



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 12

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

Thursday, May 1, 1997

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

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Yankowsky, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clairview, presented a petition from 243 Edmonton area residents regarding the banning of VLT (video lottery terminal) gambling in Alberta.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Mr. Dickson, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo:

Citizenship 2000: Final Report, dated October 9, 1996, prepared by Michael Bates, CIAS (Calgary Immigrant Aid Society)

Sessional Paper 164/97

Hon. Mr. Dunford, Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development:

Letter, dated May 1, 1997, from Hon. Mr. Dunford, Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development, to the Lethbridge Hurricanes Hockey Team, offering congratulations for winning the WHL (World Hockey League) Championship

Sessional Paper 165/97

Hon. Mr. Day, Provincial Treasurer, pursuant to the Government Accountability Act, cG-5.5, s7, s9:

Ministry Business Plans, 1997-2000 of Alberta Treasury, dated March 1997
Sessional Paper 166/97

Hon. Mr. Day, Provincial Treasurer, pursuant to the Financial Administration Act, cF-9, s78(1):

Public Accounts 1995-96, Volume 2: Financial Statements of the General Revenue Fund, Revolving Funds and Regulated Funds
Sessional Paper 167/97

Public Accounts 1995-96, Volume 3: Financial Statements of Provincial Agencies, Commercial Enterprises and Crown-controlled Corporations
Sessional Paper 168/97

Public Accounts 1995-96, Volume 4: Financial Statements of Universities, Public Colleges, Technical Institutes and Health Agencies
Sessional Paper 169/97

Hon. Mr. Day, Provincial Treasurer, pursuant to the Conflicts of Interest Act, cC-22.1, s16:

Report of Selected Payments to Members and Former Members of the Legislative Assembly and Persons Directly Associated with Members of the Legislative Assembly, For the Year Ended March 31, 1996
Sessional Paper 170/97

Hon. Mr. Day, Provincial Treasurer, pursuant to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act, cA-27.01, s15(2) and 16(2):

Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Annual Report 1995-96
Sessional Paper 171/97

Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Second Quarter Investment Report 1996-97
Sessional Paper 172/97

Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Third Quarter Investment Report 1996-97
Sessional Paper 173/97

Hon. Mr. Day, Provincial Treasurer:

Quarterly Budget Report, Second Quarter Update 1996-97
Sessional Paper 174/97

Quarterly Budget Report, Third Quarter Update 1996-97
Sessional Paper 175/97

Ministerial Statements

Hon. Mr. Paszkowski, Minister of Transportation and Utilities, made a statement regarding the 21st Annual Highway Clean-up Campaign, May 3, 1997, by volunteers of various youth organizations.

Mrs. Soetaert, Hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, commented on the statement.

Oral Question Period

During Oral Question Period, Ms Barrett, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands, tabled the following:

Memorandum, dated May 7, 1992, from David Steeves, Deputy Secretary to Cabinet, Executive Council, to Hon. Mr. Johnston, Provincial Treasurer, regarding establishment of a Treasury Branch Advisory Board

Sessional Paper 176/97

Members' Statements

Mrs. Gordon, Hon. Member for Lacombe-Stettler, made a statement regarding the expansion of Amoco Canada Petroleum, with a new polyethylene plant in Joffre.

Mr. Zwozdesky, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek, made a statement regarding Alberta Treasury Branches, and possible future options to meet financial challenges.

Mr. Doerksen, Hon. Member for Red Deer-South, made a statement regarding the differentiation of the tax credit for charitable and political contributions.

Projected Government Business

Pursuant to Standing Order 7(5), Mr. Sapers, Official Opposition House Leader, asked a question pertaining to the order of Government Business to be brought before the Assembly for the following week.

