

April 16, 1986

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Rybchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my distinct pleasure to introduce to you, and through you to this Assembly, two groups of students, both from St. Augustine elementary school in the constituency of Regina Victoria. There's a group of grade 3 and 4's, and they're accompanied by Mrs. Leona Burkhardt; and a group of grades 7 and 8's, accompanied by Dale Reed, James Martin, and Brian Pasternack. Both groups are seated in the Speaker's gallery. I wish them a pleasant and an entertaining and an educational stay here in the legislature, and I look forward to meeting with them at 2:30 for pictures and refreshments. I ask all members to give them a warm welcome here in the Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Myers: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to introduce to you, and through you to the members of the Assembly, 42 students from Prince Phillip school in Saskatoon. They're accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Tad Cherkewich and Mr. Nestor Byblow.

I might mention at this time that I also graduated from that public school, as did the member from Regina Rosemont. And at the present time the member from Saskatoon University, his child attends Prince Phillip school as well. So the ties in this legislature go back quite a ways in regards to this school. I would wish the students a pleasant visit and a safe trip back home, and would hope that all the members of the Assembly would join with me in welcoming them here today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Weiman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my colleague from Melville, the Minister of Labour, it's a pleasure for me to introduce to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the House, a group of 24 students from Ituna High School. They're accompanied by Mrs. Fleming. They are also accompanied by a bus driver, I take it. You had to have gotten here somehow, but I don't have the gentleman's name, and I apologize for it — or the lady's name, whatever the case may be. I believe they deserve congratulations for the type of stamina they have. I understand they are going to be with us in the Chamber for one hour, rather than the normal one-half hour. I will be meeting with you at 3:30 for pictures, refreshments, and questions. And I ask the House to help me welcome you here to the Assembly today.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Crop Insurance Payments for Use of Air Reels

Mr. Engel: — I have a question for the part-time Minister of Agriculture. Can you inform Saskatchewan farmers on what date crop insurance corporation decided to make a major change in their coverage plan, which retroactively

provides farmers who used air reels to harvest their '85 crop an extra \$8 per acre from crop insurance? When was that decision made, when did this new policy come into force, and when was it publicly announced?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, the decision was made subsequent to last fall. And I have, Mr. Speaker, the whole question with respect to the policy on air reels under advisement, because of the concerns raised by farmers and others that have been doing whatever is necessary to get as much of the crop as possible. And I will be making a statement with respect to that in the very near future.

Mr. Engel: — Supplementary, Mr. Premier. If this extra payment was made to encourage farmers to use air reels at harvest time, why was it not announced at the end of July?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, the announcement was made because it was brought to our attention that some individuals across the province had gone out of their way to get as much of the crop as possible, and we were advised that there may be 30 or 40 farmers who had invested in air reels, which could improve their ability to harvest. So we made the decision at that time.

It is now under review because of the concern raised by farmers, Mr. Speaker, who are saying many farmers sprayed for grasshoppers six or seven times and that also protected the crop and the production and reduced expenditures from crop insurance. People who bought double swath attachments also had major expenditures.

So I am reviewing it, Mr. Speaker. There have been no payments go out to people who have bought air reels. It's under advisement, and I'll be making a statement on it in the near future.

Mr. Engel: — Final supplement, Mr. Speaker. Will you be making an announcement as to . . . if this is going to be in effect, are you covering off people that bought 40-foot swathers; are you giving them the same \$8 an acre? What is the proposal, and how should farmers apply under that existing program, those that did use air reels?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I am saying right now that we are not paying anybody with respect to special equipment that they have purchased to harvest their crop. I have had complaints come in from farmers across southern Saskatchewan who say, look, there's many ways that you can capture more of the crop and that you can save more of it. Air reels are one; double swath attachments are another; spraying for grasshoppers are some more; specials kinds of equipment, new kinds of pick-up reels, and so forth. So they said, make sure that you carefully look at this before you make the payments, because once you start making one payment, then you're going to have to pay for every conceivable thing that any farmer ever did with respect to improving his ability to harvest.

I have it under review and I'll be making a statement in the very near future.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Supplement to the Premier. I would

like to get a point cleared up, because many of the crop insurance offices in southern Saskatchewan are advising farmers and are having them fill out forms saying that they've purchased air reels and used them. And the advice that the crop insurance officials are giving to people is that there will be, in fact, a payment of \$8 an acre.

I want you to be clear on this point. You're now telling the farmers that there isn't at this time, a payment to be made of \$8 an acre for those farmers who used air reels.

Hon. Mr. Devine: — I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that I am not making any payments till I review it, because I've had concerns raised by other farmers who have made many expenditures on equipment, and they're saying, to be fair you would have to pay every farmer in the province, whoever bought or purchased or spent money to help harvest it, as opposed to saying this particular kind of equipment would be all right to pay for, and that kind wouldn't be and another kind wouldn't be. I am saying I'm going to review it. To date I have not made any expenditures. Crop insurance officials are carrying on with respect to the application forms because that's what they've been advised to do.

But I'm saying here today that I haven't made any payments, and I'm going to be reviewing it to make sure whatever we do is going to be fair, and provide as much common sense to the farmers who have raised the concerns with me saying, look, there's many forms of equipment. You can't just pay on one, so you better review this. And I'm reviewing it, and will report to the legislature as quickly as I can.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — New question to the Premier. I want you to know that in fact you have caused a great deal of confusion in the minds of your employees, as well as in the minds of the farmers, because the farmers are being told that there will be an \$8 payment, and today in the House you say there isn't going to be. And you have caused a great deal of confusion.

One of the other areas in crop insurance where confusion was caused last year was the raising of the coverage from 80 or 70 per cent coverage up to 100 per cent. Now farmers are in the process of seeding crops, and they would like to know whether that will apply in the coming crop year, that all coverage will be raised up to 100 per cent. Here again, the crop insurance officials were getting different reports, some saying it will be raised to 100 per cent, and some saying, no, you'll be at 70 or 80 or 90, whatever your contract says.

Can you clearly indicate to farmers, who are planning their seeding program, will coverage now be 100 per cent, or will we do as we did last year, wait until the middle of the summer and then change the agreements so that confusion will reign again?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what I've said today is that I am receiving advice from farmers, and they're saying that you can make modifications to the programs so that they can be fair, and they're applied fairly across to all farmers in southern Saskatchewan.

And with respect to the air reels, that's exactly what I'm doing, and I will respond in the very near future when I've had a chance to evaluate all their concerns, and I will make a statement.

Secondly, with respect to bringing them up to 100 per cent, we said that we would do it last year because of the combination of drought after drought after drought. I am saying to them now, and I will add in the statement that I'll make later, Mr. Speaker, that we will not raise it indefinitely up to 100, regardless of what will happen, year after year after year. They are up this year to that position, and they'll start, Mr. Speaker, from there, and then, if you have subsequent years, on and on, there has to be some incentive in there to make sure that there is as much productivity as possible. It cannot be done indefinitely, to say regardless, regardless of the cropping conditions, you will for every have 100 per cent. They're advising me, no, that's not fair. Because of the three or four years of drought, yes, we raised it up so there wouldn't be a penalty, and you can start fresh from there. And that's the point that I'll make in some detail as soon as I can respond in the legislature.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Supplement to the Premier. Then you're guaranteeing for this coming year that the coverage will be a minimum of 100 per cent? I want to get that clear. I think that's what you're indicating. But farmers would like you to be clear on the record that their coverage will be a minimum of 100 per cent coverage on crop insurance this year.

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, what I've said is that we've brought them up to 100 per cent because of last year, and that was the base on which they could operate. What I'm saying from now on, and I will put the details in it, Mr. Speaker, as quickly as I can bring them together on the advice I'm receiving from producers, that they will start from a base, and from then on, Mr. Speaker, they can't be guaranteed of 100 per cent year after year after year or else there's be no incentive at all to have productivity.

And they're advising me, yes, fair enough. You brought us up, and we will start from there. I'll provide full details of the entire crop insurance package along with the disaster mechanism which we are working out with the federal government. And farmers want to hear about that, as quickly as I can put it together. If I can do it in a matter of days, I certainly will, because I've had the calls. They are providing me with the advice, and I'll make a very clear statement on all the alternatives and everything that's available, both federally and provincially, as quickly as I can.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Final supplementary. I understand now that there will be 100 per cent coverage, and I'm sure that farmers will be interested in knowing that and look forward to your announcement.

One other issue that caused a great deal of confusion in crop insurance was raising the minimum bushels from 1.9 bushels, I believe it was, up to 5. Will that be in place for the coming year, that any crops under 5 bushel an acre will be written off in the event that a drought does occur and the same situation will exist, that 5 bushel an acre will

be the bottom base line?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I will be making announcements with respect to that, with respect to 1.9 bushels and up to 5 bushels. There were concerns; there were concerns raised, that there's significant difference in terms of the operation of the farms if you raise it to 5 bushels. We had farmers request, certainly in the Assiniboia area, that we raise it because there's no point in running your combine over 1.9 bushels.

Mr. Speaker, what we will be doing now is looking at a combination of practices, perhaps a feathering of between 1.9 and 5, and they can phase it in up to a period of 5 bushels to the acre to make it as reasonable as possible, Mr. Speaker, I will be putting it together and advising the farms as quickly as I can in the next few days.

Mr. Engel: — A question on the same line, Mr. Minister. The crop insurance forms that are going out, and that are out now — and I've had many calls on this one. And I just want to clarify this so we know exactly where it's at. This is the third year that the Gravelbourg area particularly, and in that area, has faced a severe drought, and that puts them in the bracket that people that were at 120 per cent coverage and 115 per cent last year are now 80 and 70 per cent coverage.

Where are those guys going to be this year because of the drought we just faced? Are they going to be covered at 70 or 80 per cent, or are they going to be covered at 100 per cent? I want that clarified because farmers are phoning me, and I've had lots of calls every day on that one because they've finally found out from their office. When one phones the area office, they were told what their coverage was. They are all phoning in. They are all finding that this is the third year it's triggered in the last six years, and they are all under — they're around the 70 and 80 per cent depending on how big the pay-out was. What is their coverage going to be this year because of last year's drought?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, the farmers last year in the Assiniboia area, when I was there, said that they have had year after year after year of drought, and they were down to 70 per cent of 70 per cent, or 49 per cent coverage. And for many of those it represented a problem and some decided they couldn't even purchase it because it wasn't enough coverage. So we made the changes and we've brought people up to 100 per cent.

At this point I am receiving advice from farmers, and the board of directors of crop insurance is receiving advice from farmers, on reels; on the 1.9 to the 5; on what the coverage should be and so forth. The board of directors and the crop insurance people are putting a package together for me so that I can make a statement in the legislature to lay all those pieces of information out clearly to the public and so farmers know what is exactly the case.

What the farmer wants is to have the strongest and fairest and most common sense crop insurance changes that we can make. Many of the changes that we made last year, for salvage and so forth, were very well respected and

appreciated, in the Assiniboia area particularly. Those changes we made from 1.9 to 5 were also appreciated, but there are some problems with that, and I recognize the problems.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the other parts and programs, with respect to crop insurance, I want to make the changes that are positive and well received by farmers, and I also am listening to them because they are phoning me and phoning my ministers. And I will make the announcement, Mr. Speaker, as fast as I can get the advice from the crop insurance people, the board of directors, and those that are doing the review, and I'll provide it to the legislature as quickly as I can.

Introduction of New Legislation

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Premier. Mr. Premier, since you have obviously run away from a spring election, it seems to me that this legislature should be considering all of that legislation which your government promised a month ago in the throne speech. We have been here a month and yet none of the major legislation in the throne speech has even been introduced. Only 20 government Bills have been introduced into this Legislative Assembly, and nine of those Bills have been directed to Non-Controversial Bills Committee.

You, for example, indicated in the throne speech that this government would make legislation or bring measures to protect municipalities and hospitals and school boards from dramatically escalating liability insurance costs. We yet do not see a proposal or the legislation. I ask you: what will those measures be, and when will the details be made available to municipalities and hospitals and school boards?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Well, Mr. Speaker, there'll be several notices coming in in the next two or three days. I mean, obviously the members opposite have been delaying estimates, as they go through hour after hour after hour and day after day on Health estimates. I mean . . . and they're going to . . .

