

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
May 3, 1983

EVENING SESSION

MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Debatable)

Return No. 7

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no 7 showing:

The name of each individual issued with a vehicle through the Central Vehicle Agency for the period May 8, 1982 to March 18, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, just to clean this one up a little, so that we can answer it, and I think in a way that we can provide the information that the hon. members opposite want. First, to deal with the overlapping of the date from the previous session; and second, because so many vehicles are out on a short-term for a specific purpose, it's almost impossible to pull all that together, and even if we had the desire to do it, it would take more paper than we could carry in here. So I amend the motion by . . . yeah, okay . . . We'll amend the motion to read as follows:

The name of each individual issued with an executive vehicle through the Central Vehicle Agency for the period November 27, '82 to March 18, '83.

I move, seconded by the Minister of Health.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 8

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 8 showing:

With respect to the purchase of motor vehicles for the use and benefit of the Premier: (1) the guide-lines respecting the make, model and cost of motor vehicle which the Premier may select for his use; (2) the length of time or service such motor vehicle is kept before being traded in or disposed of; (3) whether or not such guide-lines have changed since May 8, 1982 and if so the nature of such changes.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 9

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 9 showing:

For the period May 8, 1982 to March 18, 1983: (1) the name of each individual hired under contract by all departments, crown corporations and

agencies of the Government of Saskatchewan; (2) the salary being paid to each individual; (3) the length of the contract of each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to urge all members of the House to vote this motion down. The negative request comes out of my view as to the type of information being asked here. Contracts often are not handled by the personnel department, and it's therefore difficult to pull them together. But in addition to that, I would ask the hon. member to go to item 70 – I think it's item 70 – where you're asking for this information department by department. So I would vote this one down. I'm going to ask all members to vote negative to this, Mr. Speaker, and we will deal with them department by department, which also may be negated. But we'll deal with them when we get there, Mr. Speaker.

Motion negated.

Return No. 10

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 10 showing:

Regarding the purchase of new vehicles: (1) the total number purchased by the central vehicle agency for the period May 8, 1982 to March 18, 1983; (2) the name and location of the car dealership from which each one was purchased.

Mr. Koskie: — I would hope that the minister would not amend this one.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to amend this one to provide, I think, the information that the members opposite, in fact, want. The amendment will in effect exclude such things as dump trucks, vehicles purchased on behalf of Sask Power and Sask Tel, etc. And I therefore move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 10 be amended to read as follows:

Regarding the purchase of new executive vehicles: (1) the total number purchased by the central vehicle agency for the period May 8, 1982 to March 18, 1983 (and that takes care of the overlap that you people had forgotten about since the last session); (2) the name and location of the car dealership from which each was purchased.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 11

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 11 showing:

With respect to the use of law firms: (1) for the period May 8, 1982 to March 18, 1983 the name of each law firm that has received remuneration from any department, crown corporation and agency of the Government of Saskatchewan; (2) the amount received by each firm.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, this amendment is simply to eliminate the overlap caused by the members opposite forgetting that they asked for this return in the last session, as well. So we are amending it, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 11 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1983' and substituting:

November 27, 1983.

So, in fact, what we're doing is we're giving you more than you asked for.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 12

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 12 showing:

For the period May 8, 1982 to March 18, 1983: (1) the number of new positions created in each department, crown corporation and agency of the Government of Saskatchewan; (2) the title of each position; (3) the name of the individual appointed to each position; (4) the salary paid to each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — This amendment will do a couple of things. Firstly, it will exclude the information that is covered in return no. 11 from the previous session, which is being put together at this time and will not be ready for about another four weeks, because it's just a massive volume that you've asked for; and secondly, to deal specifically with permanent position. So I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 12 be amended to read as follows:

For the period November 27, 1982 to March 18, 1983: (1) the number of new permanent positions created in each department, crown corporation and agency of the Government of Saskatchewan; (2) the title of each position; (3) the name of the individual appointed to each position; (4) the salary paid to each individual.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 13

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 13 showing:

For the period May 8, 1982 to March 18, 1983, the name and position of each individual in every department, crown corporation and agency of the Government of Saskatchewan whose employment has been terminated.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to ask all members to vote this

resolution down, as well. And, if the members opposite would care to come in with a more specific definition of termination, chances are we could get the information, but I'm told that computer records show as being terminated all those who: retire, die, are dismissed for cause, are laid off, are on disability income plan, or resign. So if you would care to be more specific as it relates to termination, there's some way that we can pull the information together for you through another resolution . . . Mr. Speaker, since my book is under lock and key, not available to the general public, I would ask that all members vote against this resolution.

Motion negatived.

Return No. 14

Mr. Lingenfelter moved, seconded by Mr. Shillington, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 14 showing:

With respect to the hospital construction projects at Lloydminster, Yorkton, Cut Knife, Melfort, Nipawin, Maidstone, Indian Head, Davidson, Regina, and Saskatoon announced in the legislature March 1982: (1) for each project, whether approval has been given to proceed; (2) for each project, whether tenders have been called; (3) for each project, the amount of the provincial grant which has been offered; (4) the formula used as the basis for the calculation of the provincial grant.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 15

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 15 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the minister of continuing education on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I propose an amendment changing the date to eliminate overlap. I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, the motion for return no. 15 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1982' and substituting:

December 17, 1982.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 16

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 16 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Provincial Secretary on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 17

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 17 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the minister of revenue, supply and services on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case her destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied her at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 17 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1982' and substituting:

December 17, 1982.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Motion No. 18

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 18 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the minister of industry and commerce on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that return no. 18 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1982' and substituting therefor:

December 17, 1982.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 19

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 19 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Education on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that return no. 19 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1982' and substituting:

December 17, 1982.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 20

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 20 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Attorney-General on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North that the motion for return no. 20 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, '82,' and substituting 'December 17, '82' therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 21

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 21 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Co-operation and Co-operative Development on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost

of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North that the motion for return no. 21 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1982' and substituting 'December 17, '82' therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 22

Mr. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 22 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the minister of tourism and renewable resources on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 26

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 26 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the President of the Executive Council on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 26 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, '82' and substituting:

December 17, '82.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 27

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 27 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Energy and Mines on

Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North that a motion for return no. 27 be amended by striking out the words, 'May 8, '82' and substituting:

December 17, '82.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 28

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 28 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Finance on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North that return no. 28 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1982' and substituting 'December 17, '82' therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 29

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 29 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Highways and Transportation on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that return no. 29 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1982' and substituting 'December 17, '82' therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 30

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return no. 30 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the minister of rural affairs on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 30 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1982' and substituting 'December 17, '82' therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 31

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return no. 31 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Telephones on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 32

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 32 showing:

With respect to the position of associate deputy minister in the Indian and native affairs branch of the department of intergovernmental affairs: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualification of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, in order that we may provide the information asked for by the members opposite with the greatest degree of precision, to accurately

reflect any change in duties which could explain any salary increase or decrease, and show any position with their salary which have been combined with other positions, etc., etc., we are going to amend the motion, Mr. Speaker, as follows. I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, that the motion for return no. 32 be amended by deleting all the words after 'March 24, '83' and substituting therefor the following:

the duties and responsibilities of the position together with any changes in those duties and responsibilities since May 8, '82, and the duties and responsibilities of any other position which has been combined with the position and the salary of such position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, '83.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 33

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 33 showing:

