a clearer goal. That particular goal, I feel, has been articulated very well by my colleague from Cypress-Redcliff. We have to have a plan or a strategy to get there. I feel the partnership approach is just one plan, and it's a strategy for us to be able to get to where we have to go.

Five, I think we have to accept that responsibility for us to be able to ensure that we involve all people who are stakeholders in the educational field. Without that, Mr. Speaker, I feel that we are a ship without a rudder. I think that we have to ensure that anybody who is involved in education – we have to ensure that we get their input in whichever way possible in order for us to be able to go.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Cypress-Redcliff to close debate.

MR. HYLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My seatmate told me that she didn't have a lot of notes on her speech. It seems like she pulled off a pretty good speech with very little notes. I notice she kept turning her paper over. It was blank on the

back, so she'd turn it forward again, and went on for another two or three minutes.

MR. DINNING: It's because you both write the same; you can't read it.

MR. HYLAND: And that was said by the Minister of Education: it's because we both write the same that we can't read it. That is really like the pot calling the kettle black.

Mr. Speaker, it's been an interesting debate. This is one of two or three motions that I've had in the Legislature over the years that have passed, that have had support from all sides of the House. Sometimes when that happens, one wonders about what you do.

MRS. GAGNON: It's called co-operation.

MR. HYLAND: The hon. member said it's called co-operation. It does show that when it comes to questions related to basic questions like education and how communities should be involved in the schools, such as this motion suggests, all sides of the House really do cross lines and people think alike enough so they can support the same kind of motion.

Just a few short comments, Mr. Speaker, about some of the things that were said. One of the members questioned that when I first started my speech, I made comments related to section 93, and it was taken as if I was talking about the education Act. Really – and I didn't review my comments closely – I thought I had said "the Constitution Act" rather than the education Act. I was referring to the powers under section 93 of the Constitution Act.

Mr. Speaker, relating to some of the concerns that were said about fears and concerns the Alberta Teachers' Association would have. Before I introduced this motion – as I said during my speech, I meet once or twice a year with the Alberta Teachers' Association to talk to them about their concerns. We have had several discussions related to community involvement in the schools and what part parents and community can take in the activities of the schools. This motion, I should repeat, in no way is intended to replace teachers. It's intended to supplement, to use them as information to teach certain things or to encourage students to learn certain things that teachers don't normally teach. It could be that you could bring into your classroom somebody who has a particular hobby with something and could really enthuse the kids in this project, whereas a teacher could be trying to do it through book learning.

At least the teachers that I represent agree with that, Mr. Speaker. The vast majority of them like to see people in their classroom so that when something does happen, it isn't automatically that Johnny is right and teacher is wrong. They see how the classroom works, they see how the school works, and they know that things can happen in the school. They know that dynamics can happen in the school, and they don't overreact and always assume that their child is right and the teacher is dead wrong, because as I believe and as members before me have said and as the Member for Lesser Slave Lake said, education is a journey or a voyage in life. If we are to teach the children that voyage so they can take over when it is their turn to take over society, then they can honestly learn to work co-operatively with each other and with other people.

4:10

What are partnerships? Let's use our imagination. Partnerships can be any combination of people, any combination of

groups. Why put it down in black and white? Let's leave it flexible so that things can move and they can be dynamic and we can have interesting things happen in the schools and everybody shares in those happenings, not just teachers that are often asked more and more to teach our kids things related to schooling, related to society. It is time we all take our responsibilities related to that education and that we go ahead and we accept these responsibilities and put them into force and into fact through co-operation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all members to support the motion. Thank you.

[Motion carried]

Beef Grading

217. Moved by Mr. Fischer:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to encourage the federal government to proceed with negotiating a beef grading regime that will allow the Alberta cattle industry to have competitive access to United States markets and enhanced marketing options.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Wainwright.

MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to bring forward Motion 217. I realize that there has already been a lot of work done on this issue by the federal government, and their plans are to have a new grading system by January of 1992. However, I want this motion to support them and to encourage them to continue. Meat grading changes have been talked about and proposed a number of times before, and until the proper, compatible, convertible system is in place, the cattle industry is not going to rest.

No one knows why Alberta cattle produce the best beef in the world. Many ranchers think that it may be the lush, high-quality grass they graze on or the high-protein barley they munch in their last few days before they go to market. Some also think that it might be the fresh mountain water or the years of careful herd management which has determined their genetics. Whatever the reason, Canadian and Alberta live cattle enjoy an international reputation for quality that is second to none. Cattle breeders all over the world come to Canada to purchase our breeding stock and to improve their herds and try to bring them up to Canadian standards.

But what happens to these envied standards when our cattle are processed? They are drained out with the blood, because our Canadian meat grading system is not easily recognized or completely understood by our export buyers. Within Canada we feel that we have a superior grading system, and we like it, but our export buyers totally relate to the American system of American choice and American select. This technical problem must be resolved before our beef packing industry in Alberta can capitalize on our comparative advantages. It seems like we in this country feel that we have the best grading system in the world; however, it isn't much good if no one understands it and will buy our product.

As we shift further towards growing markets in the Pacific Northwest, California, and the Pacific Rim, the more need there is for a new grading system. The Alberta cattle industry produces an excellent product for our domestic and export markets, and Canada must have a grading regime that will allow this quality product to penetrate and have competitive access to these markets. Canada's beef grading system must be more

export friendly, one that is easily understood by our foreign buyers for maximum sales and profits. This motion encourages the federal government to continue to negotiate and enhance, and there are a lot of particulars yet to be worked out that will make this system so that it benefits our cattle producers.

Many wonder why all the concern over our grading system, but as it now exists, we have an artificial trade barrier which penalizes our Canadian exports. They want that problem rectified. Beef grading systems vary throughout the world. The American system is most readily accepted and the one that's best understood by two of the world's largest beef buyers, the Americans and the Japanese, and as there is currently no equivalency between the Canadian and American systems and because the Canadian system does not currently have any marbling component, Canadian exports have been limited.