An Hon. Member: — I'll tell you, we'll take as long as we want.

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Well all right, if you want the answers, you can't do everything at the same time in the legislature. If you want to have estimates with respect to Health, well, Mr. Speaker, we can be here till September on Health estimates if they so choose. So if they want to ask the questions on Health and they want to review them, just make it perfectly clear that the public knows, if the opposition want to ask questions, we'll be here to answer questions. And we'll be here as long as you decide you want to ask the questions, because we'll be here to answer them.

We will proceed. We will be providing the notices, and it will carry right through the legislature. This session normally lasts anywhere from 30 to 60 to as much as 70 days, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. member is quite aware of that.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Premier to tell this House how he thinks the fact that the Minister of Health is not providing answers in estimates are holding up the preparation of legislation to deal with liability insurance which the Minister of Health has nothing to do with. What have the estimates got to do with you, Mr. Premier, and your government preparing legislation which you promised one month ago — that's over a month ago — and yet have not seen the light of day in this legislature?

Is it because you weren't prepared to have it in the first place, thinking you would call an election? Now you have got cold feet; you're not going to call an election; and you don't have the legislation to propose.

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, a couple of observations. We know, and the members of the opposition know, that the Speech from the Throne and the budget were very well received by the public in the province of Saskatchewan — very positively received.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: — And, Mr. Speaker, we also know . . .

Mr. Speaker: — Order, order.

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite don't want to hear this. I mean, it's the same old games that they're going to holler and scream in their seat. But I'll just tell you . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Mr. Speaker, they don't want to hear it. They can still cluck and call and do all the things that they do over there.

But the point is that the Speech from the Throne was well received; the budget was well received. And, Mr. Speaker, the problem is, when the Minister of Health gives his answers because the Minister of Health has done a tremendously better job in Health than the opposition ever did, so they don't like to hear the answers.

Well if they want to continue to ask questions in Health, it takes time in the legislature, Mr. Speaker. And as long as they want to question the Minister of Health, he will provide the answers. And if it takes the time, that's their responsibility.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I took notice of a question yesterday.

An Hon. Member: — No. Supplement.

Mr. Speaker: — The member has a supplement. We'll take the supplement.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Premier. When will your government introduce the legislation and regulations with respect to the throne speech promise of a voluntary Saskatchewan pension plan? Saskatchewan people have heard your . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thompson: — Saskatchewan people have heard your promise. What they want to know now are the details, so that they can see if you have delivered on that promise. How soon might Saskatchewan people expect the legislation and the detailed regulations?

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, we promised, Mr. Speaker, that we would take the tax off clothes in Saskatchewan, and it was delivered, and the people love it. And, Mr. Speaker, we promised that we would provide rural gas distribution systems, and we delivered, and they loved that. We said that we would provide interest rate protection to farmers and home owners and small business, and it was delivered, and they liked that.

Mr. Speaker, we said that we will provide the first-time-ever Saskatchewan pension plan for home makers, for families, for small business, and so forth — and, Mr. Speaker, we will provide it, and it will be introduced in the legislature, Mr. Speaker. And the members opposite know that, because when we make a promise, we deliver on that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Cost of Government Advertising

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I took notice of a question yesterday with respect to government advertising, and the member from Regina North East had raised it with the Deputy Premier and raised it with me.

Three observations that I want to make. The member from Regina North East stated in the House on April 1st that the government and Crown corporation Advertising totalled \$17 million in 1984-85. The actual expenditures for both government departments and Crown corporations was \$11,502,705 for both placement and production. Mr. Speaker, this is 48 per cent less than the member from Regina North East tried to lead the public to say that it was.

Second observation, Mr. Speaker. The comparisons in the last three years of the former administration in what they spent, they spent \$20,676,542. In the first three years of our administration we spent less than that, Mr. Speaker, and that did not make provision for inflation or increases in advertising rates.

Third, Mr. Speaker — I want to make the point. The member from Regina North East asked if the 1985-86 advertising figure will top \$20 million. Well the final figures for 1985-86 are obviously not available yet, but I can say, Mr. Speaker, that it won't be above \$20 million, in fact, it will be well below \$20 million.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Supplementary question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, will you undertake within the next week to table all of the expenditures that were done by the Crown corporations during the year 1984-1985, in the form of a supplementary to your response. And will you undertake to table in this legislature your planned government expenditures for this coming fiscal year, which you obviously have, or you would not have included them in the budget.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, those figures and those numbers will be available in Crown corporations as the hon. member knows, and they will be made available in due course, and they will be available at that time.

Payments to Inner Dimension Design Associates

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday I took notice of a question from the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg regarding a contract that was awarded in August of 1984 to Inner Dimension Design Associates. I should point out at the beginning, Mr. Speaker, that this issue was thoroughly explored in *Estimates* a year ago and, in fact, the contract was sent across to the member from Regina Centre, so possibly he could share that information with the member from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg.

The member opposite, however, identified one of the principals of this company as the wife of the deputy minister of Supply and Services. He somehow implied that the contract had been awarded by the department to a firm managed by the wife of the deputy minister. He correctly indicated that the letter awarding the contract was dated August 14, 1984. I should point out that the deputy minister of Supply and Services was, in fact, married on June 29, 1985, approximately a year after the contract had been awarded.

Mr. Speaker: — Order, please. Order, order. Order. I'm going to caution the members that when I'm on my feet I'm going to demand order, and I'll ask an apology from the member from Shaunavon right now for not obeying the rules of this Chair.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, if I was making more noise than the government members, I will certainly apologize.

Mr. Speaker: — I asked for an apology. I left no opportunities for stipulations.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — I assumed I had made an apology, and I apologize.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Speaker, to continue. It's important to note that no contract was awarded to Inner Dimension Associates since the deputy minister's marriage. In fact, a couple of points just to condense the whole issue. Consulting contracts, Mr. Speaker, things like architects, engineers, interior designers are very seldom, if ever, tendered. During that time period in the preceding fiscal year many interior design firms — I believe there are three in Regina — received contracts from Supply and Services. There's clearly no conflict of interest here, Mr. Speaker. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, no contract has been awarded to that firm since Mr. Cutts and Miss Devitt became engaged. And so I think the issue has been clearly gone over last year, and I think that that should respond to the concerns raised by the member opposite.

Mr. Shillington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the

minister for that explanation, if you want to dignify it with that term. I would, by way of background, say that I would be interested in the minister's comments with respect to this matter when it was suggested last year in *Estimates* that marriage was being contemplated by the deputy minister of government services and this lady at the time this contract was given out. That was not denied when the deputy minister was in the House during *Estimates*.

Mr. Minister, I ask you whether or not it is the policy of government services now to award contracts of this sort without any pretence at tendering it and without any pretence at giving everyone a fair opportunity to bid on these contracts?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, under usual circumstances consulting contracts — and I indicated the types of firm: architects, engineers, interior design people — are usually simply awarded. Tenders are not part of the process.

Mr. Speaker, I have to comment that I have some problems understanding the line of questioning. During this session we have had questions about jelly beans and woollen socks. We've had the member from Regina Centre sitting in his chair clucking like a hen. Now we're into this type of question. Has there ever been an opposition less in touch with the real concerns of the people of this province, Mr. Speaker? I take some exception to the attempt to drag these two very professional people through the mud.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Shillington: — I ask the Minister of Culture and Recreation who, I believe, has responsibility for the Centre of the Arts. I ask the Minister of Culture and Recreation whether this firm has done any consulting work for your department or for any of the agencies for which you're responsible?

Hon. Mr. Folk: — Mr. Speaker, I would take notice of that question and come back to the House with the details.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

White Paper on a Proposed Code of Ethical Conduct for Saskatchewan Public Office Holders

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments with respect to a code of ethical conduct that I will send over a copy to the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated in the House on a number of occasions, this government has been committed to the development of a conflict of interest guide-lines for cabinet ministers and for legislative secretaries which would go beyond the requirements of The Members of the Legislative Assembly Conflict of Interests Act.

I believe that it is in the public interest, Mr. Speaker, to have in place clearly defined guide-lines for public officials which will assist them in ensuring that the decisions of public importance will not be influenced by private considerations, and the public office will not be used for personal gain.

To this end, I am pleased to be tabling in the House today, Mr. Speaker, a white paper on a proposed code of ethical conduct for Saskatchewan public office holders, related conflict of interest guide-lines for cabinet ministers and legislative secretaries. As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, conflict of interest guide-lines are already in place for public employees.

I have, Mr. Speaker, appointed former chief justice, the Hon. E.M. Culliton, an eminent person in the province of Saskatchewan, to conduct hearings throughout the province on the proposed code and the guide-lines, and based on input from these hearings, Mr. Speaker, amend the code and guide-lines and put them into effect. It is hoped that through the process of eliciting public reaction to the proposal that the code and the guide-lines will reflect what the citizens of Saskatchewan expect of public office holders in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, if I might, I just want to quickly review the basic principles, Mr. Speaker, of the proposed code of ethical conduct for public office holders in the province of Saskatchewan.

It is based on seven principles, and I will just briefly go through the principles, Mr. Speaker, and the rest will be tabled, and certainly the members of the media can have it. The seven principles are as follows:

1. Persons holding public office in Saskatchewan must not only act within the law, they have a further obligation to act in a manner that will bear the closest public scrutiny.
2. Any conflict between the private interests of public office holders and their official duties must be resolved in favour of the public interest. Upon appointment, and while in office, public office holders are expected to arrange their private affairs in a manner that will prevent conflicts of interest from arising.
3. Public office holders shall neither solicit gifts or other benefits, nor, other than for incidental gifts or customary hospitality of nominal value, accept transfers of funds, gifts, or other benefits from private sources.
4. Mr. Speaker, public office holders shall not step out of their official roles to assist private entities or persons in their dealings with the Government of Saskatchewan where this would result in treatment which would not be available to others under similar circumstances.
5. Public office holders shall not take personal advantage of, or private benefits from, information obtained in the course of their official duties.
6. Public office holders shall not directly or indirectly use, or allow the use of, government property of any kind, including property leased to the government, for anything other than officially approved activities.

And finally, Mr. Speaker:

7. Public office holders shall not engage in personal conduct which exploits for private reasons or personal gratification their position of authority, or which would tend to discredit the professionalism of the public service.

The white paper goes on, Mr. Speaker, in some detail, outlining, in conflict of interest guide-lines, those things which you have to do with respect to administration, also investment and management of private assets, things that you have to declare, things that you don't have to declare, and the general conduct of employment inside and outside public office, and any preferential treatment.

I'm happy and quite confident, Mr. Speaker, when this process is finished and we have full public participation by the Hon. E.M. Culliton, that we will have the strictest and the most straightforward public guide-lines for elected officials anywhere in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Blakeney: — Mr. Speaker, I really have only two comments on this — two or three. Firstly, we have a government which, even if it called an election today, would have been in office longer than any government since World War II, and at this time in the legislative cycle it decides it's going to bring in a white paper. For four years it has done nothing, when it ought to have done things, and it has done nothing. That is point number one.

Point number two, I think what is offered to us is a code of ethical conduct for cabinet ministers and legislative secretaries, not for members of the legislature. It is still, in the opinion of members opposite, not even worthy of investigation whether a company owned by a member . . . Let us say the member for Regina North East does business with the government. It is not presumably even appropriate for investigation whether a member of the legislature . . . Let us say the member for Melfort does auctioneering business for the government. It is not even worthy of examination and investigation whether a member of the legislature should be a partner in a development which engages in resort development and, as such, has close dealings with the government. These issues which have been raised in this legislature are not even going to be looked at, are not even covered by the white paper.

So I think, in those circumstances, we have a government which obviously wishes, firstly, to not have to address the issue during this term of office; secondly, wishes not to deal with the problem as it relates to members of the legislature; and thirdly, wishes to deal with it by the enunciation of what are really rather high-sounding principles, but without an rules which will govern anybody.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

**Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure
Health
Ordinary Expenditure — Vote 32**

Item 1 (continued)

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to join in the deliberations here today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and to join in with my colleagues in doing the estimates that are very important to providing programs and services to the people in this province. I'm particularly concerned with respect to people in my constituency, the services and programs effected by this administration, and thus I want to raise a few questions with the Minister of Health.

