



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 5

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Fourth Session

Twenty-Second Legislature

Wednesday, March 25, 1992

The Speaker took the Chair at 2:30 p.m.

ROUTINE

Presenting Petitions

Ms M. Laing, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore, presented a petition from 22 Alberta citizens regarding the protection of gays and lesbians against discrimination by amending the Individual's Rights Protection Act.

Mrs. Hewes, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, presented a petition from seven teachers regarding a resolution of the Alberta Teachers' Association respecting the Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Reading and Receiving Petitions

On request by Mrs. Gagnon, Hon. Member for Calgary-McKnight, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned, as professional staff members of St. Bede's school, urge the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to accord favourable consideration to the following resolution, adopted by teacher representatives at the Emergent Representative Assembly of The Alberta Teachers' Association on September 28, 1991;

Resolution 226/91:

Be it resolved, that The Alberta Teachers' Association return to negotiations with the Government with a view to concluding a new agreement in which;

- (a) teachers and the Government jointly contribute the full amount of all future service costs to the Teachers' Retirement Fund;
- (b) the Government assumes full responsibility for the total unfunded liability related to past service costs and adopts an acceptable plan for retiring that debt;
- (c) the Government amends the TRF Act to provide full cost-of-living adjustment to pensions; and
- (d) the other changes incorporated in the May 4, 1991, Memorandum of Understanding are retained.

Notices of Motions

Mrs. Gagnon, Hon. Member for Calgary-McKnight, gave oral notice of her intention to move the following motion under Standing Order 40 on Orders of the Day:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly express its sympathy to the Kurdish community regarding the recent killing of members of the Kurdish community in Turkey.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Notice having been given:

Bill 219 Energy Efficiency Management Administration Act – Mr. Mitchell

Bill 266 Business Corporations Amendment Act – Mrs. Black

Bill 268 Ethanol Strategy Act – Mr. Fischer

Bill 259 Service Dogs Act – Mr. Payne

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mr. Isley, Minister of Agriculture, pursuant to the Veterinary Profession Act, cV-3.1, s7(4), 1984 Statutes:

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, Annual Report 1991

Sessional Paper 19/92

Hon. Mr. Isley, Minister of Agriculture:

Office of the Farmer's Advocate of Alberta, Annual Report 1991

Sessional Paper 606/92

Hon. Mr. Isley, Minister of Agriculture, pursuant to the Agricultural Development Act, cA-7, s9(2), RSA 1980:

Agricultural Development Corporation, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 16/92

Mr. Nelson, Chairman, Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Act, cA-38, s12, RSA 1980:

Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 26/92

Mrs. Mirosh, Hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore, pursuant to the Chartered Accountants Act, cC-5.1, s9(2), 1987 Statutes:

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta, Annual Report 1991
Sessional Paper 126/92

Mrs. Mirosh, Hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore, pursuant to the Certified Management Accountants Act, cC-3.8, s9(2), 1987 Statutes:

Society of Management Accountants of Alberta, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 125/92

Mrs. McClellan, Associate Minister of Agriculture, pursuant to the Hail and Crop Insurance Act, cH-1, s9(2), RSA 1980 (c19, s3, 1982 Statutes):

Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, Annual Report 1991
Sessional Paper 22/92

Hon. Mr. Main, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, pursuant to the Historical Resources Act, cH-8, s43, 1980 Statutes:

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 37/92

Hon. Mr. Main, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, pursuant to the Glenbow-Alberta Institute Act, cG-5, s21(2), RSA 1980:

Glenbow, Annual Report 1991
Sessional Paper 36/92

Hon. Mr. Main, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, pursuant to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Act, cA-21.5, s14(2):

Alberta Art Foundation, Annual Report 1989-90
Sessional Paper 33/92

Hon. Mr. Main, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism:

Letter, dated February 18, 1992, from the Minister to Orest Olineck, Chairman,
Multiculturalism Advisory Council

Sessional Paper 607/92

Hon. Mr. Klein, Minister of the Environment, pursuant to the Special Waste
Management Corporation Act, cS-21.5, s14(1), 1982 Statutes:

Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation, Annual Report 1991

Sessional Paper 58/92

Mrs. Hewes, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar:

Letter, dated March 24, 1992, from Beverly Ryan to Mr. Decore, Hon. Leader
of the Liberal Party, regarding supportive stipends to students

Sessional Paper 841/92

Statement by the Speaker

The Honourable Minister of Career Development and Employment rose yesterday on a point of order to request that the Chair look into an incident which occurred in the main rotunda area. A disruptive and vocal demonstration took place just as Members were entering the House and continued while the House was in session.