The American beef grading system is based on maturity, marbling, and carcass quality. It involves seven grades within two broad categories: high quality youthful beef and lesser quality mature beef. Each grade has within it a yield component. Within the high-quality category two main grades exist: the U.S. choice, with moderate to small amounts of marbling, and U.S. select, with slight marbling.

Now, our Canadian system has subcategories within each of its five grading categories, and similar to that of the U.S., it takes into account maturity, carcass quality, and meat yield. However, the Canadian system does not at this time consider the marbling factor. Therefore, there is no possibility of any grade equivalency between Canada and the U.S. That also makes it so there is no equivalency between the Canadian and Asian Pacific markets as well. What we are trying to do or want to do is have a system that will have equivalency and will be able to be converted to other systems around the world. The Japanese, for example, have a very intricate grading system which includes, amongst other things, 12 different grade designations for marbling.

Given that Alberta's beef is the best quality in the world, it doesn't make sense that the Americans and the Japanese buy such relatively small amounts. It seems logical that their grading system must be one of the barriers. Canadian exporters want a better system, one that is more flexible in terms of penetrating those diverse markets, one that will make our excellent beef more attractive to our international buyers. There be seems to be some progress being made in this area. It's hoped that the federal government will be moving to a modified system which does include the marbling component, and we hope that it is coming in in January of 1992.

Regardless of the implementation of the new grading system, we still have to make sure that the equivalency with the U.S. follows, or else our foreign buyers haven't gained anything. Further, we have to make sure that we can get the beef across the border. Cattle producers want a trading environment that fairly supports our Canadian beef products within competitive export markets.

4:20

Since 1986 cattle producers have been selling more live cattle into the U.S. rather than the boxed beef. In the last five years live cattle exports to the U.S. have doubled. American packers know that they will get a good price for this high-quality beef product, so they are able to offer producers substantial payments for live cattle. They also know that the economies of scale and packaging are such in the U.S. that they can make a profit selling Alberta cattle slaughtered in the U.S., graded in the U.S. with their U.S. choice or U.S. select stamp, back into Alberta as

boxed beef. Since 1986 three times as much boxed beef is being imported back into Alberta from the U.S. There are other comparative advantages which the Americans have over Canadians and Albertans, including interest rates, differences in the dollar, and particularly labour costs, but the grading system is also a major problem. As a result, substantial numbers of jobs in the packing industry are being created in the U.S. through processing Alberta beef. The spin-off economic benefits remain in the U.S. These jobs and economic spin-offs should rightly be here in Alberta, and we are going to get them back here.

Ontario, on the other hand, currently imports the majority of their beef and veal from the United States. These Ontario imports amounted to 43 million pounds in 1986, and it was 152 million pounds last year. It is interesting that in Canada we usually consume and produce about the same amount of beef. However, a lot of it gets funneled into the U.S. and back up into Ontario. As I said, many of the jobs and spin-offs are benefiting the U.S. Canadians and Albertans have tried to make a profit by shipping domestically packaged beef across the border to the U.S., but unfortunately there have been a number of problems with the American border inspection on beef going south. Canadian beef exporters and producers are more reluctant to ship boxed beef to the U.S. with the high costs associated with reinspection and repackaging. The Americans do not seem to have any trouble getting their beef into Canada. The published rejection rates are three times higher going into the U.S. than they are coming back into Canada.

The federal government and a number of the provinces have been in formal negotiations with American officials to see that the grading regime is improved, and as yet these efforts have not borne fruit. Both our Minister of Agriculture, Ernie Isley, and former Minister of Agriculture Mazankowski have sought co-operation from the U.S. on matters of reciprocal grading and equivalency grading. Double-stamping carcasses as Canadian grade A and U.S. choice was thought to be a solution to our grading problems, but the Americans will not sanction such changes because of the politics in it and the costs. They have said that this would be setting a dangerous precedent; they could not establish such a relationship with all other trading partners, and therefore they could not do so with Canada.

Another option they discussed was for Canada to give up its current system for an entirely American system. This option had faced much resistance with some producers and certainly with government bureaucracies who feel that the superiority of our Canadian product is best shown by the current system of letters and numbers we now have.

I think it's very important to note that our livestock, as I've mentioned before, is superior and has been proven to be superior, and we want it graded that way. Others would like to see the grading or the slotting of these carcasses into categories stopped, preferring a classification system whereby each individual carcass is described specifically based on formulas. The buyers then could equate how each carcass meets their needs. Considering that this would be very time-consuming and costly, cattle producers are not willing to move to this more sophisticated system at this time, and I do agree. It's important to keep in mind as well that the more sophisticated the system gets, the less it sells, as it is much more difficult to market to foreign buyers and, most importantly, to the foreign customers. They don't want to have to go into the store and do a study on the grading system before they buy their meat.

The bottom line is that the problem exists within the current grading regime, and beef producers want the artificial trade barrier brought down. Whatever the mechanisms used, Cana-

dian exporters are currently restrained by a grading system that is not readily accepted by our buyers and by a tense regulatory environment. Not only is a new grading system important for beef producers, but the profits and the economic spin-offs are also very important here to Albertans. The current beef grading regime must be made more export friendly. Sales are critical to the continued development of a stable, diversified economy for this province. The 1990 value of Alberta international exports is in excess of \$17 billion, employing some 300,000 Albertans. This is up 19 percent from 1989 and since free trade became a reality. We must note that each billion dollars equates to 19,000 jobs in this province. That is the importance of accommodating our foreign buyers; employed Albertans certainly make a lot of purchases and drive the economy in this province.

Alberta production, one of the economic strengths in the Alberta economy since the province was created, must continue to be tapped as a source of great wealth for Albertans. Agricultural production must be exploited through every possible value-added opportunity, the benefits of which must stay here in the province. In 1988, 34,000 Alberta cattlemen made \$1.4 billion. This enormous economic gain generated a spin-off benefit estimated at \$8.4 billion, so I think we can all agree how valuable that industry is to us here in Alberta.