I have received a number of correspondences dealing with health issues, Mr. Minister, and as well I've got in terms of my discussions with constituents, I have a number of related questions which I'd like to deal with in detail. But getting back to the basics with regards to estimates, Mr. Minister, I look at the 1986-87 book of *Estimates* which is actually the book that puts out the programs for health and nursing homes and medical services for the people of this province.

And I look at the section dealing with health which is under your department, your administration, Mr. Minister, and I notice that there's been a cut of funding in your services for the northern administration district. A cut — on page 49 under item 19, subvote 47 — a cut of 4 million . . .

(1445)

Pardon me, there has been a cut from 4.6 million down to 4.5. And I wondered, Mr. Minister, why is that when the minister had previously talked about providing adequate and improving adequate health services to the people in remote northern Saskatchewan at the time when he cut back the transportation food and transportation subsidy program and replaced it with tremendous government ads, advertisements, dealing with your budget and all types of government propaganda, which totalled and exceeded far more than the \$250,000 that was cut back, that was an essential need for the communities in Wollaston Lake and Kinoosao, who are both of those communities in my constituency. I'm sure that my colleague for Athabasca had raised that particular question with respect to the communities in his constituency, but I'm referring to the communities in my constituency.

Those communities have indicated to me — and I have a petition here, Mr. Minister, which was sent to your government as well, dealing with that very basic issue, which is under your jurisdiction incidentally, with a good majority of names of residents living in those remote areas. And they have provided me, Mr. Minister with itemized costs of necessary and essential food costs: the cost of groceries and the cost of essential items necessary to provide food, clothing, and shelter in those remote areas.

And I want to ask, Mr. Minister: you know, how can you justify the cut-backs that you have indicated on page 19 of your 1986-87 food *Estimates*?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well certainly the question first raised by the member regarding what he indicated was a cut-back is just simply not correct. And I would refer you to page 49 of the *Estimates*. And if you look at the triple asterisk at the bottom of the page, it says, "A portion of this subvote is included in the subvote Grants and allowances for Home Care (for '86-87)." So, simply put, the \$576,000 that is going to be spent on northern home care is shown under the home care subvote, and the actual funding increase for northern health services is really an increase of 418,000 or 8.9 per cent.

So it's just the way it's entered in the *Estimates*, sir. Certainly there is no cut-back to northern health services in funding. There is an 8.9 per cent increase.

Regarding the food subsidy program, I have explained many of the aspects of that to the member from Athabasca in his questioning. Certainly we were under . . . it's been indicated to us that a portion of that was going to northern outfitters. We didn't think that was necessarily correct. I have indicated that my colleague, the Minister of Social Services is reassessing the program — if there are people who are in need, from his point of view, that we would be taking a second look at that.

My colleague, the member from Prince Albert-Duck Lake, has told me that, in regard to this, he has asked for submissions from groups regarding ways that perhaps the service could be supplied. All indications from northern health services branch is that to just reinstate the old food subsidy program would not be the best method to go. So if you have a suggestion, certainly we would take it under consideration.

As I understand at this point in time from my colleague, the Minister of Justice and the member for P.A.-Duck Lake, who has asked for these submissions, only one has come in — and that's from the candidate that is running in one of the seats for the coming election with our party.

Mr. Yew: — Yes, before going into other estimates or going any further in terms of the itemized questions I'd like to follow up on, you raised an interesting point, Mr. Minister. Your colleague for P.A.-Duck Lake has mentioned to you just a matter of a few seconds or minutes ago that he has asked special groups or organizations to submit alternative options of replacing that program. Am I correct?

And the question then, Mr. Minister, is: which groups was he referring to? You indicated to me just now that the only one submission that was received was by the Progressive Conservative candidate, Mr. Pat Cardinal, who I know is running for the PC banner, PC government, in the Athabasca constituency. Why just this one individual has submitted this?

You know, it really confuses me, and I'm sure it confuses the people of this province, and really confuses the people in the North, you know, why the Minister of the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat could put out a very crucial message out there and have only one submission sent in. I really can't understand that.

Has he been communicating with only one organization, namely the PC candidate for the Athabasca constituency? Is that the reason why he has received only one submission? Or has he contacted, Mr. Minister — and I say this very seriously — has he contacted the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Local Governments, which are represented by the majority of northern communities? There's at least 21, possibly 24, communities represented in this one organization.

Has he written a formal letter requesting options to replace or to provide a service of equal quality to those remote northern communities? Has he submitted a formal, official letter to all the communities living in the northern administration district? Has he submitted letters, official letters, to the official organization representing local governments — say, in the urban centres, the town people, the communities with town status, village status, hamlet status; the two native organizations; and the various people that provide leadership and are influential in some way or another in northern Saskatchewan?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well the minister, I'm sure, has been in discussions with a number of people. I suppose, from discussions with him, he indicates that one of the persons that he asked for suggestions was an elected representative of the people in that area, namely yourself, last year in his estimates. He asked you if you had any suggestions. It's been a year and he has received none. So I think, you know, it's incumbent upon you, when you represent a portion of that area, to come forward with some suggestions. He tells me he asked you last year in estimates — and I'm sure we can trace that down — and that there has been nothing forthcoming.

Also he has been in discussion with AMNIS (Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan) and other groups in the North there. But as I say, we're willing for suggestions. If you have a suggestion, please come forward. I would be willing to entertain that. I'm not saying we'd necessarily adopt it, but we would listen to you. Come down to my office and I'd be willing to discuss it with you at any time. I think you know that. So I give you that commitment. If you want to have further discussion on this with me, you know where my office is, and the door is open to you at any time to come down and discuss it.

Mr. Yew: — Thank you very much for the invitation, Mr. Minister. If I were confident enough in your government and your administration and the policies of the Conservative Party, I certainly wouldn't hesitate to provide and request humbly the type of changes and policies needed for the North.

And getting back to the statement you made about the minister for the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat, I vividly recall *Hansards* of estimates that we did in the last fiscal year, whereby he requested alternative suggestions by both myself and my colleague for Athabasca. And I can vividly recall giving him a suggestion, giving him and the government a suggestion: reinstate the food and transportation subsidy. That was our position; that was our suggestion.

And basically, I vividly recall as well the member for

Athabasca, my colleague for Athabasca, giving some more detailed information and requesting your government to reconsider reinstating that program. He was very thoroughly informed about the issue. The program was cancelled on June 15th of last year. The subject matter was of dire concern to all those remote northern communities. And I will go back and mention them: Kinoosao, Wollaston Lake, Black Lake, Fond-du-Lac, and Stony Rapids. But since that time, Mr. Minister, we have had nothing but cuts in the programs and government services in the northern administration district.

I'm sure that my colleague for Athabasca has raised a numerous amount of questions pertaining to the issue that I'm raising now, Mr. Minister. And I'm sure that he has done a thorough job. But I want to ask the minister again, before I go on: can the minister provide me with that official, with that formal request that was made by the member for P.A.-Duck Lake, the minister for the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat, regarding the suggestion for input by the North or by the organizations in the North?

Was it just a verbal request that he made to his PC candidate, Progressive Conservative candidate, Mr. Pat Cardinal, or was it a formal, official statement, a letter issued to all northern communities? Was it just partisan or — pardon me — that's the wrong expression for it. But was that request made to only one Conservative member running in the next general election, or was that request made to all people in fairness?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well certainly he has discussed this verbally with a number of groups. I said he's discussed it with AMNIS, also with northern development advisory council. So there have been a number of groups that he's been in discussion with. And to follow that up further, you should direct your questions to him when you have your opportunity to question him under the native secretariat.

You know, I want you to know that there's been a number of initiatives that have taken place in the North in the last while to improve medical services. I talked in detail about the development of the doctor services up the west side of the province, mainly Ile-a-la-Crosse, La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, and Uranium City, up through Beauval, up through that area, which certainly there's been an improvement.

There's been an appointment of a director of northern . . . of mental health for northern Saskatchewan, a greater emphasis and more money put into the home care program, and expansion of alcohol prevention and treatment services.

So I think there has been a number of health initiatives that have taken place in northern Saskatchewan. Certainly on the food transportation subsidy program, as I've said, my colleague, the Minister of Social Services, is exploring this. If there's people who are in dire need, he is looking at some type of a — development of some type of a program.

And again I just say, I would encourage you, or anyone else who would like to have input into the development

of a program that will be meeting the needs of people and not simply putting food into fishing camps and things of this nature, to come forth with such suggestions.

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to go back and ask you one more time, Mr. Minister. I noted that you did point out some programs and some initiatives that you have undertaken in your department, but I dispute most of those. I have yet to dispute most of those items.

(1500)

But I want to go back to that member for P.A.-Duck Lake who happens to inform you, just a few minutes ago, that formal or official requests have been made to northern communities. Can the minister at this point in time, seeing as how we're dealing with your *Estimates* — this item falls under your jurisdiction, Mr. Minister. You gave me that answer: that are written, or formal or somehow a request had been made of northern communities asking for alternative options to replace the food and transportation program. Can the minister provide me, or his colleague provide this Assembly and to the people of this province, particularly the northern administration district, what this formal request was in detail?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well certainly it's pretty hard to detail conversations that another minister would have with groups in the North. As I say, he had made verbal representations to various groups and had discussed the topic. From our standpoint and the research I have done, that to reinstate the food subsidy program as it was previously would not be in the best interests; that probably some changes are necessary.

It may well be that you think a program that allowed a lot of the subsidized food to go into fly-in fish camps is the type of program we should have. I question that. I said that my colleague, the Minister of Social Services, is looking at this situation at the present time.

You can see that my colleague in charge of the native secretariat has been in discussion with groups so I think that . . . And again I come back and ask you if you would be so kind as to come forth with a proposal yourself, being a representative of that area. That has been a year since that invitation, and you have not come forward, but I'm asking you again if you would like to do so. But for you to question whether there has been the appointment of a director of mental health is just simply not credible; there has been.

There are doctors on a much longer staying time in places such as Uranium and La Loche and Ile-a-la-Crosse that is being well served by the medical people, qualified medical people at this time. There has been \$125,000 go into both La Loche and Ile-a-la-Crosse hospitals for nursing staff and supplies. There's been an expansion of home care in Buffalo Narrows, and we have a major consultative process for improved services in long-term care up the west side of the province. So I think there has been a number of initiatives that have been undertaken to certainly improve northern health care services.

Mr. Yew: — I just noted, Mr. Minister, that you indicated

to me, to this Assembly, that the programs that you have provided for all went towards the west side. May I remind the minister that I represent the east side, the constituency named Cumberland. And may I remind the minister that not once did you mention one community on that east side. Not one community was mentioned relating to the Cumberland constituency.

For the record, Mr. Minister, I want to read to you, in case you haven't seen it personally, the resolution and the petition that was forwarded to you regarding the food and transportation program. And it goes on to say:

Food subsidy program. Whereas the provincial government through Health services have indicated (through the public media, mind you) that it is the government's intention to cancel the food transportation subsidy program for Wollaston Lake, Kinoosao, Stony Rapids, Black Lake, and Fond-du-Lac. And whereas this program is important and essential which helps families in the North with the high cost of living. Be it resolved that the government be requested to reinstate this much-needed program for the remote and isolated communities that are having hardships such as high unemployment, high welfare dependency rates, and extreme high costs of living.

The resolution was passed and carried unanimously and endorsed by those communities, Mr. Minister. Now just a moment ago you indicated to us, to my colleague from Athabasca and myself, what suggestions we had. That is your suggestion, and that is the suggestion that we requested from you, from your department, Mr. Minister, from your government. We wanted some compassion, some understanding. That is the option that was requested by people in those areas.

They indicated in their petition to you that there's a high dependency on welfare. There is high unemployment, and there is a very, very serious issue here regarding the extreme high costs of living. And I'll just quote, Mr. Minister, the people in those areas went so far as to study and compare costs between those remote northern communities and the cost of food in areas such as P.A. And let me tell you, in '85 — and I'm sure it's increased drastically by now — but in '85 a dozen eggs cost in the South \$1.95, but in remote areas like Wollaston they came to \$2.60. And for one litre of milk the price was \$1.45, and in the remote areas it was \$1.85. Bread was \$1.45, and in the remote areas it was \$1.70.