With respect to the position of the deputy minister of the department of intergovernmental affairs: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — The same amendment as the previous motion. I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, that motion for return no. 33 be amended by deleting all the words after the words 'March 24, '83; (3)' and substituting therefor the following:

the duties and responsibilities of the position together with any changes in those duties and responsibilities since May '82, and the duties and responsibilities of any other position which have been combined with the position, and the salary of such position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, '83.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 34

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 34 showing:

With respect to the position of deputy minister to the Premier in the administration branch of the Department of the Executive Council: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the

person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, that the motion for return no. 34 be amended by deleting all the words after the words 'March 24, '83; (3),' and substituting therefor the following:

the duties and responsibilities of the position together with any changes in those duties and responsibilities since May '82 and the duties and responsibilities of any other position which has been combined with the position, and the salary of such position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to that position as at March 24, '83.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 35

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 35 showing:

With respect to the position of cabinet press officer in the administration branch of the Department of Executive Council: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1982; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, that the motion for return no. 35 be amended by deleting all the words after the words 'March 24, 1983; (3),' and substituting therefor the following:

the duties and responsibilities of the position together with any changes in those duties and responsibilities since May 8th, 1982, and the duties and responsibilities of any other position which has been combined with the position and the salary of such position; and (4) the experience and qualification of the person appointed to the position as of March 24, 1983.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 36

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 36 showing:

With respect to the position of special assistant to the Premier for communications in the administration branch of the Department of the Executive Council: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move that motion for return no. 36 be amended by deleting all the words after the words 'March 24, 1983' and substituting therefor the following:

(3) the duties and responsibilities of the position together with any changes in those duties and responsibilities since May 8, 1982 and the duties and responsibilities of any other position which has been combined with the position, the salary of such positions; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 37

Mr. Shillington: — Thank you very much. I may say to the member from Cannington that it appears that return no. 37 through to return no. 41 will all be the subject of the said amendment. And if that is the case, then why don't we just skip reading it and just read the introduction and move it without reading it?

While the Clerk's having a go at that, I'll move, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order for the Assembly do issue for return no. 37 showing:

With respect to the position of director of media relations in the administration branch of the Department of the Executive Council: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

I'm trying to — I just don't think the House Leader is going to make it if we don't take pity on him. I know he's competent but he's human.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, that the motion for return no. 37 — we may do this on the next one when we find out whether we can do it or not — be amended by removing all the words after the words 'March 24, 1983; (3),' and substituting therefor the following:

the duties and responsibilities of the position together with any changes in those duties and responsibilities since May, 1982, and the duties and responsibilities of any other position which has been combined with the position and salary of such a position; and (4) the experience and

qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 38

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 38 showing:

With respect to the position of the Clerk of the Executive Council and assistant cabinet secretary in the administration branch of the Department of the Executive Council: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — The same amendment as has been moved the previous few orders for return, with leave from the hon. member for Regina Centre.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 39

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 39 showing:

With respect to the position of chief electoral officer in the electoral office of the Department of the Executive Council: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, the same amendment from 32 on.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 40

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 40 showing:

With respect to the position of senior administrative assistant to the chief electoral officer in the electoral office of the Department of the Executive Council: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, that the motion for return no. 40 be amended as per 32 on.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 41

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return no. 41 showing:

With respect to the position of special adviser to the minister in the department of governmental affairs: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 2, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Health, that the motion for return no. 41 be amended as per 32 on.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 42

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return no. 42 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the minister of government services on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case her destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied her at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 42 be amended by striking out the words, 'May 8, '82' and substituting:

December 17, 1982.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I will point out that the next few will be having that similar amendment, so we'll go through the same procedure, with leave from members opposite.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 43

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return no. 43 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Urban Affairs on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member from Regina North, that motion for return no. 43 be amended as per 42.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 44

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 44 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Labour on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 44 be amended as per 42.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 45

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 45 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the minister of intergovernmental affairs on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that that motion for return no. 45 be amended as per 42.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 46

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 46 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Environment for Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 46 be amended as per 42.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 47

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 47 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Affairs on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 47 be amended as per 42.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 48

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 48 showing:

Regarding the period May 8, 1982 to March 24, 1983: (1) the number of out-of-province trips made by the Minister of Culture and Recreation on Saskatchewan government business; (2) in each case his destination, the purpose of the trip, the name of each person who accompanied him at government expense; and (3) in each case the total cost of the trip (including air fares, hotels, meals, etc.).

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 48 be amended as per 42.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 49

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 49 showing:

With respect to the position of the vice-chairman in the office of the Liquor Licensing Commission: (1) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect of the position as at April 1, 1982; (2) the name of the person appointed to the position and the annual salary established in respect to the position as at March 24, 1983; (3) the duties and responsibilities of the position; and (4) the experience and qualifications of the person appointed to the position as at March 24, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 49 be amended as per motion no. 32.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 52

Mr. Lingenfelter moved, seconded by Mr. Shillington, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no 52 showing:

(1) The total dollar amount paid by the department of revenue, supply and services during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 53

Mr. Lingenfelter moved, seconded by Mr. Shillington, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 53 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the department of government services during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 53 be amended as per 32.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 54

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 54 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Labour during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 54 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, '82' and substituting:

November 27, '82.

That will be our new bench-mark.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 55

Mr. Shillington: — Just before I move this, let me say to the House Leader, it looks as if 55 to 59 will all be amended in the same fashion. I don't know what . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Let's take the amendments as read. I don't think we need to hear . . . (inaudible) . . . changing the dates.

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly to issue for return no. 55 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Consumer and Commercial Affairs during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that

motion for return no. 55 be amended as per previous motions, in a similar fashion.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 56

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 56 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Saskatchewan Liquor Board during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 57

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 57 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Co-operation and Co-operative Development during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 57 be amended in a similar fashion.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 58

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 58 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Culture and Recreation during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that a motion for return no. 58 be amended similarly.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 59

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 59 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Urban Affairs during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 59 be amended similarly.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 60

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 60 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the department of intergovernmental affairs during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that return no. 60 be amended similarly.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 61

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 61 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the department of the Attorney-General during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 61 be amended similarly.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 62

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 62 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Education during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 62 be amended similarly.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 63

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by the member for Pelly, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 63 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 64

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 64 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the department of continuing education during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion for return no. 64 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, '82,' and substituting 'November 27, '82' therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Motion No. 65

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 65 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the department of industry and commerce during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has

been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that motion no. 65 be amended similarly.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 66

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 66 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Saskatchewan Highway Traffic Board during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 67

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 67 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Highways and Transportation during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 68

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 68 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the department of rural affairs during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 69

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 69 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Telephones during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2)

the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 70

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 70 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Urban Affairs; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to urge all members of the Assembly to vote no to this particular question, Mr. Speaker. This resolution asked the same questions on a broader basis as return no. 9 asked for, and quite frankly, each subdivision in departments would have to search the records to obtain this information, and there's no guarantee as to the precision or the accuracy of the records. The method of record keeping, I point out, Mr. Speaker, has been established long before this administration took office. And had the last administration been asked these questions, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure they were, they would have had the same problems. It's virtually impossible to pull it together, and I would therefore, urge all members to negative this question.

Motion negated on division.

Return No. 71

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 71 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Labour; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, the same arguments apply. I would urge all members to negative this motion.

Motion negated.

Return No. 72

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 72 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Culture and Recreation; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms, and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, same arguments apply. I urge all members to negative this motion.

Motion negated on division.

Return No. 73

Mr. Shillington moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 73 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Co-operation and Co-operative Development; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negated on division.

Return No. 78

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 78 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Saskatchewan Highway Traffic Board; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualification of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negated on division.