The major export markets for the products are currently in the Pacific Northwest and California. The Canada Beef Export Federation hopes that Canada will be shipping some \$300 million U.S. worth of beef to Japan by the end of the decade, and with the European markets to begin opening up in 1992, there is even more speculation for additional . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. The Chair hesitates to interrupt the hon. member, but pursuant to Standing Order 8(3), we are required to move to the next order of business.

head: **Public Bills and Orders Other than**
head: **Government Bills and Orders**
head: **Second Reading**

4:30

Bill 210
Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value Act

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore.

MS M. LAING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel honoured today to bring forward to this Assembly Bill 210, Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value Act. This Bill provides for pay equity legislation that would include the public and private sectors, union and nonunion workers. It would establish a pay equity bureau and a hearing tribunal to aid in the implementation of pay equity schemes. It would apply to women who are employed in doing what is traditionally understood as women's work in what are our pink ghettos, and it would apply to one-person job classes. This Bill therefore would address many of the concerns about other pay equity legislation and its failure to address the problems inherent in the ghettoization of women into work that is traditionally done by women. This legislation provides for broad public consultation and an evaluation of the Act and its operation after seven years. This legislation provides a blueprint for an implementation of pay equity plans and for penalties for noncompliance. This legislation also limits the cost to only 1 percent of an employer's payroll in the 12-year period prior to the first adjustments.

[Mr. Moore in the Chair]

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this legislation is to redress systemic gender discrimination in compensation for work performed by employees in female job classes. This Bill addresses an age-old injustice perpetrated against women, an injustice first declared by Moses when he said that a woman was worth 30 shekels of silver and a man was worth 50, and an injustice reported in yesterday's news, that women's middle employment income in 1989 was about 55.9 percent of men's and that women in Alberta made the least progress in Canada in closing that gap. It is not good enough to say, as the minister said, that Alberta women enjoy a higher level of income than other Canadian women. The issue is the wage gap and the unfairness, the injustice, and the violence inherent in that gap. That injustice is evidenced in average incomes for full-time work, wherein women earn approximately 65 cents on the dollar. The result of that injustice is the poverty suffered by women and their children and the increasing feminization of poverty, including the increasing numbers of older women who live in poverty due in part to low wages which result in relatively lower pensions.

In 1975 the International Labour Office in Geneva, in a report *Equality of Opportunity & Treatment for Women Workers*, stated:

Almost everywhere there remains a clear division of labour by sex with jobs labeled as "men's work" and "women's work" . . . It creates a situation in which work traditionally done . . . by women is accorded lower pay and prestige . . . It has no inherent logic.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill would correct the traditional practice of undervaluing and underpaying work traditionally done by women. This Bill corrects an injustice that would not be tolerated by any other group. We know in the years up to now that ending discrimination costs money, but no one would dare raise the suggestion that a reason for continuing to pay black people or ethnic minority people or native people less than white people could be justified by that it would cost, yet we often hear the concern for costs as the reason for the failure to end the economic discrimination against women.

Mr. Speaker, in this century we have seen a movement towards the emancipation of women as part of our commitment to a more just and equitable society. In 1916, 75 years ago, the women of Alberta obtained the vote. In 1929, 62 years ago, the Persons case brought forward by Alberta women to the Privy Council in Great Britain accorded women the status of "person" so that they were entitled to rights and privileges. In 1951, 40 years ago, equal pay for equal work legislation was brought forward.

None of these achievements were obtained without struggle and naysayers predicting the demise of society, the death of economic order, the loss of status and privilege, and who knows what else for women, as if being voiceless and without political power, without rights of personhood and control over one's own body and life, and being subject to economic discrimination and injustice are privileges to which we should cling. Over the years we have acted to correct the injustices suffered by women by virtue of their being women.

Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for Labour and women has often referred to Judge Abella's seminal work on pay equity, and the words "seminal work" are the minister's words. The minister reports that Judge Abella recognizes job segregation as contributing to the gap between the earnings of men and women, something few of us would dispute. Although Judge Abella supports and encourages women to enter nontraditional jobs, as does the minister, who is especially proud of her Stepping Stones program, Judge Abella recognizes that many women may continue to enter fields and professions in keeping

with work traditionally done by women and that that is no reason for them to experience an undervaluing and underpaying of their labour.

She notes that one writer has commented:

. . . if the crucial importance of women's jobs in our society suggests that these jobs are undervalued only because they are held by women, why should women be asked to change their choices, rather than asking society to change how it rewards those choices?

Mr. Speaker, that is what pay equity legislation is about: changing how society rewards the choices made by women and recognizing the true value of the work traditionally done by women, and to bring together the rhetoric and the action. I think of an example: caring for children. If caring for children is society's most important work, and we as women often hear that from men, we will value it accordingly and not pay just about everybody else, including zookeepers, more than we pay child care workers.

In her conclusion Judge Abella stated:

To ensure freedom from discrimination requires government intervention through law. It is not a question of whether we need regulation in this area but of where and how to apply it.

She goes on:

Based on history, present evidence, and apprehensions for the future, the elimination of all forms of discrimination requires more, rather than less, law.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the minister responsible for women to read Judge Abella's work through to the end, where she states:

It is both intolerable and insensitive if we simply wait and hope that the barriers will disappear with time.

Barriers have never disappeared without struggle. Truer words have not been written. The free marketplace, which the government so honours, cares not for fairness and justice and equality. That is why it is the responsibility of government.

We often hear that we cannot afford pay equity legislation, but surely it must offend all decent people that deserving people are treated unfairly without reason. We have moved a long way to eliminate much discrimination, and it is time that this province came in line with the majority of Canadian provinces and acted to end this unfairness, this injustice, and this violence, for unequal pay is a form of violence, economic violence that underlies, enhances, and entraps women into other forms of violence. Women with their children and women who have nurtured children and have built our society are condemned to poverty and all that poverty implies, including loss of hope for them and for their children, poor health, reduced school performance, limited opportunities and aspirations. That, Mr. Speaker, is violence, and that is a cost we cannot afford to pay.