But, Mr. Minister, you know nothing has been done to . . . And may I mention just the other day we were talking about aids to farmers, government aid to farmers, and the price of gas. For your information, for the information of members of this House, a gallon of gas in northern Saskatchewan, in Wollaston Lake, cost \$3.50 a gallon. Fuel for their homes costs almost — I believe heating fuel cost \$2.50. I'm quoting from information that was provided last year, Mr. Minister, and I'm sure that that has definitely increased tremendously.

But again I go back to the arguments that have been provided by the people in those respective communities.

They have serious issues, Mr. Minister, and those issues have been neglected by your administration. They definitely have been neglected and deliberately, by this government. I said deliberately.

The only time that your government, Mr. Minister, has given any notice to people in the northern administration district is when you want resources from the people of the North. That is the only time. You want to recognize the North in terms of its abundance of resources. You look at the North, and you don't look at the people of the North. You look at the North in terms of profits over people. That is the conclusion I've come to, Mr. Minister. You look at the North in terms of its resources, in terms of its forestry, in terms of its mining activities, in terms of its tourism attraction; but let me tell you, Mr. Minister . . .

I'm going to stop here for a moment and really, really . . . I'm very, very . . . This is about the third, fourth, or sixth trip that that minister from P.A.-Duck Lake, the member for P.A.-Duck Lake, has wandered across the aisles to forewarn you of some issues or provide you with some information relating to the North. That is how illiterate the minister is in terms of issues pertaining to the North.

You say you provide services for the North; you provide adequate health services for the North, Mr. Minister. But when I get up to raise questions about health services in the North, about northern programs and services, the minister has to inform you. Every time I get up on my feet, that minister for P.A.-Duck Lake has to get up and inform you exactly of what's happening in the North, because you don't know, Mr. Minister, what is happening in the North. That is the only conclusion I can come up with.

The Minister of Justice laughing — laughing at the issues of the North . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . That is what you're doing. We're going to get at estimates under your portfolio, Mr. Minister of P.A.-Duck Lake, and we'll get after you. We'll be ready for you.

That is how ill-informed . . . The conclusion I come up with, Mr. Minister — both ministers, the Minister of Health and the Minister for Justice — that is how ill-informed you guys are. You have to provide information to each other whenever one of the northern members gets up to raise a question pertaining to the North . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . That's just impossible.

I just noted that one member on the government side of the House said I was too mean, but I must say that your government is more than just mean. It is vicious and very arrogant. Very arrogant. There is no compassion on that side of the House. When it comes to the people that really direly need help in this province, you ignore them.

Since your government took administration, took the reins of power on May 26th of 1982, the welfare dependency rates in the North have increased and doubled tremendously and the Minister of Justice can't dispute that . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Definitely you can't. The welfare dependency rates have increased; the suicide rates have increased; the alcoholism rates have increased; family breakdown has increased; unemployment has doubled or increased.

In many of the remote northern areas the only people that do have jobs are the civil servants, the Hudson's Bay managers, the teachers . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . And possibly Greenpeace, like the Minister of Justice says. And probably the Minister of Justice has a job; the Minister of Indian and Native Affairs has a job. And his friends, his political patronage friends and buddies, have jobs. That's about the only people that have jobs.

And I look, Mr. Minister, at your Health estimates, and it indicates to me that staffing and funding for the dental program — the dental plan, the mental health services, the drug plan, and the northern health services programs, are cut back. And yet you can state to me, Mr. Minister, that you have improved those services. But I dispute, and I said I would dispute, the answer that you gave me a few minutes ago. Because it's in the books, Mr. Minister.

More specifically I'd like to raise the question, Mr. Minister, talking in terms of the Cumberland constituency, can you provide me with specific information about the type of programs that you are providing in terms of health, dental services, etc., including the community health worker program? What have you provided for, say, Cumberland House, Sandy Bay, La Ronge, Wollaston Lake, Sturgeon Landing, Kinoosao, Southend Reindeer Lake, Weyakwin, and those remote northern areas like Pelican Narrows? What type of services have you provided? Have you increased or tried to improve the services for health and the various essential programs I mentioned earlier, regarding the dental health plan, the mental health services, the drug plan, and the northern health services program?

In terms of staffing, in terms of detailed information, can you provide me with some detailed information about those programs?

(1515)

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can provide you with some very interesting information. And this would be increases in northern health services from 1981-82, when the previous government was in power, to now 1986-87: for mental health services and administration, mental health administration in northern Saskatchewan, the increase in that period of time, Mr. Chairman, has been 258 per cent increase — 258 per cent increase in expenditures of dollars over that period of time for mental health services. For Medi-Vac, a 34 per cent increase over that period of time; for home care, a 41 per cent increase in expenditures for northern health services and home care; and for community health workers and health education, a 36 per cent increase. Rather substantial increases, I would say, Mr. Chairman, to provide services in northern Saskatchewan.

The member asked, more specifically, about his own constituency. I can say that along the east side there's been improvements in alcohol treatment initiatives, with new funding for an out-patient centre in Cumberland House and increased funding in the Sandy Bay out-patient centre.

As well, Mr. Chairman, it's very interesting to note a

concern that was raised by the member opposite previously — I notice he has omitted it at this time — but last week the Premier of the province was in La Ronge, Saskatchewan, told La Ronge to go ahead with the planning of their new hospital, an acute care hospital, with the provision for long-stay patients — those needing special care homes. So that is the kind of services that are going into northern health services under this government.

The member stands and makes great protestation about the northern health food subsidy program. I can say that it went to a few designated communities. I can also say that in those communities some of the people who were running fly-in fish camps were accessing that subsidized food. We have looked at programs that would benefit many more communities, such as, I say, hospitals in La Ronge; home care services across northern Saskatchewan — something that never existed before; improvement in alcohol treatment and in mental health services; and notwithstanding the very substantial increase in medical services by a number of doctors being in there on a continual basis serving such remote hospitals as Uranium City on a continual basis.

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I noted, Mr. Minister, that you reiterated over and over again the rates of increases that you have provided for health services, for dental health, for drug, mental and health services, for a drug plan, for staffing, and for various northern health programs. But, Mr. Minister, I don't know really, you know, what to think of those increases that you're talking about, discussing to me about.

I have a letter here from the La Ronge Hospital, and it's from the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, and following that letter I see nothing but headlines accusing you and your government of dodging the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses. I have one here before me: "Taylor accused of dodging nurses." Another one here where it says, "Northern Saskatchewan is still being treated poorly." I have another one here that says, "Health care crisis attacked." I have another here where it says, "Drug plans are threatened." And another one here, Mr. Minister, where an actual picture is shown of nurses protesting your government and your budget and your health program outside the legislature — 300 strong — Saskatchewan Union of Nurses.

In regards to this health care crisis item that's headed, "Health care crisis attacked," I noted that the member for P.A.-Duck Lake and the member for Prince Albert were invited to attend meetings held by the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses. And they skipped out; they jumped out. Where were they? Where was the Minister of Justice? And where was the member for P.A.-Duck Lake? Where was the member for P.A.? And where was the Minister of Health when those nurses brought to you, on your doorstep and the doorstep of the legislature, and invited you to various communities in the province to deal and to discuss with you mutual issues of concern regarding health? Where were you?

And you keep discussing, keep telling the members of this Assembly and this province that you have increased programs. And you mentioned just a moment ago, Mr.

Minister, that the Premier was in La Ronge. I agree he was in La Ronge. I was invited to that same meeting that was being held in La Ronge on that particular day. The chamber of commerce people invited the Premier over.

An Hon. Member: — Did you go?

Mr. Yew: — I had to speak . . . I had a debate to do here in the legislature. You guys continuously change . . . You haven't got a program for the fifth session of the 20th Legislature — you haven't got a program. We haven't had one second reading on an entire Bill presented in this House for 21 days. This is our 21st day of session, of this session, and we have no Bills, and we haven't even had one estimate completed. Not one estimate has been completed.

I go back to the Premier's visit in La Ronge. Certainly he met with the people back there. Do you know the type of people he met with? Business people. And it related again to our resources, to the northern resources. He was there discussing the northern opportunities there that existed. He was there to discuss the Weyerhaeuser project. He was there to discuss the major resources that could be extracted and taken away from these northern people. That's what he was talking about, I'm sure. Where were the opportunities there for the northern people themselves?

Mr. Minister, I want to go back to one specific statement that you made relating to the North. And you said in your statement that the Premier promised the people in that meeting that they could go ahead and plan, and plan for that La Ronge hospital and the nursing care home. Mr. Minister, I want to ask you: can I have official statement, in writing, confirming the time, the date, the cost of that particular project, as to whether or not it's going to commence? Is it another of your major five-year programs, part of that major announcement where you keep coming out — just before an election — you keep coming out with major government initiatives that you and your government want to undertake. You've had four years in office to follow up on the essential services and projects that are direly needed in this province, particularly essential services that are being neglected in terms of the people in remote northern Saskatchewan.

You certainly don't turn your backs on those people when you want to go and get to developing their resources. But when it comes to providing services and programs, you don't know that people in the North exist. That's my basic assumption, and that's the only conclusion I can come up with.

But getting back to the Premier's visit, is there a stated, official, formal commitment made to the people of La Ronge and the region regarding the commencement of that new hospital that is direly needed by that community and region, regarding the nursing care home? Can the minister provide me with detailed specific commitments that were made?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think anything as definite as the Premier of the province going to a community and saying to them: get started with your planning; get on with it. There's money in this budget; there's money in this year's

health budget to assist them in their planning, so I would encourage them to go ahead with this.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a minute just to point out one point. The member has been rambling quite a way around all aspects of northern Saskatchewan, talking about employment and so on. I just would like to keep it straight in the record that he and his party are the group that would close down the uranium mines.

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I remind the minister that we're dealing with Health estimates and not uranium mines. But I surely don't take exception because I, too, raised the issue of the resources up North, and mainly I was comparing the performance of your government. The performance of your government in the last four years have been direly poor as it relates to the North.

I asked the minister once before, and I'll ask him again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where is that written commitment for that much-needed project, the La Ronge hospital? Where is that written commitment? What date is it going to begin, and what is it going to cost? What type of a facility is it? Where are the plans? You know, where is the detailed information regarding that particular project?

It's a service; it's a health facility that is direly needed. The one that's there, the minister will agree with me that it is totally inadequate to provide the services that are needed by at least 23 communities on that north-east side of the province.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well certainly, Mr. Chairman, my memory goes back to a discussion of this. And I recall a visit that I had in my office about two and a half years ago from a gentleman, a fine gentleman that used to represent the seat that the member does, Mr. MacAuley. Mr. MacAuley came in to see me — and he knew me when I was in opposition — came in and said, I've been trying for a hospital for La Ronge, he said, for as long as I've been elected. And he said, my cries have fallen on deaf ears. He said, maybe you will listen.

Well I think it's very indicative that we did listen because the Premier was in La Ronge, told the people there: go ahead, start your planning, put your plans in place, not only for a hospital but for a long-term care facility that will be complementing the hospital. I think that's a first for development in northern Saskatchewan, and that has come about because of the initiatives of this government. And I can tell you that that will be built.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, I vividly recall you mentioning the former member's visit to you. The former member of the Cumberland constituency visited your office. And I will agree with you, that was an honourable man such as . . . I'll go even beyond that to state to you, Mr. Minister, and to members of this Assembly, that he was much a man like the member for Wascana. He was very much respected, and he was very well in tune with the people in that community, in those northern communities. And he, I'm sure, felt the same way that I feel for the member for Wascana — as I felt for you, initially.

But my conclusions have diminished somewhat in

respect to yourself, Mr. Minister, because you're carrying the policies and the philosophy of this party too far. You're not making a stand like the member for Wascana. You're not getting up there and doing what you think morally is right. You're carrying the party policy and philosophy. You're afraid to stand up and be a person that can be very much admired and respected. You have to say . . . you're a yes-man to this PC kind of government. You're not a member that stands up to the rest of those fellows back there. You know, I'm certainly disappointed.

(1530)

And I'll go back to my original, question, Mr. Minister: is there a written commitment by the Premier as to when this project is going to go ahead? That is number one. And number two: what has happened to the community workers' program that we had, community health worker program? Has it been scrapped, or has it been improved in terms of funding?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — No, there's been no reduction in the community health worker program. It's increased in funding from 248,000 to 256,000 this year — it has been an increase. And certainly I think a government that will indicate that they're building a state of the art, first-class type of facility in La Ronge, certainly has a commitment to northern health care services. You may say: where's the written agreement? I think it's quite . . . History proves itself in this province, and if the Premier of the province says he's going to do something, he does it.