Return No. 79

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 79 showing:

(1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Telephones; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 80

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 80 showing:

(1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the department or rural affairs; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 81

Mr. Lusney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 81 showing:

(1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Highways and Transportation; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 82

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 82 showing:

(1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the department of the Attorney-General; (2) the date on which each written contract was

entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negated on division.

Return No. 83

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 83 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Consumer and Commercial Affairs; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negated.

Return No. 84

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 84 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the department of continuing education; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negated.

Return No. 85

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 85 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Education; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 86

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 86 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of the Executive Council; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, the order requests that the Department of the Executive Council advise this House or give to this House the information of people that it has hired under written contract, at an amount of more than \$1,000 per month. Now, clearly there are not going to be many people who are hired under a written contract that provide for \$1,000 a month, or more.

This does not deal with the matter of casual employees. Casual employees are highly unlikely to get \$1,000 a month. It does not deal with regular employees. Regular employees are not hired under written contracts, and I venture to think that there will not be more than one or two people in the Government of Saskatchewan who might be called regular employees who would have been hired under anything called a written contract. In fact, they are appointed pursuant to the provisions of The Public Service Act, and for the most part, for the great overwhelming majority of cases, there will be no written contract, as such.

What we are dealing with are contract employees – the new variation of employee introduced by this government, in great numbers I may say, in great numbers I may say, who are in many cases doing the regular work of government employees. I think this will be the first time that I'm aware of in this legislature that a minister of the Crown has come in and had sitting beside him, offering him advice in answer to questions, a person who was not a regular employee, but someone who was on a contract of employment. This happened during the last session when the Premier was here with the estimates of the Executive Council. And, when you look at the list of regular employees, the person who was sitting beside him was not a regular employee, but a person on a written contract of employment.

Now, the information which is requested here will by and large be information published with respect to regular employees and in the *Public Accounts*.

It ought to be available with respect to these contract employees just as surely as it is available with respect to regular employees. I can understand why the members opposite . . . The House Leader may not wish to disclose the fact that someone is getting \$400 a day, but the mere fact that he doesn't wish to disclose the fact that someone is getting \$400 a day or more is no reason why he should deny that information to the public. Now, this is what is asked on this question. We're asking whether people are hired at \$410 a day or more; the name of each person whose

services were retained after May 1st, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to get \$1,000 a month or more; and the date and the amount and terms and conditions and the experience and the duties.

Those are pretty reasonable questions to be asked – pretty reasonable for the public to have a right to know what the qualifications and duties are of someone who is getting \$400 a day or more and pretty unreasonable for the government to say that they will not disclose that information – pretty unreasonable.

I can think of no effective answers to the assertion that the public has a right to know the qualifications, the experience, and what job is being done when \$400 a day of their money is being paid out to an individual. And we know that's true; we know that other people are getting \$350 a day. I think the public has a right to know what these people are doing and why they merit payments of that amount. And if in fact the government has nothing to apologize for, if in fact payments of this amount are merited, then surely they will not resist giving this information to the press and to the public. But if in fact these payments are not merited, if in fact they're being paid to people who have no just cause, just claim, to get that kind of money, then I would expect that the government opposite may well vote against this motion.

There can be no other reason for voting against it. I am referring now to the Executive Council. There are no thousands of employees in the Executive Council. I trust that there would be not more than 150 people all in, in the Executive Council, if that. There would be no great difficulty to run down the list to see which were regular employees and which were employed under contracts of employment. No difficulty at all, Mr. Speaker. And if the government doesn't accept this motion, it will be not because there is any difficulty in getting the information, but because they decline to disclose the information. There can be no other explanation. If there was some small defect in the wording, according to them, they certainly would have moved the amendment. They have not been reticent in moving amendments with respect to other motions. But that is not done here.

We're talking, Mr. Speaker, about people who are hired in the office of the Executive Council, that's the Premier's office, and we are talking about people who are getting in some cases very large sums of money, at a rate of \$100,000 a year. And we're asking what they're doing for \$100,000 a year. We're asking what they're doing for \$75,000 or \$80,000 a year. I would be interested in knowing whether the government opposite is refusing to tell us what these people are doing for \$75,000 or \$80,000 or \$100,000 a year.

If they vote against this, we will know that they're saying, not only to us, because whether or not we know is not of any particular moment, but whether or not the public of Saskatchewan have a right to know is a very considerable moment . . . And that's what we're here for. We're here to ask, on behalf of the public, for information they have a right to know. And it is my assertion, Mr. Speaker, that the public have the right to know and I'm going to call upon the government to support this motion, and to give to us and to this legislature and to the public information on contract employees, not people who are getting trifling sums of money, but getting \$1,000 a month or more – what qualifications they have, what duties they perform, and what salary they get, what payments they get from the public purse. I think it is a reasonable request. I ask the government to support it.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the request is reasonable,

the position that we have taken is that we're going to vote against this particular resolution. I can remember full well when I was on that side of the House and you were on this side of the House, advancing the same arguments that we are advancing here today. I can remember full well that, for instance, when we were asking for names and qualifications of people under contract to the previous administration, that all of the arguments that we advance were advanced then. For instance, you were somewhat reluctant, or the previous minister of agriculture was somewhat reluctant to indicate to this House that one Roy Atkinson was acting under contract to his department for a \$26,000 fee annually. I'm not suggesting for a moment that those kinds of contracts exist in this particular government. Some may, some may not. I'm not familiar with all the departments. I can tell you they don't exist in my department.

I wonder why the Leader of the Opposition is asking us on this particular motion to duplicate what he already has. He got it in estimates of Executive Council the last session and I understand it was tabled. He was quoting from it in question period today, as I recall. So quite simply I'm asking all members to negative this motion.

Motion negatived on the following recorded division.

Yeas – 5

Blakeney
Koskie

Thompson
Lusney

Lingenfelter

Nays – 24

Muller
McLaren
Currie
Sauder
Smith (Moose Jaw South)
Gerich
Hepworth
Dutchak

Taylor
Garner
Smith (Swift Current)
Meagher
Martens
Domotor
Myers
Folk

Berntson
Klein
Sveinson
Parker
Caswell
Dirks
Zazelenchuk
Morin

Return No. 87

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 87 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the department of industry and commerce; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained

under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 88

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 88 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the department of revenue, supply and services; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 89

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 89 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Saskatchewan Liquor Board; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, I won't detain the House long except to say that what is requested here is a list of the people who the liquor board is hiring under contract and paying more than \$1,000 a month. I'm very surprised if the government would take the position that they will not tell this House who the liquor board is hiring under contracts of \$1,000 a month or more, which is in the instance of being a regular employee and if not, I can only assume that the liquor board is being used as a place to hire people and pay people who the government does not wish to disclose, to pay them sums of money, to bury the people who are friends of the Progressive Conservative Party whose names and duties and salaries and payments the government does not wish to disclose.

I think it will be known that the new chairman of the liquor board is the former leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Saskatchewan and he may well be qualified, but I think it's particularly unfortunate when the government opposite appoints the former leader of the Progressive Conservative Party as chairman of the liquor board, authorizes him to hire people under contract, and then declines to disclose in this House even the names of the people hired under contract, and certainly declines to say what they are paid, what their duties are, or what their qualifications are.

If the public views that with some scepticism, if the public views the story of the House Leader saying that it's going to be a terrible job to find all these names, if they view that story with some scepticism, I think we can think that the public was right and the House Leader is wrong. And certainly under these circumstances, particularly when they have made this appointment of a person close to their party as chairman, when the previous chairmen for certainly 30 years had been without party allegiance. And if anyone doubts that, I invite anyone to review that and to indicate what conceivable party allegiance any of the previous chairmen had.