During a conversation on another matter, the Honourable Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods advised the Chair that the participants in the demonstration had been guests in his office prior to the House. The Chair was also advised that Edmonton-Mill Woods cautioned the group that demonstrations were not allowed within the Legislature Building and that other avenues of protest could be utilized. The Member expressed his disappointment to the Chair at the disruptive behaviour of his visitors.

Upon further investigation, it appears that this group of protestors was responsible for arranging the surreptitious entry of concealed banners and possibly subverted security by arranging for other persons to enter, where entry is prohibited for use by the general public for security reasons.

The Chair is quite concerned at the extent of the security breach as the Office of the Speaker is responsible for the safety of all Members while in attendance during session. Unfortunately, because the Speaker's security staff are not in control of the perimeter of the precincts of this Parliament, which they are charged to protect, the Chair may find it difficult to prevent further security breaches which could and should properly be dealt with by Legislative Assembly security staff as is the case in many other Parliaments.

Erskine May, at page 126 states "...that it is a gross breach of the privilege of this House for any person to obstruct and insult the Members of this House in the coming to, or going from, the House..." Members and others have been punished for such molestation occurring within the precincts of the House, whether by assault or insulting or abusive language, or outside the precincts." ...Parliamentary law upholds the absolute sanctity of a Member's unrestricted right of access and egress from the precincts of Parliament 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All honourable Members are well aware of the privileges accorded to them as Members to guarantee their attendance, so much so that a Member is immune from certain legal processes to protect the Member's absolute right to attend to their parliamentary duties. Anyone violating this most sacred of privileges can be held in gross contempt of the House.

The Chair was dismayed to see and hear a chanting crowd - not outside the building but inside the building and virtually at the foot of the steps directly accessing the Chamber. The group conducted themselves in a manner that violated virtually everything that a Member has the right to expect when called to attend the Chamber. The protesters intimidated and hindered some Members in their right of unrestricted access to the Chamber.

The Solicitor General was placed in a most difficult position. The Solicitor General's Department controls the perimeter of the building and are responsible for the general supervision of demonstrations. Under ordinary circumstances the Solicitor General's staff would have removed the demonstrators from the inside of the building. However the demonstrators were dealing with the Solicitor General in a personal manner, rather than in his administrative capacity. Therefore the departmental staff did not take action to remove the demonstrators from the rotunda.

The Chair recognizes and reaffirms that demonstrators have the right to protest outside of Parliament. As the administrative officer in charge of the protection of all Members of this House, the Chair found the safety and free access of Members unacceptably compromised. The Chair declares yesterday's action to be a gross contempt of the privileges of this Assembly.

In the final analysis it is the Members who should ultimately be the ones in charge of their own security in their own Legislature Building through the Speaker and Sergeant-at-Arms. It is the Members who must resolve this matter of security jurisdiction to prevent further occurrences of yesterday's incident and contempt of this House.

Motions Under Standing Order 40

Mr. Taylor, Hon. Member for Westlock-Sturgeon, on behalf of Mrs. Gagnon, Hon. Member for Calgary-McKnight, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly for consideration of the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly express its sympathy to the Kurdish community regarding the recent killing of members of the Kurdish community in Turkey.

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to unanimously.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Moved by Mr. Lund and seconded by Mr. Tannas:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Gordon Towers, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

A debate followed.

Mr. Ewasiuk moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Gogo, Deputy Government House Leader, that it be called 5:30 p.m., the Assembly adjourned at 5:26 p.m. until Thursday, March 26, 1992, at 2:30 p.m.

Title: Wednesday, March 25, 1992