I think if you look back at the gas tax and the reduction of interest rates to help the farmers . . . We could go on and on all day. He said we will do it, and it is done. If he says we're building a hospital in La Ronge and it is the type of hospital that will have facilities for long-term care — which I should say will be something new and unique in that area; something that, as I said, Norm MacAuley had asked for for eight or 10 years; never had his request answered. And I'm sure if you went and seen him, he would tell you that it's going to be developed.

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I still haven't received a definite and positive acknowledgement that this project is going to go ahead. What I keep hearing is that we will deliver on our promises. Basically, that is what the minister is telling me. We will deliver projects such as we delivered to Peter Pocklington — oil breaks, royalty breaks, tax holidays to big oil companies and corporations. That is what you're telling me.

But when it comes down to essential services and programs needed by the people at the community level, Mr. Minister, you've failed to deliver. And history, as you stated a moment ago, proves itself to the point.

I have a letter, Mr. Minister, from an elected member. I brought it with me, but it will take me a minute or two here to find it. A local government official, elected to represent people in his community, in his town, indicating to us and to the people of this province that your government has neglected the North and that it has failed to commit any definite social and economic

opportunities in the northern administration district.

So I don't know if there is anything credible at all in terms of the response to estimates at this point in time, Mr. Minister, because like I said before, we've heard a lot of government announcements, a lot of government propaganda. Millions of dollars are being spent on TV, on radio, on newspaper ads, regarding your government's commitment for the next five years.

What do we have today, Mr. Minister? A \$2.8 billion deficit. How can you deliver on your promises, your commitment, with a deficit as high as it is today? You have put the people of this province well over \$2 billion in debt, and yet you keep making these big major announcements of what you're going to deliver — of many projects that you are going to deliver. But the only promises, Mr. Minister, that I know that you have been accurate with, and have proven to be very reliable with in terms of commitment, is the type of breaks and incentives and initiatives you have been giving your big corporate friends — the Weyerhaeusers.

You just sold out to Weyerhaeuser the northern forest . . .

Mr. Chairman: — Order, order. The member is straying from the estimates and I would ask . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Order, order. Order.

I have stated my case here, and the member will please get back on the estimates.

Mr. Yew: — Just for the record, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and for members of this Assembly and people of this province, the minister himself talked about uranium development and how we are in a . . .

Mr. Chairman: — Order. The kind of straying that the member was doing led into what the minister replied . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Order, order.

I have stated what my ruling is. The member will get on to the estimates.

Mr. Yew: — My apologies, Deputy Speaker. Well, Mr. Minister, you indicated to me, turning to the community health worker program, that the budget has increased from 248 to 256,000. That's an increase, Mr. Minister, of some \$8,000. In person-years, in terms of job opportunity, Mr. Minister, is there any difference in that figure, or is that figure only indicating or covering the cost of inflation?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Two topics that . . . Well, Mr. Chairman, if they want to shout and holler then that's fine, if that's the purpose of the House.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out to you and to the member opposite some improvements that have taken place in the dental plan. He asked about that a while ago before he went on to ranging all over northern Saskatchewan. Certainly in the dental plan . . . Previously it used to be there would be about a 27 per cent completion rate of the children that would be completed in having their dental check-ups done and the improvements to their teeth take place. I'm proud to say

that now it's at 65 per cent — 65 per cent are being completed now within a year, as to 27 per cent which was the rate previously.

We've had a new dentist go into the North; added one more dentist. The member questioned about services to Pelican Narrows. We have a new dental clinic in Pelican Narrows. The member also asked about the La Ronge hospital. I have instructed my deputy to have members from his office and SHSP go to La Ronge to follow up on the Premier's announcement, to help them start making the plans for this new facility. That will be taking place in the very near future.

The member asked about the community health workers. We have 14 community health workers in northern Saskatchewan. The increase is for wages and benefits for them.

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I want to raise another specific question. In terms of wages paid to the director of northern health services, Mr. Minister, can you provide me with that information.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — If you want to ask another question while we're getting that figure, go right ahead.

Mr. Yew: — I'll go ahead, Mr. Minister, while you're digging up the information relating to the director for northern health services. In terms of the community health worker program, Mr. Minister, has the program been encouraged by your government in terms of increased training, much-needed special trades, training requirements; that component of the program, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The director of northern health services is paid in accordance with the classification levels of the Public Service Commission. His salary is \$4,841 a month.

We have four in-service meetings a year for community health workers. In-service is where they come and learn on the job new skills that will help them to perform their duties better, and they indicate to me that all except two — so that would be 12 of them — have completed all aspects of the course.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, in terms of the community health clinics in many of the communities in my constituency, like the one in Sandy Bay . . . We happened to meet on one occasion in Sandy Bay, Mr. Minister, whereby you stopped with your staff and had a very brief visit with the health clinic in that community. I'm referring to Sandy Bay last summer. In terms of that clinic and the clinics other than Sandy Bay, we had some problems pertaining to staffing in Sandy Bay, and you remember as well that we had problems pertaining to providing accommodations. Have those problems been resolved, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The staffing in Sandy Bay has been a complete contingent of staff for the last year and a half.

Mr. Yew: — My next question, Mr. Minister. You have Wollaston Lake, which is quite remote, and Kinoosao and

possibly Brabant and Sturgeon Landing. The type of programs or services that you provide in terms of the public health nurse and visits by other medical professionals, do you feel that that is adequate — that those trips and those visits and those much needed services are adequate for those communities?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Wollaston gets its health services with a contract that we have with the La Ronge physicians, and I understand that service is satisfactory.

Mr. Yew: — I didn't get the Minister's response to that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I understand it's a first-rate service supplied by the medical people in La Ronge under a contract to service the health care needs of Wollaston Lake, which is basically a federal contract, as I understand.

(1545)

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, the other day we discussed, in the committee, liquor advertising and the bad connotations of that and the negative influence that it has on the population, particularly those who are most susceptible.

I recall you saying to the House, and I thought that the figure was rather interesting, that there was a reduction between 1983 and 1984 to 1984-1985 of a 3 per cent in alcohol consumption, and I just wondered if you could confirm that. Is that what it is for that period of time, or do I have the period of time wrong?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Yes, the per capita consumption of absolute alcohol is down 3.1 per cent in comparing calendar year 1983-84 to calendar year '84-85.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Has there been a similar reduction between '84-85 and '85-86, or has there been an increase? What is the status there?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — We wouldn't have the statistics for '85-86 at this time, so I couldn't report to you.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Are there any trends that are evident? I'm somewhat familiar with the kind of statistics that the former alcoholism commission used to keep, and I used to look at them all the time. Are there any sort of trends that are developing? You would have that, I know.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well I give you the trends that have been taking place. The per capita consumption of pure alcohol has been declining since 1982, and if you remember, the other day I said, in 1979-80, in spirit consumption we were the sixth lowest; in '83-84 we're the eighth lowest. So certainly that's going down. In absolute alcohol we were the fourth lowest in '79-80 and now we're the fifth lowest. So I guess if you want to speculate from this, the trends are that it's decreasing.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — So I hear you say then that in the view of yourself and the government there is a trend towards a lower consumption of alcohol, and I don't think you need to respond to that one unless you disagree.

I will accept your confirmation of that.

Although there are trends, I know that there is also a breakdown of consumption by gender and by age category. Can you tell me whether the decrease in the consumption of alcohol, the 3.1 per cent, is uniform throughout all of the population sector and on both of the gender questions, or whether it is not so in all of the categories, teenagers, adolescents and so on?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — We don't have anything on consumption figures for age groups. We have treatment figures for age groups.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Are you saying that the method of keeping track of consumption has been changed in the last four years, because those figures used to be available?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — No, I don't believe there's been any change. Certainly we don't have those figures. The minister in charge of the liquor board may have, but we do not have them in the alcohol commission.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — It's interesting because you seem to have the figure about the 3.1 per cent, the reduction in consumption. I would have thought that if you would have that information, you would also have the information on the decrease or increase in the different age categories. Why would you not have that information just as well as you have the other one? Are you saying, Mr. Minister, that you're only prepared to provide selected information in the House, rather than all of the information?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, certainly, I think you would have to check with the minister in charge of the liquor board, but I don't know of any indication where they check your age when you go in to buy liquor. It may well be, but I don't know that, and I don't know how you would keep track of those statistics. I'm sure there's surveys from time to time, surveys from time to time that take place, but we don't have those figures with us.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Okay. I will accept that you don't have your figures with you but can I ask, therefore: is it now called the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission? The former alcohol commission, is it now called the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission? Okay. Does the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission do studies on the consumption habits of the population according to age categories? Does it do those kind of surveys and studies?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well SADAC, that's Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, keep track of treatment figures. Treatment figures — that's what we keep track of. The people who keep track of sales is the Liquor Board, but I don't believe the Liquor Board probably has it by chronological age, and I don't think they ever did have, so I don't know what you're wanting to find out. But as I say, if you want to know anything about sales, and so on, that's the minister in charge of the Liquor Board. We do keep track of statistics of treatment by age, and we could provide those to you.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — I really find that quite fascinating. To suggest by you, Mr. Minister, that we have an Alcohol and

Drug Abuse Commission which does not take a look at the developing patterns of alcohol consumption according to age categories is really hard to believe. It really is. I mean, how can a very important agency as this one is, a very important social agency, do an adequate job or make projections about what it may need to be doing in the future, without knowing what the trends are.

Does not the Alcohol and Drug Abuse commission, or you, Mr. Minister, know whether the incidence of decreasing alcohol abuse or consumption is higher in adult populations; higher in people over 64; higher in the adolescent category; or whether it's actually going up in some of those categories? How can any forward planning be done without that kind of information?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Certainly, Mr. Chairman, we monitor the treatment. We know we keep stats on those that are being treated. We put preventative types of programs into the high schools, and as I say, we are the only province in Canada that has instituted a program on youth and drugs and alcohol in Canada.

So I think certainly we are taking this concern more serious than anyone else in the nation. We were wanting to see what the drug-use patterns and alcohol-use patterns are, and what we should be doing in ways of trying to prevent any further type of breakdown of young people's lives because of addiction to drugs or alcohol. I think those are the things that the commission should be dealing with, and I think they're doing it adequately.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Well, Mr. Minister, I'm sure you monitor the treatment; I'd be surprised if you didn't. But my question is: how can you possibly develop the kinds of needed treatment without monitoring what the problem is? Can you explain that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well once again, Mr. Chairman, let me indicate to you that we work in consultation with schools and other youth groups, people that deal with youth, to hear about their concerns. And I say, out of this came the suggestion to have a ministerial study — the first in the nation, I want to say, looking at the whole topic of drugs and alcohol and youth. That committee have reported to me. As I said previously, I'll soon be making that report public. I think there will be some initiatives in there that will be very beneficial to safeguarding the dangers of these addictive drugs to youth in Saskatchewan.

So that's the action that we've been taking. And I want to say once again that we lead the nation in this regard. No other government in Canada has taken a study to look at the situation and to come up with strategies and implementations that would help alleviate the problem.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Minister, have any of the officials from the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission that you have with you here today been involved in this ministerial study that you speak of?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — There were people from SADAC that were assigned as secretary to the commission, and also we supplied some of the research people from SADAC to work with the commission.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Could you tell us some of them who are with you today?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — They were support staff to the committee. I read off the committee the other day to you, and I think you'll remember there was a couple of students on it; there were some nurses; there was quite a large range. I mentioned that Mr. Bill Davis of Weyburn, the fellow active in Lions, you'll recall — that was the committee. And there were some people that were there as support staff, but they're not with me today. They're not here today.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Okay. Mr. Minister, can you tell me from the study, what does it say about the changing patterns of alcohol by the teen-age population? When you've had a chance to look at it . . . I know you're not prepared to give me the study because you say you're going to table it. So no end of questioning on my part — unless you're prepared to volunteer it to me — no end of questioning on my part will probably get it. But what does the study say about the changing patterns of alcohol by teenagers?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — There are no figures in the report to indicate the consumption levels. Certainly there was a study done a few years ago in Saskatchewan regarding this. We've been concerned about that. We instituted this study to see what the situation was out there. I would assume that the consumption is similar to what it was. The pattern hasn't changed too much, from what I'm led to believe. But certainly I would think this — and I think you must support this — that a good portion of the study comes up with suggestions of programs that can be implemented to alleviate the problems that young people are having with drugs or with alcohol. It suggests a five-year program of implementing of strategies that can be used. And, as I said, I'll be releasing it fairly soon, and I will certainly supply you with a copy.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Well thank you for offering to supply me that when you table it. I hope it will be soon. But I really am quite fascinated by the display that we're getting here today, Mr. Minister. And I think you really do your staff in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission a great disservice, because I happen to know and have a great deal of respect for the work that they do and some of the people who are there. I mean, it's been a struggle to accomplish what they feel, I know, over the years needs to be accomplished.