And having changed that precedent going back to 30 years, and having then authorized – as undoubtedly he does have the authority – to engage people under contract, and then having refused to disclose to this House the names of the people who he has hired by this clandestine method, because it does not show up in *Public Accounts* as they will with ordinary government departments, then I think we can readily understand why the public will be sceptical about any denials on the part of the government that there is nothing wrong with this procedure. And I regret to say that the government, in my judgement, is embarked upon an entirely wrong course of action. I invite them to reconsider at least with respect to the liquor board and the employees which are hired by the new chairman of the liquor board under contract – not under regular procedure, not under the union contract – but under this method by which of contract by which no disclosure is provided for.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I have very quickly reconsidered and the answer is still no. I say, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition makes some suggestion that the chairman of the liquor board has a party affiliation and I don't think there is any doubt that the chairman of the liquor board has a party affiliation, as does the agent-general to London have a party affiliation, so do a few others around the province have a party affiliation. I can think of others that have a party affiliation with the previous administration. I can think of candidates, for instance, from the last election that work in the Department of Co-ops. I can think of all kinds, and a few SGI agents that used to sit in this House.

You know I just wouldn't get too excited about party affiliation. When you start to question his competence and his credentials, I don't think there should be any question there and quite frankly from where I sit, and I don't call the shots over here, but if I did, everything being equal, I would go with one of my party affiliation before I would go with one of yours. And there can be no question about that.

Mr. Speaker, there are several forums to get the information that the members opposite are asking for. One is during estimates in this House. We would be dealing with the estimates of Health, if we could get through these resolutions, at which time you could ask for the people employed in that particular department or whatever. The arguments that we advanced for resolution no. 9 and resolution no. 70, and so on, they are general, but valid, and we're treating all the resolutions in a similar nature. If the minister for whatever departments wants to give you that information, I've no objection to him giving it to you. You will have your opportunity to question the minister responsible for the liquor board during estimates as you will have the opportunity to question the Minister of Health this evening. Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, I would urge all members to vote against this resolution.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 90

Mr. Koskie moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 90 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 92

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Thompson, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 92 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Executive Council during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — This, Mr. Speaker, asks for the total dollar amount paid by the Department of Executive Council for the period since May 8, to April 12, to commercial airlines for air fares, and the name of the individual for whom the air fare has been paid. It's a fairly simply and straightforward request for information.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — A couple of simple amendments to set the dates out so there's no overlap between this and the previous order from the last session, and secondly, to limit air fares to those for paid employees, as opposed to those who would be in a trustee relationship as a ward to a minister or something like that.

I move, seconded by the Minister of Education, that motion for return no. 92 be amended to read as follows:

The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Executive Council during the period November 27, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for employee air fares; the name of each employee for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak against the amendment, and the amendment cannot possibly be justified. What we have here is the Department of the Executive Council and what we're asking is: for whom are they paying air fares? And we know the way that the Department of Executive Council operates. A large number of its employees are contract employees, and apparently not regular employees.

So we have one group, who they will not tell us about air fares, about the Mr. Leiers and the Mr. Livingstones, and all of these people who not only had the good fortune to get

\$410 a day, but apparently had the good fortune to get air fares paid for them which are undisclosed by the government opposite. There's that group of people who are contract people, who are not employees and who the government is refusing to say how much they're paying for air fares.

There's another group of people, I assume the president of the Progressive Conservative Party, if he goes somewhere with the Premier, his air fare can be paid and the government opposite declines to disclose that.

It is suggested to me, Mr. Speaker, that I am being ridiculous. Can anyone think of any reason why people who had their air fare paid by the Executive Council should not have that fact disclosed in this House? Does the Minister of Agriculture suggest that anybody flies under the expense of the Executive Council, who is a ward of the Government of Saskatchewan, or is in some other trustee relationship? I say that is ridiculous. I say that is ridiculous. I say that this House has a right to know for whom air fares are paid. If we have a right to know how much air fare is paid for an employee, we have a greater right to know how much air fare is paid for a non-employee.

It is in the ordinary course of the operation of a government to pay for air fares for employees. It is not in the ordinary course of operations of a government to pay for air fares for non-employees – for non-employees. I don't suggest that it's always improper. Certainly it is not. The Premier may well take people to a conference who are not employees of the government, and it's entirely proper to pay air fares. But this should be disclosed.

The previous government certainly took distinguished citizens to conferences on the constitution – representatives of the Francophone community, or the native community, or SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities), or SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association), and those air fares were paid, and the amounts were disclosed. There's no reason: (a) why they shouldn't be paid; but (b) why they shouldn't be disclosed.

I think that this . . . we come to the nub of the matter of whether or not we're dealing with a government which wants to make known facts about its administration or wants to cover up facts about its administration. And when one thinks about why they wouldn't want to disclose what air fares were paid by the Premier's office, one can think of a number of explanations, some of which do no credit to the government opposite. And no explanation has been given as to why you will not disclose, Mr. Minister, the costs that are being borne by the taxpayers for people who aren't employees of the government.

We have a good number of citizens who would like to have their air fare paid by the government, but they have to pay their taxes and they're not getting their air fare paid by the government. They would like to know, and have every right to know, whether other citizens are getting their air fares paid for by the government, and under what aegis, whether, when people go to conferences of the Progressive Conservative Party, whether they're at Winnipeg or Ottawa, they're getting air fares paid. Maybe not, maybe not. But why not disclose that fact? What is hidden? What is hidden about air fares paid by the Executive Council for people who are not employees? No argument can be advanced that has any logic, and a great number of arguments can be advanced which do no credit to the government opposite.

It is suggested that this may be obtained in estimates. This is not only available to

members of this House. Estimates are not the only forum, indeed they're not the best forum for detailed information. The best forum for getting detailed information about lists of bills that have been paid, amounts of money that have been paid, are most certainly orders for return. This has been done universally in the past, and in other legislatures, and certainly estimates is not the place. However, if the Deputy Premier is giving me the undertaking of his government, that when we ask this question in estimates, we'll get the answer, then that's another matter, but I don't think he is. I think he's just saying that we will refuse it there as we will refuse it here.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that it bodes ill for the people of Saskatchewan, when a government opposite will not disclose whose air fares they're paying. Just won't disclose it. Says it's none of the public's business. Sure it's the public's money, but it's none of the public's business and as for why, no explanation — just we are the government, we're spending your money, and you have no right to know where. That is the position taken by the minister. It's a wrong position. It's one which he ought to abandon and I invite him now to abandon that position, and either to withdraw his amendment or to fail to support it.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I . . .

Mr. Speaker: — I'm sorry, I've missed you speaking twice.

Amendment agreed to on division.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 93

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 93 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the department of intergovernmental affairs; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived.

Return No. 94

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 94 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of the Provincial Secretary; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of

remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 95

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 95 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the crown investments corporation; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, this is done in the same form as otherwise. I think there is considerable indication that some people have been employed by the crown investments corporation under contract. There are a number of people who appear to be in a contractual relationship with the crown investments corporation.

