



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 28

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Twenty-Third Legislature

Thursday, March 31, 1994

The Speaker took the Chair at 1:30 p.m.

ROUTINE

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Collingwood, Hon. Member for Sherwood Park, presented a petition from Albertans regarding the maintenance of the Grey Nuns Hospital in Mill Woods as a full-service, active hospital.

Mr. Brassard, Hon. Member for Old-Didsbury, presented a petition from 279 Evergreen Club members, Olds, Alberta, regarding proposed income thresholds for seniors.

Ms Carlson, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, presented a petition from 623 Albertans regarding the maintenance of the Grey Nuns Hospital in Mill Woods as a full-service, active hospital.

Mr. Henry, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, presented a petition from Calgary and Cochrane, Alberta, residents regarding the proposal to privatize student loans.

Mr. Langevin, Hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul, presented a petition from 534 Albertans regarding the Poundmaker - Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission site at Fort Lake, Alberta.

Reading and Receiving Petitions

On request by Mrs. Hewes, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to call upon the Government to resist calls to remove specific books, or types of literature, from the Alberta education curriculum.

On request by Mr. Bruseker, Hon. Member for Calgary-North West, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta not to implement the plan to restructure the educational system in Alberta, as proposed by the Minister of Education.

We also request the Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to ensure that every Albertan will have the opportunity for input and involvement in future plans to restructure the educational system in Alberta.

On request by Mr. Henry, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta not to implement the plan to restructure the educational system in Alberta, as proposed by the Minister of Education, specifically the superintendents of school boards being appointed by the Minister of Education and taking away the right of school boards to assess municipal taxes.

We also request the Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to ensure that every Albertan will have the opportunity for input and involvement in future plans to restructure the educational system in Alberta.

On request by Dr. Massey, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, the following petition was read and received:

We petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to keep its promises, as outlined in the recent election campaign, in support of education and advanced education.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Upon recommendation of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, and notice having been given:

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| Bill | 18 | Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Hon. Mr. Klein |
| Bill | 19 | School Amendment Act, 1994 – Hon. Mr. Jonson |

Oral notice having been given:

Bill 20 Regional Health Authorities Act – Mr. Lund

On motion by Hon. Mr. Day, Government House Leader, the following Bill was placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders:

Bill 20 Regional Health Authorities Act – Mr. Lund

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Minister of Economic Development and Tourism:

Letter, dated March 31, 1994, to Canadian Ministers responsible for Internal Trade, from Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, regarding the meeting of the Ministers in Halifax, Nova Scotia, April 5 and 6, 1994

Sessional Paper 915/94

Ministerial Statements

Hon. Mr. Rostad, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, announced that April 11 to April 17, 1994 is Information Rights Week in Alberta.

Mr. Decore, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, commented on the statement.

Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Minister of Health, announced that April 7, 1994 is World Health Day.

Mr. Decore, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, commented on the statement.

Oral Question Period

During Oral Question Period, Ms Leibovici, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark, filed the following:

Memorandum, Personnel Administration Office, dated March 31, 1994, from J.E. Dixon, Public Service Commissioner, to Managers and Non-Bargaining Unit Employees regarding a 5 percent compensation reduction

Sessional Paper 916/94

Members' Statements

Ms Haley, Hon. Member for Three Hills-Airdrie, made a statement regarding investors in a seniors lodge in Lindon.

Mr. N. Taylor, Hon. Member for Redwater, made a statement regarding the amalgamation of school boards.

Mr. Coutts, Hon. Member for Pincher Creek-Macleod, made a statement regarding employees in the service industry and their importance to society.

Projected Government Business

Hon. Mr. Day, Government House Leader, gave notice of projected Government Business for the week of April 11 to April 14, 1994:

Monday, April 11, 1994	Aft.	- Government Bills and Orders Third Reading Bill 3, Natural Gas Marketing Amendment Act, 1994 Bill 4, Employment Standards Code Amendment Act, 1994
	Eve.	- Committee of Supply Department of Justice and Attorney General Committee of the Whole As per Order Paper
Tuesday, April 12, 1994	(4:30 p.m.)	- Committee of the Whole As per Order Paper
	Eve.	- Committee of Supply Provincial Treasurer Government Bills and Orders Second Reading As per Order Paper
Wednesday, April 13, 1994	Eve.	- Committee of Supply Department of Community Development Committee of the Whole As per Order Paper
Thursday, April 14, 1994	Aft.	- Committee of Supply Department of Environmental Protection - Designated

Speaker's Rulings – Point of Order from Government House Leader

Yesterday, March 30, 1994, the Hon. Government House Leader raised a point of order with respect to a question asked by the Member for Edmonton Norwood. In his preamble to a question about the Workers' Compensation Board, that Honourable Member opened with a reference to a court decision. It was not clear at first whether the reference was to the Court of Queen's Bench decision in the Opron Construction case or a reference to a Court of Appeal decision with respect to the Workers' Compensation Board.

The Honourable Government House Leader's point of order was twofold: first, the preamble to the question reflected on the judiciary and second, that it was unrelated to the question. If, as appears to be the case from the submission of the Opposition House Leader on the point of order, the Honourable Member's opening sentence was a reference to the Opron decision and not the Court of Appeal decision, then his characterization was accurate. That decision, however, had absolutely nothing to do with the Workers' Compensation Board nor did it have anything to do with that Member's question. The decision in Opron, did not, of course, relate to the responsibilities of the Minister of Labour to whom the Member's question was directed.

The Chair has expressed concern to Members on numerous occasions about preambles. Yesterday's question by the Member for Edmonton-Norwood demonstrates the mischief that can occur when Members use preambles which are irrelevant to the question and serve to be inflammatory. The Chair would remind all Members to exercise restraint and care in crafting preambles so that they are succinct and relevant to the question.

– Point of Order from Opposition House Leader

Yesterday there was also a point of order raised by the Honourable Opposition House Leader with respect to comments made by the Premier in response to his question about hospital boards in Calgary.

The Premier used the word "dishonest" which the Opposition House leader submitted was unparliamentary under paragraph 489 of Beuchesne. Of course, the Honourable Government House Leader submitted that the word had been ruled parliamentary in paragraph 490 of Beuchesne.

As Honourable Members are aware, and as is indicated in paragraph 486(1) of Beuchesne, whether a term is unparliamentary or not depends upon the context and manner in which it is used. In this instance, the Chair notes that the term was used during a rather heated exchange. Further the Chair does not believe that the Premier was making a direct allegation against the Opposition House Leader so as to make it unparliamentary. The Chair would remind all Honourable Members that there are certain words which regardless of the context, have a tendency to inflame matters.

Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, withdrew the remarks in question.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Committee of Supply

(Day 20 of Main Estimates Consideration - Designated)

According to Order, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(Assembly in Committee)

And after sometime spent therein, the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair and Mr. Clegg reported as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions, reports as follows, and requests leave to sit again:

Resolved that a sum not exceeding the following be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1995, for the Department and purposes indicated:

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

\$	353,142,000	Operating Expenditure
	<u>2,397,000</u>	Capital Investment
	355,539,000	

The question being put, the report and the request for leave to sit again were agreed to.

Adjournment

Pursuant to Government Motion No. 16, agreed to March 28, 1994, the Assembly adjourned at 5:12 p.m. until Monday, April 11, 1994 at 1:30 p.m.

Stanley S. Schumacher, Q.C.,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, March 31, 1994