You stand up in the House today and you say that you have suggestions, and you have proposals, and you're going to study this, and you're studying that, and you're going to table this at some other time. And then you stand up and say, but you really have not considered any data, or any kind of information, or any kind of supporting statistics to back up the suggestions and the recommendations that you are going to be considering. Now if that's what you're saying, Mr. Minister, then I suggest you send the committee back to do another job.

Now I'm not going to suggest that, because I know the individuals you named in the study, and I know that they're pretty conscientious people, and I know that

they've done the job. The problem is that you're not doing the job, and you're refusing to provide the information when asked very simple and routine questions.

My question to you is: why do you refuse to provide simple information such as, what are the changing patterns in consumption of alcohol in different age categories — in this case, the teen-age population? What is so dangerous to you, as a politician and as a government, to answer that simple but very important question, which I happen to be concerned about as an individual, as a parent, and as a teacher?

I've seen the problem in the community. I know the problem among the young people who are faced with very little hope under this government about the lack of jobs that are available for them. And I think that you have an obligation, as I have, and so does everyone in this House, to be concerned about the problems that face them. Now why are you not prepared to answer the question about the changing patterns in alcohol consumption among the teen-age population?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Chairman, very simply because we don't have any empirical evidence that was collected by the committee. I don't know how he would find this out. How do you find out how much and what age groups and so on, other than perhaps some type of survey? But I can tell you what the committee did. I'm more inclined . . . I'm trying to provide programs of treatment to those . . . Kids out there, for a variety of reasons, may be addicted to drugs — and there's lots of them, there's lots of them. And I want to see what we can do to help them.

(1600)

We look at the treatment . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . we look at the treatment statistics, and we move from there. And I just want to say, he makes fun of the committee, thinking that perhaps they didn't do a very good job. I want to point out to you that the committee reviewed the background material relating to 20 areas of concern. They received 144 submissions, visited 13 communities to meet with over 160 individuals who had submitted briefs or letters, spoke with over 300 adolescents at 30 schools and youth centres throughout the province, and met as a committee on eight different occasions.

Now the member opposite wants to make light of that kind of a study, the first in Canada ever by a government, the first kind of study of that nature, where they've gone and talked to 300 adolescents. They've had briefs from at least 144 submissions, 160 individuals. Now if he wants to think and make light of that, he can stand in this Assembly and he can go right ahead and do that.

I'm concerned, as the Minister of Health, for treatment of these people. We put together a committee to look at youth and drugs and alcohol — the first in Canada. And we will develop programs coming out of that committee.

Now if you want to ridicule that, if you want to say that the people didn't do a good job, you just stand in here and you go right ahead. I tell you I'm proud of that study, and I can tell you that there'll be initiatives come out of there

that will help the youth of this province. And that's what I'm concerned about.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Isn't it interesting, Mr. Chairman, how this minister, when he knows that he has once again been caught — when he knows he's once again been caught in refusing to provide information, which is the case for the last two weeks — gets up and tries to turn the argument around into irrelevancies, as he has just done. The minister stands up in this Assembly and he says he was trying to help those who are faced with alcoholism and drinking abuse problems — and in this case, teenagers.

What does he do? He and his government, in one of their first moves when elected, breaks down to the distillery companies and the large private network television companies when they come running to his door and saying, we want advertising of alcohol. And he says, you betcha I'm going to do it, in the words of the Premier. That's the way he is helping the teen-age alcohol problem in our society. How in Heaven's name can he stand here with a straight face and say he's helping these young people who face this problem, and then turn around and says, we're going to put ads on TV where we're going to show them that you can live the good life if you only have that one drink.

As my colleague said, from Assiniboia-Gravelbourg: truck stops — don't bother getting a booster; get everybody behind and push her up to the pub and go have a drink. That's what the ads are saying, Mr. Chairman. And this minister has the gall to stand up in the House and he says he wants to help those teenagers who face an alcohol problem. And yes, there are some who face it, Mr. Minister. You know it, and I know it; a lot of parents know it; the community knows it. And you have failed in addressing the problem.

How you can interpret what I have said as being critical of the committee, I fail to understand, and I won't get into that debate. I think except only to say this: the only one who has failed the committee is you. Because having had an excellent alcoholism commission which now has a different name, which has indeed an increased mandate, I understand, and having had a committee that's went out there and done its work which has been public work, you now refuse to give to the public of Saskatchewan and this legislature the information which all of those people have gathered. You're going to make up programs to solve some of these problems that exist, but you don't have the data and the statistics to tell you what kind of programs are necessary.

I really don't understand where you're coming from. Quite frankly, I don't think you do either, sir.

You do a discredit to your officials in the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission and your study and the people who did it by hiding that information, because you have it; I know you have it, and you know you have it. You know that the only reason you are not prepared to state those figures is because it will contradict everything you said here the other night about alcohol consumption and about alcohol abuse. That's why you don't want to state it, Mr. Minister.

And I suppose I can make as long a speech as I want here, and it won't change your mind because you're here, not to provide the information, you're here to stonewall. And that is far unbecoming of a minister of the Crown, particularly the minister involved in such an important issue as health care.

Now, Mr. Minister, have your officials, or have either the department or the commission in any way been involved with a study that's been made by the federal government recently in which it talks about the consumption of alcohol in the population throughout Canada?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, Mr. Chairman, I listened with interest to the sanctimonious, hypocritical fashion in which the member opposite stands in this House, thinking he is the defender of all great things and that their party was never involved at all in any type of alcohol advertisement. Let me just quote to you from *Hansard* — right from *Hansard* — December 3, 1982, page 1291, the Leader of the Opposition. He says:

We ought not to encourage the advertising of alcoholic beverages, and we ought not to encourage the consumption of alcoholic beverages in association with sports activities, and other activities where young people frequently gather. We ought not to encourage the consumption of alcoholic beverages at functions of which we are a part.

That's what he said.

Mr. Chairman, for your information I have another bit of evidence here to show the hypocrisy of the people across the House. This is an NDP picnic, and it says: come to Admiral, Saskatchewan, on August 13th, enter a team in softball, ride real ponies . . . I don't know what other kind of ponies NDPs ride, but these are real ponies. And then it says, cool off in the beer gardens — cool off in the beer gardens — sponsored by the Shaunavon New Democrats. Now there is the hypocrisy on that side of the House.

Here is the Leader of the Opposition saying to the people of Saskatchewan, let me quote again, "We ought not to encourage the consumption of alcoholic beverages at functions of which we are a part." Now I'm sure that the House Leader of the NDP in the white mud area in Shaunavon constituency is certainly a part of a function who says, come and ride a real pony and have a cool beer. There is what I call hypocrisy.

And then we see their counterparts in Manitoba, the NDP in Manitoba, and I'd like to draw this to your attention, ladies and gentlemen, introducing same day home delivery service — Liquor Control Commission of Manitoba. In other words, where there's an NDP government, dial a crock, and we'll deliver it, same day, into your home. That's their hypocrisy.

Mr. Chairman: — Order, order. Order.

An Hon. Member: — Why is the chairman on his feet? Are you going to say something or . . .

Mr. Chairman: — As soon as you finish speaking, I will say something. It seems to me that the member who is now speaking was warned earlier today that when the Speaker is on his feet he is not to be speaking from his seat. And he's repeating the same mistake again. Obviously, the decibel level is going up in this House, and I would like it to calm down so that the debate can proceed in an orderly fashion.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Certainly I know that when you touch a soft spot it shows the hypocrisy and the double standards and the double talk of the people opposite. Certainly you will see them start to holler and yell in their seats as they do every time in this House. I've seen them cluck like chickens in this session. I've seen them talk about jelly beans. I've seen them hold up socks. I know the unruliness that they present. Every time you touch the quick, they start to holler. It's the only defence that they understand.

But let me show another hypocrisy in here. The Leader of the Opposition made much the other night about campaign contributions. Well I have the registered party fiscal period return of the NDP party of Canada in 1976. Well they had contributions from Gilbey Canada Ltd., from the House of Seagram, from Labatt's Brewery, from London Winery, from Meagher's Distillery, from the Canadian Schenley distillers, from Hiram Walker — those are a few of them.

In '77 Andres Wines got into the act. In '77. Corby Distillers joined in '77. Also Seagram back in there. Jordan Wines — they got into it in '77. Molson's in '77. So let's get things straight.

For the people opposite to stand up and act like hypocrites as they have been doing in this House, I just want to put a few facts out there, Mr. Chairman, to set the record straight of the way that the party opposite was in bed with the liquor companies of this country.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman. Here is a man who I think in accordance with his performance in this House, in the consideration of these *Estimates*, is the last person elected to this Assembly who can talk about being sanctimonious. Really! I mean, I'm sure even people who are advising him have to be embarrassed about what we've seen here displayed today . . .

An Hon. Member: — He sticks out his tongue.

Mr. Tchorzewski: — . . . by the part of this government. I mean, the best he can do when he feels pressed is to stick out his tongue at members of the opposition. Now this is sanctimony at its worst, Mr. Chairman.

Ask this minister for some questions; he leans to his staff; they give him the answer, and he refuses to relay it to the House. For some political reason he refuses to relay it to the House. Questions that are sincere and are important, not only to this House, but questions that are important to the Saskatchewan public and the people who are affected, and this minister, instead of answering the question when he knows he's being caught in the act of stonewalling, gets up and makes his usual political speech.

The only double standard, Mr. Chairman, that I see happening in this House is where the previous chairman would stand up and call to order one of my colleagues when he was on a different subject, but this minister is not called to order when he gets up on a tangent talking about Manitoba, instead of these estimates, and I'd like you to keep that into consideration as these estimates continue. The best the minister can do, Mr. Chairman, is make a political speech rather than answer the question.

I want to tell him this: we didn't change the law on liquor advertising when we were the government. There was no electronic liquor advertising prior to 1982. It's that minister and his colleagues, the Premier, and all of the Conservative members who got bought out. The liquor companies and the television networks — the private networks — came to this government when it got elected and it bought them out.

That's the kind of operation that these people run, and that's why the people of Saskatchewan are saying, we cannot afford another four years of this kind of government. That's why the Premier got cold feet and refused to call the election because he went out there and his people went out there and the people said, you haven't got a chance. And if there ever was any more evidence about why this government is in such a low state, the Minister of Health has just displayed it here today with his refusal to answer the questions.

Now, Mr. Minister, please spare us the political rhetoric. We've heard it before, and all you're doing is repeating yourself, because after you make your speech you forget to answer the question, so here it is again. The question is: were your officials, in either the commission or the Department of Health, or were you consulted in the preparation of a recent federal government health survey, which was released yesterday in Regina to the public school board, in which it made comment on consumption of alcohol by the teen-age population?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — No, we weren't consulted in the preparation of that report at all, but I think it would be interesting to note, again, the actions of the previous government when they were in power from 1971 to '82, you know. They have these walk-in liquor stores all over. They were the ones that opened those. My member from Weyburn was telling me they have one down there and various areas around the province.

The number of dining-rooms increased from 111 to 416 licensed premises for outlets of liquor; cocktail rooms from 84 to 218; club licenses from 50 to 91; and canteen licenses from 63 to 73, so I think we want to just set the record straight and indicate the number of access points that the previous government pushed for liquor to have freer access and outlets during their tenure of office.

Getting back to the member's question: did we have input into the study by the federal government? No, we did not.