The crown investments corporation is a relatively small organization, perhaps 30 or 40 employees all in. It will not be very difficult to find the two, or three, or four, or five, who are in some contractual relationship with the crown investments corporation, and who might be earning \$1,000 a month or more. It will be a very small group of people. It will represent no amount of work to ascertain who they are and to give the information with respect to them. And since the crown investments corporation is a central agency, and since there is every evidence that people like Mr. Bruce Flamont have been employed by crown investment corporation — considerable interest has been expressed as to what services he was performing for the crown investments corporation — I think it would be very helpful, not only to members of this House, but to a good number of other people around the province, if this information were made available, and I urge all hon. members to accept the motion.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, on this motion, the Leader of the Opposition, of course, is right. There are a few, I suspect, on contract to CIC, the central agency for the crowns, and I suppose the information could, indeed, be readily available. I'm not aware of what sort of access problems there are to the information. If they are as available as he indicates that it might be, I'm sure that the proper course of action would be for him to seek out that information at the crown corporations committee.

And not to suggest that it couldn't be provided here, but this resolution takes the same form as other resolutions for other departments that we have denied, and I'm following the same route as some, rather than risk providing you with an opportunity to use the argument, 'Well, you passed this one, why don't you pass the next one?'

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, just a word in closing the debate. It will be noted that this asks information with respect to the crown investments corporation, which is a crown corporation, and it is comparatively difficult to get information with respect to a

crown corporation for the calendar year 1983. The crown corporations committee ordinarily does not deal with matters after the end of the fiscal year. I am asking for information up to a date more current than the end of the last fiscal year. And accordingly, the argument that the information is available in the crown corporations committee is not a sound argument. It may well be that the information can be asked in estimates; but it may well be also, that it will be resisted in estimates.

Certainly, the minister, on a previous occasion, expressed no particular pleasure at being asked current questions on the crown investments corporation in estimates. I invite the Minister of Agriculture to speak to his colleague on this and remind his colleague that he has indicated that this information might be asked in estimates and we will certainly take advantage of that kind offer by the Minister of Agriculture.

Motion negated.

Return No. 96

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 96 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Finance; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negated.

Return No. 97

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 97 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Energy and Mines; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Mr. Speaker: — I would like to caution the hon. member to only use the member's constituency, and not be naming members.

Motion negated on division.

Return No. 98

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly

do issue for return no. 98 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of the Provincial Secretary during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — This motion, Mr. Speaker, asks for amounts paid by the Department of the Provincial Secretary, for commercial air fares and the name of each individual for whom the air fare has been paid.

And I think it's worthwhile to note, Mr. Speaker, that in most cases these are in the exact words that have been agreed to at the previous session, and I invite all hon. members who may doubt that to look at the words that we are now moving and to look at the words which were moved in the previous session, and to find out whether or not they are the same. And in this case, I think they're exactly the same.

I think that providing, which I trust will happen, the information from the previous session caused no difficulty for the government, and accordingly I would expect, therefore, that there be no problem with respect to providing the same information. If in fact there has been a difficulty, I know that the appropriate minister will explain the difficulty which was experienced by the government and the reasons why this information, which was agreed to in the last session, is now being denied.

Motion agreed to.

Return No. 99

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 99 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I moved, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 99 be amended to read as follows:

The total dollar amount paid by the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for employee air fares; (2) the name of each employee for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

And I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the reason for this amendment is to exclude those people who may have had transportation paid to come out for interviews for . . . (inaudible) . . . positions, etc.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 100

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 100 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Finance during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 100 be amended by striking out the words ‘to May 8, 1982’ and substituting:

November 27th, 1982.

That’s just to eliminate overlap between the previous return and this one.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 101

Hon. Mr. Blakeney moved, seconded by Mr. Lingenfelter, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 101 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Energy and Mines during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that 101 be similarly amended by striking out the words ‘May 8, 1982’ and substituting:

November 27, 1982.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 102

Mr. Lingenfelter moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 102 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Social Services; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a

copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 103

Mr. Lingenfelter moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 103 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Social Services during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual, excluding the names of recipients of benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan or like programs, for whom an air fare has been paid and the amount paid for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 103 be amended to read as follows:

The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Social Services during the period November 27, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for employee air fares; the name of each employee for whom the air fare has been paid and the amount paid for each employee.

And the reason again, Mr. Speaker, firstly, to avoid duplication as to overlap of dates, and secondly, to exclude all but employee air fares. The other categories would be wards, and people who many fall under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan, and others of confidential nature.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 104

Mr. Lingenfelter moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return no. 104 showing:

- (1) The total dollar amount paid by the Department of Health for air fares between May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual excluding the names of persons receiving payments of air fares as part of a general program for needy persons, for whom an air fare has been paid and the amount paid for each individual.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I move, seconded by the member for Regina North, that the motion for return no. 104 be amended by striking out the words 'May 8, 1982' and substituting:

November 27, 1982.

Amendment agreed to.

Motion as amended agreed to.

Return No. 105

Mr. Lingenfelter moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for a return no. 105 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the department of government services; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived.

Return No. 106

Mr. Lingenfelter moved, seconded by Mr. Koskie, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 106 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the Department of Health; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 107

Mr. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 107 showing:

- (1) The name of each person whose services were retained after May 1, 1982 under a written contract under which such person was paid or entitled to be paid an amount of \$1,000 per month or more by or with the department of tourism and renewable resources; (2) the date on which each written contract was entered into; (3) the amount, terms and conditions of remuneration for each contract; (4) the experience and qualifications of each person retained under contract; (5) the duties of each person retained under contract; (6) a copy of each written contract.

Motion negatived on division.

Return No. 108

Mr. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. Lusney, that an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 108 showing:

(1) The total dollar amount paid by the department of tourism and renewable resources during the period May 8, 1982 to April 12, 1983 to commercial airlines for air fares; (2) the name of each individual for whom air fare has been paid and the amount for each individual.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

CONSOLIDATED FUND BUDGETARY EXPENDITURE

HEALTH

Ordinary Expenditure – Vote 32

Item 1

Mr. Chairman: — Would the minister introduce his officials?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd be very pleased to have the opportunity to introduce my officials to the House and the opposition and anyone in the galleries. Beside me is my deputy, Ken Fyke, deputy minister of health; to my left, Mr. Peter Glynn, the associate deputy minister of health; sitting behind me to the right is George Loewen, associate deputy minister of health; directly behind me is Lawrence Krahn, director of administrative services; and in the back row I have Rick Rogers, the executive director of the SHSP; Steve Petz, executive director of the continuing care branch; Bob Reid, newly appointed assistance deputy minister, and John Yarske, executive director of psychiatric services.

I'd also like to say at this time, I remember my last estimates, Mr. Chairman, where I thanked the rest of my staff at the end. But, because of a lot of the trivia and the mundane questions coming from the other side, they had left; so I'm not going to run that risk tonight. They've been waiting a long time for our estimates to start, and I just thank all of you for being here to supply the necessary information, to answer the questions that the hon. members on the other side will deservedly ask. So I just would like to thank you and we'll get on with the estimates.

I understand there's some roaring on the other side, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what the reason for that is, but I'd have a few introductory remarks that I think will lend a little food for thought for the members on the other side. And with your indulgence I'd like to start into those.

I just want to say a few words of introduction and then we can get on with the main questioning. I suppose, Mr. Chairman, one of the main features of this year's budget is, of course, the inclusion of continuing care and ambulance services into the Department of Health. I think these are both very positive moves. Home care, special care homes and all aspects of ambulance service will now be the responsibility of just one department and one minister. And that will help us a lot in developing programs in a co-ordinated and efficient manner.

As far as the size of the budget is concerned, I want to emphasize that, excluding the effects of continuing care and ambulance services, that the budget of the department has risen by \$70 million over the 1982-83 budget. Mr. Chairman, that's an increase of 9.6 per cent. And I repeat that's an increase, when you compare apples with apples, of 9.6 per cent. I think it's a substantial increase in these times of tight economic times.