4:40

We often hear about the government's concern about violence in the family. Murray Straus, a respected researcher in the area of violence in the family, has said that the single most important initiative a government could take to reduce and eradicate violence in the family is to enact pay equity legislation. For women economic reality creates all too often the situation wherein if she is an abused woman or if she is the mother of abused children, she and her children have to face two alternatives: a life of fear and danger in the abusive home or a life of poverty. The economic inequality is a weapon in the hands of abusive men, for they know that not only are women entrapped in relationships with them but that society, like them, sees women and their labour as second class. That, Mr. Speaker, is a social and societal cost that we cannot and must not as a society tolerate.

Recent research has revealed the falseness of many of the excuses used to justify the injustice inherent in pay inequities. We still hear that women only work for a secondary income, yet we know that is not true. Nearly half of the women who work are the single heads of families. In other cases, women are equal partners in contributing to keeping their families out of living in poverty. Mr. Speaker, more importantly, women work, as we can see, for the reasons that men work: for their sense of fulfillment, their sense of contributing to our society, as well as meeting the very real needs for shelter and food and clothing.

We hear that women are not committed to the work force. Mr. Speaker, we hear this because women have children. Bearing children may interrupt participation in the workplace, but in no way is this to be taken as a lack of commitment. The question I would ask is: where would we be as a society if women did not bear children? I don't think it's something men plan to take up in the near future. More importantly, women should not carry the total burden of bearing and nurturing children. They should in fact be supported, and that contribution should be recognized.

Further, we need to recognize that women gain important skills that are of much benefit to the workplace. I think of communication skills, crisis management, time management, autonomy, decision-making, scheduling, to name but a few. We hear that women have safer work environments. However, this is a very narrow view of safe. Women work at video display terminals. They work with toxic chemicals. They work in high-stress jobs with high interpersonal demands on them. They work in areas where they lack control. If you think that's not dangerous, try it sometime. Even so, we don't rate men's jobs simply on the safety of the workplace. We look at the skill, the knowledge, the expertise, the responsibility that is involved in the job.

Mr. Speaker, we hear that pay equity threatens the free market system. Well, in reality there is no such thing as the free market system. It is the fantasy or the fiction that exists in the minds of some economists. More importantly, the free market system is being manipulated all the time. We hear on an almost daily basis in here how subsidies, loans, loan guarantees, royalty holidays, and a whole bunch of other things are used to manipulate the free market system. We have a history of other types of interference in the free market system. We have minimum wage laws. We have health and safety laws. The government even on occasion has been known to bring in wage and price control laws. Surely that is interference in the free market system.

We hear that pay equity will mean economic disaster. We heard that, those of us who were around then, when equal pay for equal work legislation was proposed; when it was proposed and suggested that it was only fair that a woman teaching school in the same kind of situation as a man was teaching in should in fact receive the same pay. We heard it again when it was required that the minimum wage for men and women should be the same. This is an argument that is used to oppose change. It has no foundation in fact. In countries where pay equity legislation has been in place – places like Australia, where it has been in place for two decades, since 1972 – we have not seen the economy fall apart, we have not seen women forced out of the paid labour force. In fact, quite the contrary has been true.

This Bill requires only a modest 1 percent of payroll to be targeted to a pay equity program. But the more important question, Mr. Speaker, is: why should women alone be held responsible for ensuring economic success? Surely we cannot accept that economic success can be founded upon the systemic

exploitation of one group of people; that is, of women. Surely such a position cannot be justified, and people will quit trying to justify it.

Mr. Speaker, it is said that pay equity legislation will create another bureaucracy. Well, I expect that there is some truth to that, but these kinds of arguments are never put forward when we talk about setting up economic development departments or trade departments or justice departments. That is part of what governments are about, and it requires bureaucracies to put in place a just and equitable system that protects and provides for the basic dignity of all people. That's what it's about.

Finally, we have heard that pay equity will hurt men, certainly a divide and conquer mentality that seems to be rising these days, and it is a mentality that underlies much of the violence in this society. Surely men will benefit by having more options for fairly paid work, because many men would enjoy and would do well work that has been traditionally done by women and would be welcome in those professions.

[Mr. Jonson in the Chair]

We are not suggesting that anyone will suffer a reduction in their income. In fact, the push to have more women moved into nontraditional jobs – that is, traditional men's jobs – must be a bit threatening to men. But why do we not promote, in a society founded on equality and justice, that labour is fairly valued as to skill, expertise, responsibility, efforts, and conditions of work, and not by the gender of the person who has traditionally done that work? What we need to seek is a partnership, a society in which men and women can fulfill their potential and their aspirations in their own ways, and that they will be rewarded in ways that look to that potential and those aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, finally, we hear that pay equity legislation is not the total answer, and this is true, but we are refining our legislation and our rating skills to meet many of the concerns that are brought forward on this issue. Certainly in drafting this Bill we have tried to do that. Through this Bill the work done by women in traditional job ghettos will be evaluated through either proxy evaluations or proportional value determinations. In this way much greater numbers of women will be included than have been included in other pay equity schemes. We believe that both the private and the public sectors must be included. We know that the implementation of pay equity legislation is possible; that's often the argument used, saying we'll use it in the public sector first. As I've said, it's been going on since 1972. If it is not, then we otherwise may be encouraging contracting out and privatization by the government and the continued exploitation of women.