(1615)

Mr. Tchorzewski: — I will accept the minister's word that he and his people have had no influence of the study. But

let me show you why the minister has refused to answer the questions about what categories there has been a reduction in the consumption of alcohol and which categories there has been not a reduction, or possibly an increase.

This federal government health survey, Mr. Minister, and I want you to listen carefully, shows that Saskatchewan teenagers drink more alcohol than anywhere else in Canada. And your advertising has not helped that situation, sir. That's what the study shows. It also indicates that 40 per cent of grade 10 students, to give you one example, have a drink at least two days out of every week.

Now I submit to you that your approach, that your approach to this problem with permitting of advertising of alcohol on television, is not helping this situation — indeed, Mr. Minister, has aggravated it. That is why you are not answering the questions about the statistics which you have, and you know you have. And your officials have given them to you, but you won't talk about them because you know that those are the facts. And you do not have the backbone and the political will to do something about it because those who pay your campaign fees have said, we want advertising. And you're doing what the piper tells you to do. He calls the tune, and you're dancing to it, at the expense of society, at the expense of young people, at the expense of people who suffer from this problem. You are paying the piper who calls the tune.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tchorzewski: — And that's a shameful way for any responsible government to act. That's why, Mr. Minister, you refuse to answer the questions on this topic, as you have on many other topics.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Certainly I was led to believe that the report was done by three university professors from Queen's University. Again, there may be some questions as to the accuracy of it. But certainly, the stats for Saskatchewan are that in children that were interviewed — and I don't know how many were interviewed — but it said of those who drank once a month, we were the same as the Canadian average for both age groups that were sampled. For those that drank two to four times a month, we were higher than the Canadian average. But for those that drank at least two or three times weekly, we were the same as the Canadian average.

Again I don't know how many students were sampled. These are figures from a research at Queen's University and there may be some question as to the accuracy of the research.

Mr. Engel: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, it's interesting that you would have all the information at your disposal that happened 8, 10, 12 years ago, but you think that . . . The minute you get some information that happened in your time, then you start questioning the accuracy of it. Maybe there wasn't a good enough sample taken when it talks about the kids that are drinking more in Saskatchewan than are in the rest of Canada.

I want to ask you — and I picked up an ad out of the

weekend paper and the question is asked . . . And it's got a TV, a TV set shoving a mug of bubbies or suds at a couple of kids here. And it says: who is for alcohol advertising on TV and who is against alcohol advertising on TV? Who will listen to the people? Ask your local candidates. And this ad was paid for and sponsored by the Saskatchewan committee for family alcohol education.

And I want to just share with members of the legislature, who some of the people are that are supporting this kind of advertising and are saying they are against alcohol advertising on TV. And the list includes the Saskatchewan alcohol commission, the World Health Organization, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Catholic Women's League, the Canadian Medical Association, Mr. Minister; the Mennonite Central Committee, the Royal College of Physicians of Britain, Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, Regina Council of Women, Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church of Canada, the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, the Saskatoon Council of Women. And the bottom line is 12,000 families — the largest number to write in to protest any government policy in Saskatchewan's history.

All these people are telling you loud and clear: take a stand on liquor advertising. Take a stand against liquor advertising. You as our Minister of Health have a responsibility, Mr. Minister, to take a stand against liquor advertising. You as the one responsible and you as the one that knows there are more young people consuming alcohol now than ever were in Saskatchewan's history — why don't you take a stand against advertising liquor on TV? Why don't you take a stand against it, Mr. Minister? Everybody else in Saskatchewan is except those of you that are influenced, like my colleague said, those of you that are influenced . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Sure you can list a group that over the years have contributed to political parties. But I'll tell you one thing — we weren't bought off. We never accepted a bribe and listened, and put it on TV and on the electronic media, but you did. You did, Mr. Minister, and you're responsible.

How come there can be this kind of a list letting their name be published and helping advertise against this bubbies on TV, and yet you take a stand and lose your eyes and blindly reject the facts and say that the survey wasn't accurate; the survey mustn't have been accurate because it shows that Saskatchewan kids are consuming more alcohol than the rest of Canadians are. So the survey couldn't have been accurate. But any other survey's accurate, Mr. Minister.

I want to tell you, Mr. Minister, that your days are numbered if you're not prepared to listen to the majority of Saskatchewan people.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, Mr. Chairman, the member opposite is always off on a wrong tangent. This study indicates frequency of use, has nothing to indicate about the amount of consumption. It doesn't indicate that at all. It indicates frequency of use and if he wants to stand here and criticize Saskatchewan kids, let him so do because I can tell you there are many other positives that the study shows about young people in Saskatchewan — that they smoke less, that they exercise more, that their diet is better

— and to say that they drink more is simply not correct. It indicates, as I said, that for once a month it is the same as the Canadian average; two to four times a month it is slightly higher; but at least two to three times a week it is the same as the Canadian average.

For him to stand here and try and draw a long bow that the kids in this province are drinking a lot more than anywhere else is simply untrue.

An Hon. Member: — That's not what I said.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — That's what you said.

An Hon. Member: — No, that's not what I said at all.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — That certainly is. I heard you say that. You said that . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . And Mr. Chairman, I think those are some facts that we want to just set straight. I think the report . . . If you'd look at the report in entirety there is some very positive things about young people in Saskatchewan. If it is his intent to stand up here and cast shadows and doubts about the young people of Saskatchewan, so be it. He has every right to do that. I don't do that. I'm concerned about the treatment of kids in this country who are suffering from the misuse of drugs, that are sniffing solvents, that have combinations of alcohol and drug abuse patterns.

Mr. Chairman, I have people coming to my office who are having to send their children to Mandan to be treated for very serious drug addiction. Those kind of questions concern me. That's why I put together the ministerial study, the study for me, to look at the problems out there in Saskatchewan, to come up with some suggestions and recommendations by which we as a society can help address those problems. That's what the committee has done.

Once again, let me repeat, it is the first time that such a study has been undertaken in Canada and I look forward to the implementation of some of the suggestions that that study will have directed. I'm sure it will bring about an improvement in service to the young people of this province, who I will stand up for any time, any place.

Mr. Engel: — Well, Mr. Minister, you sure stand up for them. You really stand up for them. Mr. Cohen, who is now deceased, did a study for the alcohol commission. Other studies are around. This isn't a first study, Mr. Minister.

Why do you suppose, as Minister of Health and responsible for the health of our young people, why do you suppose the Canadian Medical Association is against TV advertising, Mr. Minister? Why do you suppose they are? Why do you suppose the Royal College of Physicians of Britain are against TV advertising? Why do you suppose the School Trustees Association are against TV advertising?

I want to tell you, Mr. Minister — I want to tell you why they are, because studies that have been conducted across Canada and United States in the past, and studies that I have shared, my colleagues have shared in this House prior to this, indicate loudly and clearly, Mr.

Minister, that young people are more readily affected by TV advertising than any other group in our society. And that's why more young people are using the alcohol today than were prior to you advertising it on TV.

And I want to say again, Mr. Minister, all these people in the medical field, all these people that are religiously involved, the people that care about young people, the World Health Organization, everybody is arguing and saying that they are against television advertising of liquor and alcohol. Why can't you get onside and admit that young people are more readily affected and more easily affected in their younger minds, that aren't set in their ways like old people like me and you? You're really set in your ways, Mr. Minister. You won't agree to listen. You won't agree to accept some challenge that you could do some good. If you care about young people that are addicted to alcohol, if you really care, show that you care and stand up in this House and admit your error, admit the wrong that's done, and don't try justifying something as grossly evil — evil, Mr. Minister, immoral — as advertising and pushing liquor on our young people.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, the member opposite says we don't have representation and don't listen to people. I'll just go through the people that were on that committee. Bill Davis, as I said, is a Lion, a member of the Lions Club. They have a Quest program that the Lions are putting in schools throughout this province, that I understand from educators is very well received. He's from Weyburn. Neda Al-Katib is a student from Davidson, a high school student; Dolores Ast is from Saskatchewan Health; Frank Dornstauder is from Saskatchewan Social Services; Tim Greenough is from Saskatchewan Health; Steuart Herman is from the Saskatchewan Native Alcohol Council Corporation; Robert Kennedy is from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Gerry Kleisinger is from Saskatchewan Education; Glenda Klombies is the Parent Resource Institute for Drug Education, better known as PRIDE; Corey Liebrecht is a student; Ethel Quiring is from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation; Carol Skelton is from the Saskatchewan Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission; and Doug Switzer is from the Rainbow Youth Centre. So I think we have a cross-section of very credible people on that committee.

I think I have a letter here that I would like to read into the record, that I think indicates the support that the member opposite — who is talking about things being evil and so on — has. And this comes from a lady in Loreburn who wrote to the member opposite and said the following:

Dear Sir: I am prompted to write to you regarding the letter you have sent out to churches in connection with beer and wine ads which are now being shown on Saskatchewan TV stations. I am shocked to think you would stoop so low as to spread political propaganda through church pulpits. You must be desperate. We in the church have a much more important task, a positive task of spreading the good news of the gospel.

If you were concerned about cleaning up the TV programming, why don't you attack the promiscuous shows, the violence, the profanity, and the way liquor is shown in such a cunning

way, without advertisement, but made to look as though everyone partakes? These things have a much greater influence on me and my children than does an extra ad thrown in now and then.

We can't entirely protect our families unless we ban television and movies altogether. Children all over the province have access to cable, which advertises everything. It is up to us as individuals to take a definite stand as to what we think is detrimental, and make sure we tell our children, "We are in the world, but we don't have to be part of it" — that is, take part in its viles.

Please don't waste any more time with the negative approaches to a government that is working hard to make this province a better place.

(1630)

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, today during estimates we talked about the La Ronge hospital, and the need for this expansion or this new facility. It's the New Democrats on this side of the House that are prepared to put in a new facility, a much needed facility, to improve the health services of that community and that region. That is the position of members on this side of the House.

You have continuously talked about plans. I recall previous estimates, during questioning of estimates, Mr. Minister, where you talked about plans. And in one instance, Mr. Minister, you talked about plans that have to coincide with the federal government, seeing as how a good number of the communities in that region are people of treaty status. You talked particularly of the band in Lac La Ronge — the Lac La Ronge Indian band, and you . . . I believe we mentioned the Chief Myles Venne at the time, who is now again the chief that has been returned in the most recent election of the Lac La Ronge Indian band.

In previous estimates, Mr. Minister, we talked about those plans, and to date I have not seen anything in detail, in writing, authorizing the program to go ahead. Mr. Minister, at this point in time I would like to ask you very specifically: what is the status of those plans? What is the negotiating process for those plans to tie in and to provide the much needed services for that community and that region, that region covers that entire north-east area.

At present we have the hospital in La Ronge, and north-east of that we have some clinics. We have the clinic in Sandy Bay, the clinic in Pelican Narrows, the clinic in Cumberland House. But as far as the other communities are concerned, there is nothing, Mr. Minister. There is no health facilities available. The only nearest, closest health facility available to them in terms of a hospital with some professional medical staff, is La Ronge.

And I ask you, Mr. Minister, what in terms of status of that plan . . . Where is that plan? What program . . . what group of peoples . . . what progress have you made in terms of dealing with that particular program, with that particular facility, in terms of the bands involved, in terms of the non-status people, etc.?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Certainly the plans are developing. I've been in contact with the La Ronge people from time to time. They've indicated their desire to have a new hospital, also a long-term care facility. The Premier visited their community a week ago and indicated to them that they have the green light to start planning at this time. It was announced in the last budget they would be getting their hospital, but we've put money into this budget that they can start planning. And certainly the signing of BCRs and the commitment from the federal government, and all of those things have to be worked out.

It's just the same process as City Hospital are going through right now, planning for a new hospital that they're getting. University Hospital, the General Hospital, any hospital that is built takes a considerable amount of planning, and they're an intricate type of facility. And I want to see the best type of facility possible go into La Ronge that will satisfy the needs of the people in that area of the province.

So as I've said previously, in the very near future, officials from my department are going to meet with the La Ronge board to sit down and start really working at this so that we can get that facility up and going, and that it will be a very good facility that will meet the needs of the residents of the area.