Hon. Mr. Havelock, Government House Leader, gave notice of projected Government Business for the week of May 5 to May 8, 1997:

Monday, May 5	P.M.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address in Reply to the Speech From the Throne Government Bills and Orders Second Reading As per Order Paper Bills 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 Third Reading Bill 7 Government Motions No. 16, Speech from the Throne Engrossed
	Eve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates Days 10 and 11 Subcommittees (D) Science, Research and Information Technology (Assembly) (C) Public Works, Supply and Services (Room 512, Legislature Building) Third Reading Bill 7
Tuesday, May 6	(4:30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Royal Assent Bills 6, 7 Government Bills and Orders Second Reading or Committee of the Whole or Third Reading As per Order Paper Bills 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9

	Eve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates Days 12 and 13 Subcommittees (A) Provincial Treasurer (Assembly) (B) Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs (Room 512, Legislature Building)
Wednesday, May 7	Eve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates Day 14 Reporting: Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; Energy; Education (Assembly) Second Reading or Committee of the Whole or Third Reading As per Order Paper Bills 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9
Thursday, May 8	P.M.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates Day 15 Economic Development and Tourism (Designated) (Assembly) Reporting: Public Works, Supply and Services; Municipal Affairs Second Reading or Committee of the Whole or Third Reading As per Order Paper Bills 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9

Speaker's Ruling — Answers by Non-Ministers During Question Period

The Chair has been asked outside the Chamber to elaborate on its brief ruling of April 24, 1997 concerning Private Members answering questions during Question Period. Honourable Members may recall that the issue arose when the Honourable Member for Lacombe Stettler was asked a question in her capacity as Chair of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Secretariat. As this is early in the life of the 24th Legislature, the Chair wants to clarify this matter for the benefit of all Members.

In the ruling last Thursday, the Chair drew upon several previous Speaker's rulings on this point, in particular Speaker's rulings of October 7, 1993, November 7, 1994 and May 15, 1995. The gist of these rulings is that the purpose of Question Period is for Members to hold the Government accountable for its actions. Clearly, there can be no other finding by the Chair as the principle of the Executive being responsible to the Assembly is the cornerstone of responsible government in this country. In his text, *Constitutional Law in Canada* (3rd. edition) Peter Hogg goes so far as to say that "Responsible government is probably the most important non-federal characteristic of the Canadian Constitution."

In the Province of Alberta, the Executive is composed of the members of Executive Council, all of whom have taken and subscribed to the oath for Cabinet Ministers. These are the individuals who speak for the Government in this Assembly.

Therefore, any questions relating to Government policy should be directed to and answered by the Member of Executive Council responsible for the area. As the Chair indicated last Thursday, there are a few exceptions that have developed over the years:

1. Questions may be put to and answered by Chairs of Standing Policy Committees but must relate only to procedural matters such as agendas or activities of the respective Committee as the Chairs are private Members and not Members of the Executive;
2. Questions may be asked directly of Members who chair Committees of the Assembly but this would be a narrow range as these Committees are not part of Government. Certainly, it would be highly unusual for these Members to supplement answers by Ministers;
3. In accordance with the practice of this Assembly, questions may be put to Members who chair statutorily created Boards, Committees or Commissions but must relate directly to their responsibilities as an executive of that body. Once again, these individuals cannot speak for the Government so questions of policy must go to a Member of Executive Council.

The Chair realizes that situations may develop that will require returning to this issue. However, the Chair wanted to clarify the traditions and practices of this Assembly for all Members, and the Chair will not be forwarding a copy of this written statement as it will be included in Hansard, which all Members will have in the next day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills and Orders

Committee of the Whole

According to Order, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, and the Speaker left the Chair.

(Assembly in Committee)

After some time spent therein, the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

The following Bill was reported:

Bill 7 Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 1997 — Hon. Mr. Day

Committee of Supply (Days 8 and 9 — Main Estimates)

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

(Assembly in Subcommittees)

And after some time spent therein, the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair and Mrs. Gordon reported as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Education (Subcommittee A), reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

The Committee of Supply has also had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Community Development (Subcommittee B), reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table copies of a document tabled by Dr. Pannu, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, during Committee of Supply (Subcommittee A) consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Education:

Letter, fax-dated April 14, 1997, from Michael Bryant, to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, regarding fundraising activities of schools

Sessional Paper 177/97

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table copies of a document tabled by Dr. Massey, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, during Committee of Supply (Subcommittee A) consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Education:

Early School Leavers Longitudinal Study: 1996, Edmonton Public Schools
report dated November 12, 1996

Sessional Paper 178/97

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

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Havelock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 5:24 p.m. until Monday, May 5, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, May 1, 1997