4:50

Mr. Speaker, we have learned much about designing gender-neutral evaluation tools so that we can recognize the complexity and importance of jobs traditionally done by women. I think here of the secretary's job, something that isn't valued very much, although if most of us came into work in the morning and saw that our secretaries weren't there, we probably wouldn't know exactly what we were to be doing. But we tend to just say that all secretaries do is type or work on a word processor. Indeed, they set up and take telephone calls, and often have very highly developed interpersonal skills so they can deal with angry and irritated constituents that may be phoning in. They know how to type, for sure, and set up letters. They know how to spell, they know about grammar, and they know things like proofreading which, in another setting other than a secretarial

situation, are highly skilled jobs. In addition, they know how to take directions, to work on their own, to take the initiative when necessary, to figure out whether we, as those who would tell them what they should be doing, are in a good or a bad mood so they know how to deal with us. All of these are important skills that were in the past not valued, not recognized, but our tools are getting better at that.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this Bill is an innovative piece of legislation that addresses in a comprehensive way the implementation of pay equity. In the name of fairness and justice I would ask for your support.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Red Deer-North.

MR. DAY: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. First, I think it should be said that I have to take at face value the genuine concerns of the Member for Edmonton-Avonmore in terms of accepting the fact that she is committed to what she sees as a certain problem. I will accept her sincerity at face value; however, I cannot accept at face value some of the statistics which she has used. I think it's very important that we look at the statistics, and again I won't suggest for a moment that the member is aware that the statistics are wrong. I would suggest, however, that she at least do me the courtesy of following up my remarks with her own research people and indeed checking to see where there are some difficulties with her actual statistical presentation.

I think we should also note right off that this government and myself as an individual are supporters of equal opportunity for all: for everybody, for every person. We are supporters and advocates of removal of barriers for everybody. If there are genuine barriers that are keeping people from earning what is their due or from gaining certain positions to which they should be entitled, we have been ardent advocates for removal of those barriers. We are against all forms of discrimination. I'll go into the record shortly to demonstrate that.

I know that myself, over the last couple of years in two different situations of hiring people at an executive level and looking over the candidates, some of which were male, some of which were female, in both situations the executive position was filled by a woman, not out of an effort to try and . . .

MR. McINNIS: Some of your best friends are women too.

MR. DAY: The Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place makes callous remarks about women here as I'm speaking and jokes talking about best friends being women. I would think his own colleague would be offended at the type of remarks that he would make when we're dealing with a very serious issue of very real concern to women. I would hope that he would be able to temper his remarks because it is an offence to women, the things that he says. In both cases a woman was hired for this executive position plainly and simply because she was the best qualified for the position, not out of an effort to try and put forth some kind of an artificial balance for the public to see. In both cases, competing with men, she was the best person for the position. As a matter of fact, in one of those situations, as some personnel were being hired for support staff, this senior manager called me and said: "I feel a little awkward, because we have a shortlist here. We've hired most of the staff. We have one position left. So far, the three other staff people are all women, and in filling the final position, there are a number of candidates. We really should look at some gender equality because otherwise it'll be an all female staff." My response was, "Who is the best qualified,

in your estimation, for the position?" She indicated who it was, and it was one of the women. I said: "I want the best qualified people. I don't want you to put a man in there just to try and get some artificial gender balance. If a man won't effectively do the job as well as one of these women who's applying, the woman should get the job." In fact, that's what happened.

Mr. Speaker, we want to do what's best for all people, what's best for the human race as a whole, not separate the race into two species as some people would try and do but in fact do what's best for everybody. Now, the remarks that I've just made, which indicate my own personal philosophy, are echoed in the remarks made in an issue of a magazine here by a lawyer who's actually fairly well known in Canada. Her name is Maureen Sabia. She's on the board of directors of the Canadian Tire Corporation and the Export Development Corporation. She's vice-chairman of Sunnybrook medical institute and at the time of the writing of this article was sitting on the advisory board for a CTV television program on women and success. She says something very interesting here. She talks about legislation of the type that has already been introduced in Ontario. She says that this legislation is paternalistic and patronizing; it perpetuates the myth that women are inherently unequal, that they are helpless victims who require protective measures in order to compete with men in the workplace. These are the remarks of this woman.

She says, and I echo her sentiment here: my goal is equality with men in the workplace, equality of opportunity, of promotion, of compensation, of reward. She says yes to equality but no to this type of really paternalistic legislation. She comments, saying that demanding special privileges simply reinforces the image of women as second-class citizens. She makes a number of very interesting remarks in terms of how she sees this issue. Also, she suggests concern about special privileges making the cost of hiring women too high and resulting in a backlash.

She says that she believes not in law changes but in changing bad attitudes and actually cites a very interesting case in Sweden where, and these are her words, in spite of formidable laws that prescribe sexual equality, most students still make sex-stereotyped course changes and career plans. She's talking about the need for education, that legislation in itself will not be the answer.

I'll just conclude her remarks here. I could quote copiously from this because it's an excellent article, but she says that if the women's movement is about anything, it is about choice and about freedom to choose the kinds of lives we want to live, freedom to choose full-time motherhood as well as freedom to choose full-time employment in other areas.

She raises a concern about being careful, that the message also has to be, in her estimation of the women's movement anyway, that the burden of our choices as women must not be cast on others: on the taxpayers, on the state, and on the employer. Until women learn that they need to assume responsibility for their own choices, they'll never be regarded as equals. Those are some comments from this particular lawyer.

Now, I'd like to clear something else up also that the member mentioned, because if there are blatant inaccuracies in her statistics, the ones I've only had a couple of moments to check, then possibly there are many other inaccuracies throughout her presentation. I think it bears some looking at; for instance, something as basic as referring to a biblical quotation. Now, when the member mentioned a statement from Moses, apparently saying that a woman is worth 30 shekels and a man worth 50 . . .

MS M. LAING: Leviticus.

MR. DAY: Yeah. I don't profess to be a professional in this area, but being somewhat of a student of the Old Testament and the Pentateuch, being the first five books of the Bible, Leviticus being one of those, I honestly could not recall having ever seen anything like that. So I left the Assembly; I made a phone call to somebody who had at their disposal a concordance. A concordance is a large book in which every single word in the Bible is listed and where it is found in every single place. The closest we could come to this particular reference made by the member was in Exodus 21:32. It talks about when somebody lets their ox loose and it gores somebody else's employees and injures them. It says in this case that whether it's a male employee or a female employee gores by the ox, the owner shall pay the master 30 shekels of silver: no differentiation between male and female, none at all. Now, if the member is quoting those types of things, I think she has to be very careful to make sure it's accurate. Those types of errors would cast some doubt, I think, on her whole presentation.