The budget provides concrete evidence, Mr. Chairman, of the government's commitment to improve health care; a commitment, Mr. Chairman, a commitment of \$17 million to cancer and the Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan; a commitment, Mr. Chairman, of 700,000 for the expansion of cardiac services here in Regina; \$650,000 for a new pediatric intensive care unit at the University Hospital in Saskatoon; 180 new positions in our hospitals, 180 new positions; funds for 97 new special home care beds and \$2 million to address urgent needs in the long-term care; and funds to initiate for the first time in Saskatchewan a chiropody program that the senior citizens of this province asked that government opposite, when they were government, for. In '75 it was promised; in '78; in '83 it will be delivered by the government on this side of the House. That is listening to people and delivering programs that they're asking for. These are just a few of the major items. But I think they speak for themselves in terms of the priority which the government assigns to health care in this province.

I hear that the fellows are chirping away on the other side, so I would like to entertain any questions that they would like to ask regarding health care under the Devine government in Saskatchewan. And at that point, Mr. Chairman, I would cease my introductory remarks and invite questions from the members opposite.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Chairman, I thank the minister for ending those trivial remarks. As I expected, he usually starts out in a very boisterous way, trying to bolster up his ego so he can make it through the evening, and we've learned to anticipate that, and I don't suppose we would be surprised. And he did mention one program — a new program. At the same time I would like to run through a few of the cut-backs that I have noticed in going through the budget.

You will know, Mr. Minister and Mr. Chairman, that the dental plan, for example, has a major cut-back since this government came to power. We have seen the four-year-olds cut out of the program. A million dollars that had been in the budget last year and this year for four-year-olds is nowhere to be seen. This year it's further cut by not including the 17-year-olds, who many expected to be included in this budget. We see staff cuts in the dental care program of 22 people in that program by your own estimates.

Psych services — we see cut-backs in that area. By Ourselves is cut totally — the budget for that group which deals with people who have mental problems and who are trying to adjust to the civilian life or the street life. The minister has seen fit to cut that funding totally. Women's health-sharing — I believe there is no funding and the minister can correct me if he has changed his mind in that area. And the list goes on.

And so to say that you are increasing spending and expanding programs, Mr. Minister, is simply not true. You will know that the provincial lab is nowhere to be seen. Hearing aid plan has drastic cut-backs in staff. And so for you to stand here and say that your government is committed to health is simply not accurate.

What you have done in the reorganization, Mr. Minister, is in a very sinister way taken money out of the Department of Northern Saskatchewan and the Department of Social Services, because you couldn't get it out of the Minister of Finance, to carry on your programming. And it's true that in your estimates the total amount that is being spent in Health has increased. But I would like to explain to the taxpayers of the province where this money is coming from. It's not coming from the minister who has gone to cabinet and the treasury benches and got money out to expand psych services, or to expand the dental plan, or to expand the hearing aid program, or the drug plan; quite the opposite. Where the increase in health funding comes from . . . The increase from 728 million to 977 million is in large part coming from other departments, the Department of Northern Saskatchewan, and the Department of Social Services. And in this way, the minister and the government are attempting to say that they are improving health spending to the point that they are number one in Canada.

I say that this is a sinister move by this government in order to use smoked mirrors in order to attempt to trick the population of Saskatchewan into believing that they are getting a better health system, when in fact what we are seeing is a cut-back in many areas. And I imagine next year if the minister needs more help, he may look at the Department of Agriculture and take veterinary services, for example, and attempt to say that that is improving the health care in Saskatchewan, when this is what he is doing with the Department of Social Services and the Department of Northern Saskatchewan, to attempt to bolster his budget.

I would like to ask the minister if he expects the senior citizens, whose responsibility has been shifted to his department – the home care area and the nursing homes – whether he expects the benefits for those people to be improved; and whether he can tell me whether or not the rates in nursing homes will be held, and whether they will get better service for the same amount of money, which I think people expect by moving that to Health; or whether it's simply a smoke-screen to increase your budget and also increase nursing home rates. Are you expecting an increase, or not, this coming year?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, Mr. Chairman, I listened with interest to the hon. member opposite, and I heard him say most distinctly . . . This is what you said, sir, that 'the minister opened with trivial comments.' Those were your words, correct? That's what you said, 'trivial comments.' Now, Mr. Speaker, and members of this Assembly, if you believe that cardiac service to people in Saskatchewan is trivia; if you believe that \$17 million for cancer is trivia; if you believe that pediatric intensive care is trivia; if you believe that 180 nurses at the bedside of sick people in this province is trivia; then I challenge you, I challenge you to go out and tell the people of Saskatchewan that, and I hope they heard you. I will tell you that I will put those comments of yours around the province, because that's your attitude.

That was your attitude when you were in government, that this was trivia. I told you earlier, the senior citizens of this province were promised in '75 and '78 a chiropody program. We didn't promise that in the election, but we're delivering it now. And, I'm very pleased to hear you lead off, to lead off with saying that the treatment of cancer, the treatment of open-heart surgery, the intensive care of young people, is trivial, because those were your words, and you'll live to remember those words – trivia.

All right, now you started talking about psychiatric services. I want to correct the record a bit, Mr. Chairman. I just want to tell you about the attitude that the government opposite had towards . . . psychiatric services in this province. I will go back to 1976,

where there were 43 positions deleted, 30 of which were in nursing; 1979, 35 positions deleted, 21 of them in nursing; and in 1983 there have been 28 positions deleted, 4 in nursing. Now you tell me, Mr. Chairman, which government has the concern for the people. There is your record, try and dispute it. I wanted . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well, I think we'd better compare them because this is just what the people are getting now, is good health care service.

And I wanted . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well, do you want me to repeat it again? I know you may need the hearing aid plan, but I'll go right through these again if you didn't get them that time: 43 in 1976 – now listen closely this time – 43 positions deleted . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I'm coming to what we're doing . . . 30 of which were nursing; in 1979, 35 positions deleted, 21 were nursing; 1983, 28 positions deleted, 4 of them were nursing.

Now you made some reference in your opening remarks that the increase in the budget was because of the amalgamation. I want to go again and remind you – 9.6 per cent, 9.6 per cent, without any amalgamation of the ambulance or the special care. 9.6 per cent in the Department of Health and I challenge you to tell me another province in Canada; you cite another province in Canada tonight, sir, that gave that type of improvement to health care. You can't. I'll ask you to do that.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — My question to the minister was whether or not you expect nursing home rates to be increased this year. Here again, we see the showboat grandstanding and a failure to answer the question. What I asked is whether or not you are guaranteeing the senior citizens tonight that they will not see an increase in nursing home rates as a result of the shift from Social Service to Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I would just like to keep going through some of these things that you've asked questions about. We'll get to the senior citizens . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Oh no, I'll answer any question you can ask, and probably answer them in a way that you won't be wanting to be asking too many more.

I want to tell you, in psych services, since taking office, the government has approved programs for improved crisis intervention and short-term supervised accommodation for difficult-to-handle patients in both Regina and Saskatoon. And you can't tell me that that situation developed since April. That was a situation that was around for the past 11 years and totally ignored by the government that was in previous to the Devine government.

Let's say with the Health estimates - \$200,000 for dealing with people in crisis. Right there . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well, I would think it certainly is something that has to be addressed. That is the difference between our government and yours. You know what your philosophy was? I told some of my department one day, and they thought it was very apropos: I call it the milk-pail philosophy and I grew up where you fed calves. But you fed that calf, you didn't take the pail out and throw it around and hope some of the milk landed on somebody. That's how they were. We charted our dollars, we go out and hear where the needs are. The milk-pail philosophy of the NDP – because that's just what it was – throw her out and hope somebody gets some splash on them. We go out and we listen to people, and we target the dollars. And we target the dollars to cancer and to senior citizens and to psych services and delivering the services that the people of Saskatchewan are asking for. And that's the difference.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — I can see . . . The minister should know that the leadership race

is over for a while, and he should get down to running the department.