Mr. Yew: — Now you say, Mr. Minister, and I quote you, that the La Ronge board — I presume you're talking about the La Ronge Hospital board — are going to be meeting shortly. You mentioned, Mr. Minister — I don't think you heard me — you mentioned in your own words that the hospital board in La Ronge will be meeting shortly. And I assume that they will be meeting with officials of your department and officials of the Lac La Ronge Indian band, the Peter Ballantyne Indian band, and so forth, the Montreal Lake band, etc.

Mr. Minister, to date, that is all we've been talking about is plans for discussions. That is all that has been discussed in the last four to five provincial budgets that your government has proposed and introduced in this Assembly. That is all we have been talking about. Nothing but plans, negotiating processes, but to date we have not seen an itemized, detailed plan of action, a commitment — a specific commitment, Mr. Minister.

Now you mentioned again, as you did in previous estimates, a BCR, a band council resolution. I want to know, Mr. Minister, have you at this point in time received a band council resolution that has been processed and negotiated accordingly with the needs of the Lac La Ronge Indian band, the Peter Ballantyne Indian band, the Montreal Lake band and the other bands further north in conjunction with the Lac La Ronge hospital board and officials of your department?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — No, we haven't received a BCR, but I indicate to the member that the planning stage . . . The Premier has said that the hospital is going ahead and that they're to start planning immediately. I have indicated to this House that in the very, very near future my officials will be meeting with the board of the La Ronge hospital to

plan this facility which will have long-term care beds attached to it — a first for northern Saskatchewan. Certainly part of that planning process will be to bring in the bands that the member has mentioned and get the BCRs signed so that we can have that contribution towards the hospital. That's part of the planning procedure. That planning procedure is going to begin in the very, very near future.

Mr. Yew: — It is very clear, Mr. Minister, that we haven't progressed very, very much in respect to the provision of much needed medical and health services in northern Saskatchewan because anyone can see that to this very point in time, after the presentation of the fifth budget by your government, that we are still talking about plans. Plans to talk with the bands; to talk with the La Ronge hospital board. You've discussed it; you've made big government announcements.

Recently your Premier went to La Ronge and made a promise that the facility is in the making. It's in the making, it's in the program — this big five-year program that you keep reiterating about. But to date everyone can see — perhaps not in these Chambers — but everyone in northern Saskatchewan, I can assure you, can see that there has been no progress made.

And at the same time, while this is happening, Mr. Minister, a tremendous amount of revenue is coming out of northern Saskatchewan. I look at the government document for 1983-84. Well over half a billion dollars came out of the resources that have been developed and extracted and taken away from the people of northern Saskatchewan. Every time there is a service or a program approved for the North, then you guys holler and jeer that, goldarn it, those are hand-outs, those are hand-outs to the people of northern Saskatchewan.

Well I can assure you, Mr. Minister, and the members of this Assembly, that we are contributing our fair share to the provincial treasury. We are contributing more than our fair share. I look at the estimates and the documentation that provides funds to the provincial treasury for 1983-84. They totalled well over \$503 million. That's well over half a billion dollars. And just in terms of licences and permits for trappers and fishermen alone, \$28 million, Mr. Minister.

Now you have generated and put into the . . . The Northerners have contributed, and your government has taken well over half a billion dollars in northern resource revenues. Just how much, Mr. Minister, have you put back into northern Saskatchewan?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well certainly we honour our commitments. Of the Health capital budget of 75 million, 60 million has already been committed to projects. And, you know, the member stands and says that there hasn't been a number of things done for northern health services. Well I indicate that the start of planning for a La Ronge hospital is certainly a contribution to northern health services. I look at the appointment of a mental health director as a commitment to northern health services. I look at stable medical practice up the west side as a major commitment to northern health services. I look at the addition of a new dentist in the North as a

commitment to northern health services. I look at a new dental clinic in Pelican Narrows as a commitment to northern health services. I look at the improved home care program in Buffalo Narrows as a commitment to northern health services. I look at \$125,000 for nursing staff and supplies to Ile-a-la-Crosse and La Loche hospitals as a commitment to northern health services. I look at the major consultation process which will be looking at long-term care in the North as a commitment to northern health services. And certainly the new facility in La Ronge, which will have long-term care beds — the first in the North — as a commitment to northern health services.

So for you to stand here and say there's been no commitment by this government to northern health services, that there haven't been new initiatives, that when we see there's 14 community health workers and all but two of them have completed a very good training course, when we see the number of children in the North having their dental inspections and improvements done much more readily and more of them done per year than there were previously — it's just simply not true for the member opposite to stand up and say there hasn't been major improvements in northern health services over the last four years.

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again have to stand up and dispute that claim that you feel that you have put significant effort into the provision of medical and health services in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Minister, because you quoted just now, a few minutes ago, that your government has put \$60 million in various programs. Now that 60 million that you referred to — I don't know where it is; whether it's all contributed towards the medical and health services and programs for the North, but I did catch one phrase of your presentation, that you contributed 125,000 towards the nursing facility and services, services and facilities required by Ile-a-la-Cross and La Loche, I believe.

(1645)

But, Mr. Minister, that is a far cry from the budget that was proposed by this legislature in 1982 for the people in northern Saskatchewan. At that particular time, I remember — I recall vividly and I have the records to document it — \$91 million was proposed, earmarked, for people in northern Saskatchewan, to improve the much-needed services pertaining to the social and economic requirements and needs of the people in northern Saskatchewan. That figure that you just quoted, Mr. Minister, is far short from the figure that was proposed in 1982. That is for the records.

The question I want to ask you, Mr. Minister, very specifically, is: how much funding have you put aside towards the planning of this new hospital and nursing care home in La Ronge? Just how much funding have you provided on the estimates that we have in front of us?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — It's very difficult to indicate what the total cost will be until you hire the consultant and so on — I think you would understand that — until you get some firm figures from them. But my estimate would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 50 to \$60,000.

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Could you clear . . . you know, put it in more precise terms, Mr. Minister. I look at your Health estimates here, on pages 48 to 51. That covers your entire program, I presume. Nowhere in the subvotes do I see that specific item. You quoted 60 to \$65,000, and you don't have a figure for sure until you hire the consultant.

But, Mr. Minister, you know, can you commit yourself to X number of dollars, commit yourself to more specific details as to when the process will be in place to provide for this facility?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — There's considerable noise from your colleagues. It makes it hard to hear what your question is. But let me indicate to you that, as I pointed out, it's fairly tough to know exactly how much money it will be. I gave you an estimate between 50 and \$60,000. I think your line of questioning was: where do find that money in the *Estimates*? And I would refer you to the property management Crown. It's in the back page of the *Estimates*. You'll see in there \$75 million for capital projects. So the money that would be there for your planning of the La Ronge facility would come out of that capital commitment of \$75 million.

I think you misunderstood me before when I was talking about commitments, and I mentioned the \$75 million figure and that 60 million of that for this year has been committed already, just to indicate to you that . . . You know, you were questioning, if we make a commitment, do we come forward with the money? And I was using that as an example to show you what actually happens. But if you're looking for your \$60,000, you look into the last page of the *Estimates*, under the property management Crown, you'll see a statement that says: Health, \$75 million. That's where the money would be, in that subvote.

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, I want to ask you: out of that portion of the *Estimates* you quoted \$75 million, but you're not certain of the cost. You say that that money is committed. You say that 50,000, possibly 65,000, will be earmarked or allotted for that particular plan.

I want to ask the minister at this point in time: how much of that money would definitely be committed towards a La Ronge hospital board, and how much of it will be directed to the local Lac La Ronge Indian band, the Peter Ballantyne Indian band, etc., to coincide or to co-ordinate with the consultant that would possibly be initiating this study? Just what process of funding are you committed to?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think there's some misunderstanding. That money is for planning. I don't know what they will be able to hire a consultant for. But that money won't be going to the bands at all. That money will be for planning of a facility to hire a consultant who will sit down and look at all the factors in La Ronge that have to be taken into consideration. That's how you build a hospital. You look at who needs the hospital, what kind of services they need for the long-term care, how many people, what you need. You get a consultant for this. He

charges you a fee to do this. All right?

So there's that amount of money in this year's budget to help do this in La Ronge. But as far as money to the bands or anything of that nature, that isn't part of it. You know how the BCRs are. They have to — the band requisitions have to come through that they expend their dollars from the federal government towards that hospital. That would be a part of the planning that comes in.

But I wouldn't want to mislead you by thinking that there's any of that \$50,000 will go to the bands. It won't. It will go to the hospital board for the planning of their facility. And I'm sure they will have to hire a consultant. And what he will cost at this time, I don't know. I don't know. I'm estimating that 50 or \$60,000 should allow the La Ronge hospital board to do all that it is required of them to do in this year in planning for that facility.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, I wonder . . . When will you make the announcement public then? You know, this is a major initiative we're talking about. This is a major program. This is a dire-needed facility that will service and provide for essential services for the community of La Ronge and that whole region. I, to date, have not seen anything specific. You have committed in this House 50, possibly 65, possibly \$75,000. I don't know. You haven't stated one specific figure. You've quoted figures. You've jumped on your figures.

And I want to ask the minister then, you know . . . Have you initiated a written consent to the La Ronge hospital board that you will proceed with this plan, with this study, in conjunction with the local officials. Have you a written commitment, and if not, when will you issue the written commitment to the La Ronge hospital board? But a second item to my question with regards to that facility, Mr. Minister, is, how long do you anticipate this process or this study to be in process?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well again let me indicate to the member that I think the very fact that the Premier of the province went into La Ronge and said, start your planning, has to impact that this project is to go. The very fact that I have indicated to you in this House that I have 50 to \$60,000 — and let me reiterate my figures — 50 to 60. You were talking something about 75. I'm not talking about 75. I'm talking somewhere between 50 and \$60,000 that will be provided to the La Ronge hospital to facilitate the planning.

Now let me get one thing straight. I believe that the La Ronge hospital board should plan their hospital and they should hire their consultant and we will work in co-operation with them. What you seem to be telling me is that you want me, as the Minister of Health, to say, this is how you should do it. You're wanting me to say something, in a letter, that you must do it this way; that's what I hear you saying.

We don't believe in this. We want the local board to get on with planning it, to work with the bands, and to hire a consultant. We will help them. I will send my fellows there — as I've told you three times — in the very, very near future to work with the hospital board and let them use the expertise that we have in the department to help

them come up with a facility that will serve the needs of La Ronge, now and in the future. That's what we're going to do. But if you're trying to indicate that it's better that we, down in Regina, say to La Ronge: look, this is what you must do — I cannot agree with that philosophy. I prefer to let La Ronge develop their priorities, and we will work in conjunction with them.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, you certainly made the wrong interpretation of my questioning with regards to estimates and that particular facility for La Ronge. I certainly don't advocate you doing the entire work, Mr. Minister, certainly not your government, not your administration. If you want something properly meeting the needs of people in any particular community or region, it has to be co-ordinated and done by the people of that particular area.

And I'm saying, Mr. Minister, that the people I'm referring to are the people in La Ronge, the La Ronge hospital board. I am saying, you know, that that board must be committed by your government — a commitment must be made in writing by your government — a written consent that X number of dollars are to be funnelled to the La Ronge hospital board and to the other people associated for this study. I'm not encouraging you to do it, Mr. Minister. It has to be done in conjunction, certainly in conjunction with your officials.

My next question to you — now that we've got that cleared up, I hope — is: how did you arrive at \$60,000, Mr. Minister, how did you arrive at that figure, and have you got that commitment in writing? Certainly the Premier of this province made a commitment on his public relations tour with the chamber of commerce in La Ronge. Certainly he made a commitment.

But what are commitments just before an election? A commitment is made out of desperation, many times, Mr. Minister. You guys are making all kinds of heavy, heavy commitments — the oil upgrader, the Husky oil upgrader, Gainers, the Weyerhaeuser deal up in P.A. You've made all kinds of commitments.

You know, the people of this province are confused. It's been four years in the making, Mr. Minister, and to this point in time I have yet to see concrete evidence that that facility will go ahead, that that hospital will go ahead, that that nursing care home needed for La Ronge, Stanley Mission, Weyakwin . . .

Mr. Chairman: — Order, order. Order. The member from Cumberland was trying to ask a question. I believe that the minister was having difficulty hearing him from all the noise in here.

Hon. Mr. McLeod: — Mr. Chairman, I think this would be an appropriate juncture to rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 p.m.