5:00

She also talked about Manitoba as having apparently achieved some sort of success. Actually, before we leave the promised land of Israel here . . . Oftentimes I've heard it suggested in an inappropriate way that biblical reference would suggest that men and women, from the God of the Bible's point of view, are somehow unequal. Just a superficial reading through the Bible would show that that is so far from the truth. As a matter of fact, it's quoted very clearly in the New Testament even, where it says that in Christ there is neither male nor female when it comes to comparisons. As a matter of fact, Jesus himself set the example when the society of the day wouldn't talk to a certain type of woman. Being a Samaritan woman, she was of a certain culture that was looked down on by these narrow-minded people, and Jesus actually went out of his way to point out to those people that you don't draw those types of distinctions, and he did spend time talking with that woman. You'll also notice that Jesus spent time talking even to a prostitute when nobody else would even walk near where this woman was. So this type of sideways reference to the Bible somehow trying to raise man or woman over one or the other is totally false and totally without any substance.

Now, let's go from the promised land of milk and honey to the promised land of Manitoba. I have a quote here from the member saying how Manitoba, in fact, is a success story in terms of pay equity legislation. In fact, in Manitoba, which was one of the earliest provinces to initiate mandatory pay equity, the wage gap has actually widened by almost 5 percent. It was 30 percent in 1986, and now in 1989 it's gone to 34.4 percent. It has actually widened, and they were one of the first provinces to do it. [interjections]

I do want to just stick to statistics on this and not get into personal leanings and philosophical rantings, as some people across the way are wont to do and as they're doing even now rather than listening. I don't know. *Hansard* unfortunately can't record that the government members, for the entire duration of the Member for Edmonton-Avonmore's speech, were respectfully quiet and listening, some of us taking notes. I can honestly say that I was listening intently and not heckling, catcalling, jeering. I've been talking for several minutes now, and there's been constant jeering, moaning, groaning, rolling of eyes, all that type of thing from the opposition benches. So I'd just like to point that out since people who read *Hansard* can't hear the . . .

[interjections] There they go again. The member for way out in West Yellowhead somewhere, who's been known for some pretty public exaggerations, is now . . . [interjections] He just goes on and on. Anyway, I'll leave him to his rantings and ravings and try and get back to this very good concern that the Member for Edmonton-Avonmore has raised, which is a concern about women, a concern that I share with her.

One thing that for some reason, it fails me, is not addressed or not talked about even though it's been clearly pointed out is the myth about this whole question and the magic 63 percent or 64 percent figure that is constantly tossed out by the members opposite as being the wage gap. Yet it has been so clearly pointed out where statistically that figure comes from. Now I will try once again to relay this information to the member opposite and to others who may be interested. Quoting here from *Influence* magazine: there is a widely held myth . . . Actually, no; I'm sorry. This talks about the fact of where the 62 or 64 percent figures come from. It came from the Green Paper on Pay Equity which was published by the Ontario government in 1983. That's where the figure first came from, but it was drawing on Statistics Canada figures from four to five years before that. So this figure which was first brought forward in 1983 in the Green Paper on Pay Equity by the Ontario government drew on Stats Canada figures from four to five years earlier. That's how old that figure is.

The green paper tells us that females are paid only 62 percent of what men are paid, and that is where the quotation stops when it's being used by the media. It's not where the quotation stops in the actual report. When it's used by the members opposite, they always stop there; they don't continue reading from the report. I wish that in the interest of fairness to women and fairness to all people they would continue, finish the quote. Since they don't, I will. The quote goes on. It says that actual wage discrimination accounts for only 5 percent of the 38 percent differential. I really wish members opposite would take heed of this. The report that you quote from, the 62 percent figure, goes on, but you always stop; you don't finish it. That particular report, I will repeat, admits that actual wage discrimination accounts for only 5 percent of the 38 percent differential. It goes on to point out very clearly that the remaining differential is due to some fairly obvious things. For one, differences in hours worked, up to 16 percent; education, experience, and level of unionization accounts for 5 to 10 percent. The members opposite fail to point these things out. They only stop at that one particular quote.

Now, it's interesting when you look at the fact of unmarried women and unmarried men with university degrees. It's very interesting when you look at the figures. This would be 30-year-old never married males and females, and this was in - I want to get this correct - Stats Canada information from the last Canadian census. The income of never married females was 93 percent of never married males. In the census before that the income ratio for 30-year-old never married males and females was 99.2 percent, all things being equal. Equal time spent in the work force, equal time spent earning managerial promotions without interruption: it was 99.2 percent. As a matter of fact, that same year for those with a university degree the rate actually went to 109.8 percent. That means that the females were actually getting 9.8 percent more than the males when all things were truly equal. Now, this is comparing apples and apples. It's not comparing either a man or a woman who for whatever reason, be it child rearing or be it to take a trip around the world, takes a two- or a five- or a 10- or a 20-year break from their career plan, but when all things are equal.

As a man, far be it from me to say that we should launch some kind of an investigation to see why women were making 9.8 percent more than males when we talked about 30-year-old never married males and females with university degrees. I say good for them. That's wonderful. I think that's terrific, and it doesn't bother me in the least that that would happen. That's at the university and degree level.