But my question, for the third time, is this, Mr. Minister, for the third time is whether or not you will guarantee tonight that senior citizens in nursing homes will not be expecting an increase in rates as a result of the shift from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Health. I ask you for the third time, and I'm going to keep asking you until you answer it, because it's obvious that you are not about to answer the question.

You want to talk about everything else – milk pails and cows – but you don't want to tell me whether or not nursing home rates will not go up this year. And that's the question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, you know I think one of the things we want to look at in concern, in a compassionate concern for our senior citizens, is how many dollars they would have left of their disposable income . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No. If you'd just wait a minute. I will answer your question for you.

I remember when you were the minister of social services, and I remember you bringing in a fee of \$390 . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, 390. And you know how much that left the senior citizen of his disposable income? \$50. On April 1, '83 it was raised to \$417, but you know how much was left in the pocket of the senior citizen? \$117.

Now, which government were most concerned about the expenditures allowed for the senior citizen to keep, so that that person could buy some gifts for his granddaughter on her birthday? Perhaps he wants to go down and buy some treats. Those are the kind of things that are important to the senior citizen, and this government is allowing them to stay in accommodations, looked after, and having more than twice the amount of disposable income that you did.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lingenfelter: — I wonder if the minister could answer the question – whether or not we will see nursing home rates increase this year or not. I am sure that your compassion for the seniors and your government by cutting back on the Saskatchewan Income Plan, by cutting back in the hearing aid program, by cutting back in the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council – and the list goes on – will be well known in the province by now.

But the question to you, Mr. Minister, that you're skirting around and trying to avoid, is whether or not we can expect an increase for nursing home rates this year, or whether you are expecting them to remain the same at \$417, which you raised them to last year. Will they be increasing, or will they be staying the same?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Chairman, I can't say with any degree of certainty whether the rates shall remain the same or whether the rates will increase and when that may be. I can't say at this point in time. That's a hypothetical question. But I can assure you this, and our track record proves it, that if the rates are to increase there will be adequate consideration taken of the disposable income that the senior citizen can retain. And I think that's the level and that's the concern that they want to see.

And I've indicated to you from July 1st, '81, when you increased the 390 and left them

\$50 . . . Under this government they've had \$117 left in their pockets, and that consideration will be taken into view in this year.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Minister, can you tell me where the increased revenue came from that you're talking about? The increased money that people have in their pockets today – where did that come from? Did it come from the provincial government, or did it come from the federal government? That's my question to you. Because what you are doing every time you raise the nursing home rates is taking money that the federal government has given to the seniors in nursing homes and you take it by raising nursing home rates. And I think that that is an unfair and an unjust way for you as the minister of a department in Saskatchewan to treat the senior citizen. That each time that the federal government raises the amount that a senior gets through whatever plan that it might be, that you then come with your greedy little hands as Minister of Health and take a part of that away that the federal government has given to them. Now the federal government in this country is bad enough in its treatment of people, but you, Mr. Minister, are worse. You come there after the meagre amount that the federal government gives to the seniors and have your hand out.

And in planning your budget for this year, you cannot tell me that you didn't know whether or not there would be an increase in nursing home rates. Because very obviously, when you're planning a budget for a Department of Health, you would know whether or not there is an increase in nursing home rates expected.

And I would like you to tell me now, whether or not you deny that there will be an increase in nursing home rates, because that's what people are beginning to expect of this government, and if you are not going to increase them, then I would like you to deny it. Because failing to deny it will confirm our worst suspicion: that is that you are intending to take the money that the federal government is paying to seniors and keep it for yourself and your government, who are very willing to cut the royalties for oil companies, but at the same time are very quick to raise nursing home rates for the seniors in the province.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Chairman, I think the member asked me previously where the money came from. It comes from the old age security plan and the guaranteed income supplement and from the Saskatchewan Income Plan. That's where the moneys come for these people.

You're indicating, what have we done – that we haven't done anything for seniors. Well, I want to tell you that there's been an increased funding in nursing homes for construction and renovation allowing for 11 million in two years - \$11 million in two years compared to \$7.25 million in seven years under the NDP government. Now who is doing something for the senior citizens? I'd ask that question. Eleven million in two years with this government; 7.25 million in seven years under your administration. A hundred new nursing beds, and 83 replacement beds to be started in 1983-84. Income interest retention policy and surface retention policy for these homes so that they can keep the interest that they have to better supply services to the senior citizens.

You asked about the question about a rate increase – I told you I couldn't say with any degree of certainty that I gave . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No, that does not . . . You know, you would try and read . . . You know, your logic escapes many in here, but I told you we would take into consideration the amount of disposable income that those seniors have, and I can tell you from our past record, we've done a heck of a lot better than you have and we will continue to do that.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — The minister's failure to deny that there's going to be a nursing home rate will raise the spectre for all people in the province that there is one to be coming after the session is over. And I think this is a very inappropriate way for the minister to be acting, where he denies information to the opposition and the people of the province about rate increases, waits till the session is over, and then I believe will be announcing a rate increase when there isn't the opportunity to ask questions of the minister in the House.

But, getting back to where the seniors get their money from . . . Can you tell me whether or not since the last increase in nursing home rates, whether the provincial government, through the Saskatchewan Income Plan, has increased the amount of money that individual seniors can get in the province of Saskatchewan? You're saying you're going to raise the rates for nursing homes based on the disposable income. Can you guarantee to me that if you do not raise the Saskatchewan Income Plan which would give them more money from the provincial government, that you will not raise the nursing home rates? Will you give the people of the province that guarantee and can you tell me whether or not there has been a rate increase in the Saskatchewan Income Plan, seeing as you referred to it?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — There has not been an increase in the Saskatchewan Income Plan. No, there hasn't. And secondly, I think you were trying to put out some fears that there would be an increase immediately the House closes. There will not be an increase immediately the House closes. Does that answer your question? And I said to you further, I can't guarantee that there won't be increases down the road. Certainly I can't. I told you that earlier. I can guarantee you there won't be one immediately the House closes. The spectre you're trying to put out there in the minds of people — trying to mislead again — typical, typical tactic from your side of the House. Well . . .

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Okay, the minister has established that his government is giving no more money to senior citizens through the Saskatchewan Income Plan, which he attempted to put the illusion out there that as he gave more money to the senior citizens, the nursing home rates would be increased.

But, it's interesting to find that there was no increase in the Saskatchewan Income Plan, even though inflation is running at 8 or 9 per cent. Senior citizens got no more money, got no more money from this provincial government, and any increase that they got or obtained was from the federal government. And you, Mr. Minister, now think that it's your responsibility to go to the nursing homes, check the account books of the senior citizens there. If they have a little bit of extra money left, you will then decide whether or not you will take that money and decide how much you will leave for them to have to buy gifts or whatever it is that they might need at that time.