5:10

The member opposite also talks about ghettos: work ghettos, pink ghettos. In doing that, what she is doing in one fell swoop of her misguided brush is demeaning thousands of people, men and women, who work and enjoy the work they do in areas that she refers to as ghettoized: telephone operators, for one, of which there are male and female, by the way. In one swoop she'll say, because she might not want to do that particular type of job, that that's a work ghetto. How would people feel today if they were to read those remarks? Be the secretary male or female, how does a secretary today in Alberta feel when this member opposite says that they are stuck in a ghetto? How do they feel about that? I've talked to many secretaries, male and female; I've talked to telephone operators, male and female, about this. I've talked to many who thoroughly enjoy the work that they do. Many secretaries, whether they're male or female, thoroughly enjoy having the sense that because of them either that small business or that large corporation functions better because of their knowledge on the job, because of how they respond to customers or maybe to the public service, whoever it might be. They value their jobs, and they don't for a minute see themselves in ghettos. They value what they do. They have a good sense of self-esteem, and along comes somebody who has the absolute audacity to say that they're stuck in a ghetto.

Now, I think you can take any job in this province, be it a top executive or be it at some other level; you will always find people who are not satisfied with their work. I've talked to male doctors and female doctors who hate what they do, find no satisfaction in it, and find no gratification. I've also talked to bus drivers, male and female, who don't particularly like what they do, but I've talked to bus drivers who love what they do. I've talked to bus drivers who are delighted by the fact that when that consumer gets on the bus and they've had a long day and the bus driver looks at them and gives them a smile and says, "How you doing," they kind of brighten up. Those bus drivers have told me that they enjoy what they do, that they give people a good sense of well-being, that they have an opportunity to do that.

You know, I saw this same negative socialistic attitude when I was working with the Alberta Tourism Education Council. Many times members opposite would talk about food and beverage servers as people stuck in this ghetto, as some kind of second-class citizen. I've talked to high school students who've told me that their ambition is to be the best waitress or the best waiter, the best food and beverage server in their entire city, and they know also the economic rewards that come from that. Do you know what they've told me? They've said: "There's people out there in society who kind of see our jobs as second rate and see us as second-class citizens because we don't have a few letters after our name. They say that we're stuck in a ghetto." They feel embarrassed about that. I've talked to a female food and beverage server here in this city who makes \$50,000 a year, not on the hourly but on the gratuities, because of the way in which she knows how to treat customers, how to help them have a good tourism experience in that restaurant, and how to just enhance everything that's going on there. The member opposite

says that people like this are stuck in ghettos. I think it's one of the worst forms of stereotyping and labeling, and I feel badly for those people in these types of jobs that this member says are ghettos. I feel badly for them.

Point of Order Questioning a Member

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

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Point of order, Edmonton-Jasper Place.

MR. McINNIS: *Beauchesne* 333. I wonder if the member would permit a question at this point in his remarks. [interjections]

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just a moment, please. [interjections] Order please. Order. The Chair was moving to recognize the hon. Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place and did not hear his remark. Would you repeat your point, please?

MR. McINNIS: I was rising under *Beauchesne* 333 to ask the member if he would permit a very brief question by way of elaborating his remarks.

MR. DAY: Sure; fire away.

MR. McINNIS: Well, the member has reached deeply into a bag of statistics to find a group of females who he alleges are paid more than a group of men. He also has reached within his life experience and found some women in low-paid jobs who are very happy with what they're doing; "many," in the words of the member. Is he by these examples justifying the wage gap that exists? Just what is the point that he's trying to make here?

MR. DAY: Well, I'm pleased to respond to that. You can't answer a question that is based on total inaccuracy. If the member needs help tomorrow from me in reading through what I've said or if I can draw some pictures for him, I'll do that. He's suggesting that I'm talking about females who are paid more than men working at the same job, and I never talked about that at all. I never have talked about differences in salary levels. I've talked about different jobs. He wasn't listening. It is a totally facetious question. I gave him the respect of at least trying the question. I'm sorry; that's the only way I can respond to that.

Debate Continued

MR. DAY: I do want it to be really clearly stated and really clearly known that this government does not accept in any way the premise of one person doing the same job as another person and getting paid more or less. We believe absolutely in equal pay for equal work. I would defy the member opposite to go through the entire government services and find any place in this government where we have two people classified in the same job, all things being equal, and one is paid more than the other. Be it the woman paid more than the man or the man more than the woman, I would defy the member to do that. It simply doesn't happen. Even though the government members are suggesting that their workload is incredibly more than the opposition workload – you know, anybody can be a critic – even here in this Assembly everybody gets paid the same basic pay as MLAs.

I'd like to talk a bit about pay equity in Alberta and the fact that pay equity is happening in Alberta, and it's happening without the burden of ill-thought-out legislation. It's happening without that. Pay equity in terms of the legislative approach is perceived as a quick fix to this very complex problem. The government of Alberta has introduced a broad range of strategies in recent years that are designed to bring about real change towards women's economic opportunities and women's economic equality. I could go on at length, but I see the clock is wearing on here. These include things like improved access to quality child care, education and training initiatives to encourage girls and women to consider nontraditional occupations, public awareness campaigns to increase the awareness of women's abilities, things like the Stepping Stones program to change attitudes regarding the types of jobs women can do, bridging programs to assist women to enter apprenticeship training, accelerated management and mentoring programs for women in the public service and also setting an example to the private sector, measures to assist women to balance their work and family responsibilities. As a matter of fact, under the plan for action for women the government has undertaken 46 separate initiatives costing a total of \$22 million in order to enhance opportunities for women in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I'll simply close with one more brief quote from the lawyer I quoted from, this Maureen Sabia. It's very interesting to hear the Member for Edmonton-Avonmore laughing at the quotes of another woman. I find that an astounding reaction.

MS M. LAING: A conservative woman who speaks against women.

MR. DAY: Oh, now she says it's a Conservative woman. I see; now we discriminate. We'll help women of certain parties, she says, but if it's not her political party, she is not interested in helping that particular woman. I'm astounded at the stereotypical responses that we're getting.

5:20

MR. McINNIS: That's not what she said at all. Where do you get off with that? Didn't your mom and dad teach you better than that?

MR. ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Order. Order, Member for Edmonton-Jasper Place. [interjections] Order please.

Please proceed.

MR. DAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anyway, I'll try to get over my shock at some of these stereotypical remarks that are being fired from across the way.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

Just a quote again to say, and I find myself agreeing with this, that women who believe they're underpaid have to act as men who believe themselves underpaid would act; they should seek higher paying work, look for opportunities for education, enhancement, and that type of thing. Those opportunities are made abundantly here in this province by this government. I would hope that the Member for Edmonton-Avonmore opposite, though . . . I said it at the start of my presentation, and I say it again: I believe her concern is sincere. I do believe that. I also believe it's misguided and that the record and the history will

clearly show how it's misguided. I've touched on a few of those areas already, and I would only ask that she sincerely look at some of the suggestions and some of the successes we're having here in Alberta, not some of the failures that they're having in other provinces that have put forward this type of ill-thought-out legislation. I appreciate the concern. It's sincere, but it's headed in the wrong direction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

MRS. HEWES: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Once more with feeling: the Liberal caucus has and will continue to advocate pay equity. [interjections]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Order.

MRS. HEWES: I see the time; I see the time.

All I need to do here is say that without any doubt whatsoever and wholeheartedly I support the Bill from the hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore. Our caucus has promoted such legislation in earlier times.

MR. DINNING: Where is your caucus?

MRS. HEWES: They're hard at work in their constituencies . . .

MR. DINNING: Oh, are they? We don't do work in here? Is that what you're saying?

MRS. HEWES: . . . where you ought to be, just where you ought to be.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Order please.

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, we in this caucus believe that unequal compensation for work of equal value by men and women is unjust. This Bill, as I understand it, would legislate pay equity in the private sector, the public sector, and generally all employees of employers. I'm also pleased that the Bill includes an Alberta pay equity bureau and a pay equity hearing tribunal and a pay equity office for enforcement and implementation.

In the time I have, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that the Bill and our response to it in this House I think is a measure of whether or not this province has in fact grown and a response to the reality of today in Alberta. The business of pay equity has repercussions on how we look at and value the nature of work, whether it's work by men or women. The need for the legislation is, to me, a manifestation of how we have continuously undervalued the work of women. We haven't given credit to the work of women in this province. I believe that the absence of such legislation is a critical statement about what the government of Alberta is thinking and not about what the nature is of the people of Alberta. I don't believe that the people of Alberta any longer agree with the position of the government in this regard. I'm hopeful that the opinions expressed by the hon. Member for Red Deer-North are not those and are not illustrative of the thoughts and experiences of his colleagues in the government. If they are, heaven help us; we're farther behind than I believed we were.

Mr. Speaker, our caucus advocates the achievement of equal opportunity and social justice for all as a fundamental principle.

We believe in employment and pay equity. Employment equity constitutes programs of positive remedy for identifying and removing employment barriers based on discrimination, pay equity, equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr. Speaker, in 1972 Canada ratified the International Labour Organisation Convention 100 which called for equal pay for work of equal value. The concept is in the federal human rights code, in Quebec's charter of human rights, and in the majority of other provinces' rights laws. It's been projected that by the year 2000, 80 to 85 percent of Canadian women between ages 20 and 44 will be participating in the work force. In 1976 Canada accepted the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which included a commitment to pay equity. In addition, Canada ratified the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, including pay equity. The Canadian Human Rights Act and Commission adopted pay equity. The Act applies to all federal departments, agencies, Crown corporations, and corporations under federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, in the report Equality in Employment, Abella states that to argue, as some have, that we cannot afford the cost of equal pay to women is to imply that women somehow have a duty to be paid less until other financial priorities are accommodated. Abella noted that equal pay laws have had little effect on the wage gap and don't solve the problems that women face because our work is undervalued and it only applies where both men and women are employed at the same or nearly the same occupation in the same place. Now, pay equity sets out to compare different jobs with a point evaluation system, as the federal government does.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, have some statistics, the same as everyone else. I believe that we need to have accurate information. I'd like to have these circulated to members of the House. Statistics Canada figures for '89 indicate that in Alberta women with full-time employment earned on average \$22,800, while men working full-time earned \$34,300. When all types of earners – part-time, job share – were compared for Alberta, women earned an average of \$15,898, men earned on average \$27,000. Stats Can figures for 1987: Canadian women earned 56.3 percent, Member for Red Deer-North, of the income of men. On average women made about 66 cents to the dollar of a man's wage.

Now, the Member for Red Deer-North indicates that wage discrimination is only one factor in these discrepancies. To be sure, that's true, but if it is one factor and if it is there and if we can eliminate it, then for heaven's sakes, we certainly should.

MR. DAY: Would the member permit a question, Mr. Speaker?

MRS. HEWES: Mr. Speaker, I have one minute left. I don't think I want to spend that answering questions.

MR. DINNING: That'll look good in *Hansard*, Bettie.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Wheelbarrow, wheelbarrow. Oh, oh. Freedom of information.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

MRS. HEWES: Yeah; sure. He can ask me privately. I'm quite prepared to talk with him.

Mr. Speaker, my information tells me that women will continue to enter the labour force in record numbers in the '90s. White males in fact may represent less than one-third of the marketplace.

In our commitment to social justice we have attempted on a number of occasions to introduce the public service pay equity Act calling on the provincial government to take leadership. Our purpose, Mr. Speaker, is to redress systemic gender discrimination in compensation for work performed by employees working in predominantly female groups of jobs in the public service of Alberta. In addition, we support research on pay equity for the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to note in the half minute left to me that I do have some information from Ontario regarding their pay equity program. In a study from July of 1990 to December 1990 of firms with more than 500 employees, it suggests that for the private sector the expected payroll costs are under 1 percent. They're under the allowed amount. This is less than anyone expected.

With respect, Mr. Speaker, may I adjourn the debate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has moved that the debate be adjourned. All those in favour, please say aye.

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Opposed, please say no. Carried.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Speaker, I move that when members reassemble at 8 p.m., they do so in Committee of the Whole.

[Motion carried]

[The Assembly adjourned at 5:30 p.m.]