But what I'm trying to tell the people of the province today is that the Minister of Health is unwilling to deny that after the session closes, and we leave here, that he will not be increasing nursing home rates, and he will not give that assurance to this Assembly and to the people of the province. Therefore, I think that it's fair to say that in planning his budget he did take into consideration nursing home rate increases, and I would like you to answer me whether or not that is not the case, whether in planning your budget, you discussed, and actively considered, and have now agreed, to increasing nursing home rates as part of your budget discussions that took place. I want you to answer that very carefully, because I think that you did take that into consideration, and have agreed as part of your budget structure to increase nursing home rates, even though your

government has failed to increase the Saskatchewan Income Plan.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Again, you attempt to mislead and distort the facts. I said there had not been an increase in the Saskatchewan Income Plan — you immediately say that there will be no increase. You know very well that I am not responsible for Saskatchewan Income Plan. You should have asked the other minister last night, but I imagine you forgot, not knowing where it was, although you were the minister at one time, but you probably missed up on that.

You asked me, did I take into consideration an increase in fees for residents in striking the budget? I will tell you emphatically, I did not. You say that there were not considerations given to senior citizens — again, I can remind you of the 11 million for the construction of special care homes. If that isn't for senior citizens — the majority of the people in there are senior citizens — \$500,000 for new pilot projects in small hospitals. Such things as well-elderly clinics . . . We're asking for pilots to come in from the small hospitals, how they can give outreach services to senior citizens. To me, that is services to senior citizens.

And, once again, let me remind you of the chiropody program. I know it's an albatross around your neck. You people promised it, played with the seniors two times. We delivered it; we will deliver it for them. So I take exception to you saying that we do not take into consideration the needs of the senior citizens of Saskatchewan. I think, in a very short period of time since we have become government, that the senior citizens of this province, their health care needs, have been addressed in a more forward and straightforward manner, than they were in the last 10 years.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Minister, in asking about the Saskatchewan Income Plan, I did ask the Minister of Social Services last night. If you had been in the House, you would know that I asked her about the Saskatchewan Income Plan. She said there would not be an increase. I find it interesting that you would have to ask your officials whether or not there was an increase in the Saskatchewan Income Plan, and that you as a part of a cabinet did not know there was no increase. So for you to try to say that I forgot to ask or . . . (inaudible) . . . What you're doing right now simply shows that you do not know what is going on in your own government. The fact that you have to ask your officials whether or not there is an increase in the Saskatchewan Income Plan shows that you are not in complete control of what is going on in the government.

What I would like to ask you is whether or not . . . In planning your budget, you have indicated that you did not take into consideration the increase in nursing home rates. Then you're giving your assurance that in planning the budget there was no increase planned and that people will therefore not be expecting an increase. Certainly if you didn't plan it in your budget, they won't expect an increase. Is that true, or is that wrong?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — No, I told you previously that I did not take it into consideration. I've answered to you that I can't say that there won't be an increase in the coming year. I answered to you that there would not be one immediately after the session. And, you know, I would say to you, I can't quite understand your reasoning. And you want to know why I would consult my officials. I want to tell you that these officials are here and these are some of the best officials in the Government of Saskatchewan, and I will consult them at any time and I make no apology for it.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that the minister will listen to his

officials because they do know something about the department. And that's the point I was trying to make, that the minister is not aware of whether the Saskatchewan Income Plan was increased or not, and would have to ask his officials. And that's the point I'm making. But as of now, the people of the province are not being told by this government whether or not there will be a rate increase in nursing homes, and I suppose we will be left in limbo until the session is over and then, midsummer. I'm sure that knowing the trend of this government, in the dark of night they will come out with a rate increase when they think people are on holidays and the political pressure will not be as great.

But we will make sure that we allow them, to let them know that this government is not doing things in the best interest of seniors. Given the fact that they promised free telephones, what the seniors got is an increase of 19 per cent in telephone rates; they promised a freeze on utility rates, and what the seniors are being asked to pay is a 22 per cent rate increase in power and 25 per cent in natural gas. What we are seeing here is an attack on those people who are the pioneers of the province, and you, Mr. Minister, will not now give them an assurance that the nursing home rates will be frozen in the province of Saskatchewan.

In turning to the home care program, Mr. Minister, I wonder if you could give me an indication whether or not rates within the home care districts, for meals, and work done for individuals, has increased in the past year under your administration.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The rates are set by the local boards, and they could vary across the province and they may have gone up, but it's a local decision.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Well, Mr. Minister, you may say it's a local decision, but I can tell you the reason they are going up, and in fact they are, is because you have not seen fit to put the money into the home care program that is needed. And you may quote that you've increased it by 10 per cent or 40 per cent or 30 per cent, but I want to read to you a letter that was sent to clients of all home care people in one district at least — Watrous-Davidson home care district. And the letter was dated April 1st, 1983, and it says in part:

As you are aware, ever since the home care services were started in this district our fees for services have remained constant.

That's under three years of an NDP administration.

We have been very pleased over the last two years to provide services with one of the lowest client fees in the province. Your bills have been based on \$2.89 per meal, and \$3.64 per hour for home-making and handyman services. This, of course, does not come close to what it costs us to buy the meals and pay for the workers who come into your homes. Due to the economic crisis in existence at the present time, we are receiving almost no increases in government funding.

That's the provincial government they would be referring to because this program is totally funded by the provincial government.

As you are aware, the cost of materials, food and labour has increased tremendously since we started providing our service in March of 1981. For this reason, we regret to inform you that we must raise fees you pay for services in order that we may continue giving you this service. Our client fees

will now be based on \$4.25 for meals and \$5.50 an hour for home-making and handyman services.

Now what that means, Mr. Minister, is that people who get meals from this home care district are seeing a 50 per cent increase – in one year, a 50 per cent increase in meals because you have not seen fit to get the money that you needed to operate this program properly. For the home repair and the home plan that you have in place, the cost has increased by 45 per cent.

And I have here a letter from an individual who is very concerned, and talks about the fact that she is not going to be able to maintain and use this program because the provincial government has failed to put the money into it so this home care district – Watrous-Davidson home care district – can function and function properly.

And I would like you to explain how you expect the seniors of the province to believe all your boasting and . . . (inaudible) . . . way you talk, when what is happening is that the home care program is being undermined because of lack of funding. And I don't want any story about 50 per cent increases because what we are seeing here is not a 50 per cent increase in provincial funding, but the lack of funding to the point that home care districts have to raise the cost of meals 50 per cent – not inflation minus one or five per cent, but more like the rates you are going to gouge the consumers and the seniors in power rates and natural gas. They will have to pay 22 and 25 per cent more for utilities from your crown corporations, but even more . . . and now they are going to have to pay 50 per cent more for the meals through the home care program.

I'd like you to tell me how you square that with the pioneers of the province.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, I can indicate to you that the home care boards received a 7 per cent increase this year the same as most other groups did. Those were the guide-lines, 7 per cent increase this year, the same as most other groups did. Those were the guide-lines. In the case of the Watson home care district that you indicate in your letter, I don't know what their rates were. You indicate two eighty-nine for meals. I would think, if you look at that comparing to the other ones across the province, it was rather low – quite a bit lower than the average. And what may have happened is that they got themselves into a jam in which they had to put up a . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No I'm not blaming them; I'm explaining to you . . .

If you would listen, I would perhaps explain to you what could be the reason why that increase. Now, if you don't want to listen, that's fine and dandy. You asked for an explanation so that's what I'm giving you. I'm not putting the blame on anyone. I'm saying that that was the rate and the provincial rate was about four dollars. Now two eighty-nine is quite a bit different than four dollars. This board made that decision. It was their decision to keep it at two eighty-nine. Now, when they come to this year, they may have found that they didn't have the funds because of them being lower before, being lower before, so therefore they had to increase them by 50 per cent. That was a local decision. That board made it – that's their right to do so.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly adjourned at 10:01 p.m.