

EVENING SESSION

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure
Supply and Services
Ordinary Expenditure — Vote 13

Item 1 (continued)

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, before we recessed for dinner, the member from Shaunavon had indicated that he had some concerns about the price that we received for the Navajo plane that we sold by public tenders or by bids back in March. Part of the history of the events that led to it . . . There was an initial call for tenders that closed on February 27. At that time we had 13 tenders submitted, and the prices ranged from \$2,700 to \$65,700.

We did not consider those offers to reflect the fair market value of the aircraft, and we rejected those bids and gave an opportunity to resubmit or to submit new bids by March 6, 1986. As of that date we had five bids, and as I indicated before the supper recess, we accepted a bid of \$72,200 for the aircraft.

I should indicate that the question, I believe, was about appraisal. We had no outside appraisal done; we did an internal appraisal, and we used the Aircraft Price Digest, which is the national, internationally recognized industry standard appraisal manual.

The aircraft is a 1969 model; it's 17 years old; it has 6,300 hours on the airframe. One engine was not what you would call excellent, and I should indicate that the price that we received is in fact higher than the price indicated in the Aircraft Price Digest.

So the member can question obviously whether or not the government or the people of the province received full value in the sale of that aircraft. We would contend rather strongly that we did receive full value, and I believe that the price of \$72,200, as I indicated, was very reasonable and was in fact above the price that shows in the Aircraft Price Digest.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — The minister indicated that on the second advertisement you got five bids. Can you indicate what those bids were?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — The five bids started at \$6,000; \$65,700; \$66,501; \$68,700; and of course the successful bid of \$72,200.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — And can you give me again the company that bought it? I thought you said a company out of Estevan, but I missed the name.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — The winning bid was from Prairie Air in Estevan. Prairie Air is owned by a gentleman named Brian Hutton, Estevan, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — How long was that engine not working when you were using it for executive aircraft?

Were you using it for ambulance service while that engine wasn't working, or when did the engine quit on you?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Well, Mr. Chairman, I didn't intend to leave the impression with the member that the one engine was not working. One engine had had considerable more hours than the other and was possibly not in quite as good a shape as one would like. And I think that the people who bid on the aircraft were fully aware that there would be some work to do on that engine.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Was there a . . . Who did the servicing of that engine that gave you the information that it wasn't in very good shape? Who gave you that information?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the member, there were 100 hours left on that engine prior to major overhaul. Major overhaul is approximately a \$20,000 cost to the Department of Transport standard, and the work that had been done on the engine was the senior maintenance people who inspect aircraft — our folks.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — The minister has indicated that he would be sending me a list of the automobiles that were purchased by the department during the year from 19 . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well, I'm leaving the aircraft issue because obviously one engine was gone while you were flying it. The member from Souris-Cannington maybe flew it a couple of times and burned the engine out. I don't know. But I would just indicate that when you're getting 70,000 for a Navajo aircraft of 1969 vintage it shows you something about the booming economy of the province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Because I'll tell you, I'll tell you that when you can sell a twin-engine aircraft — a twin-engine aircraft . . . (inaudible interjection) Well, I'll tell you what they're worth in Texas where the economy there, under a right-wing government, is collapsed as well. They probably aren't worth a lot more.

But if the economy were in any kind of a mood for excitement and vitality, that it will be after the next election with a newly elected New Democratic government, aircraft like that will be selling for two or three times what you got for it, the same as they were — the same as they were back in the 1970s.

And I mean, this is obviously happening right across the piece, Mr. Chairman. You know that for 40 million worth of highway equipment they got 5 million for it, to show you how bad the economy is . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Less than 5 — my colleague corrects me.

So they're selling off the assets of the government, getting nothing for it because the economy has collapsed.

And, I think that clearly indicates, when you can get more for a 172 or 182 single-engine Cessna than you can for a twin-engine executive aircraft, the kind of business

people we have running the province and why we're \$2 billion in the hold. That's what's happening.

And not only are we \$2 billion in the hole, but we're selling off assets here and there and everywhere. Sell off an executive aircraft; we've sold off coal-mines; we've sold off the potash equipment; we've sold off a drag-line; we've sold off many, many acres of land. And of all this, as well as increasing taxes, and still we have a \$2 billion deficit. That's the point that I was making.

And I want to tell you that obviously we're in a great deal of financial difficulty in this province because of the bad administration led by Premier Devine and his cohorts.

As we roll along here, it becomes worse and worse. I mean we thought we got a bad deal for the coal-mine at Coronach. We thought we got a bad deal. But I'll tell you, it was nothing like this Navajo being sold for 72,000 — an aircraft that's worth a quarter of a million dollars fire-sale-pricing at 70,000.

And then we say, why are you getting such a small amount for it? They don't explain that the economy has collapsed and none of the small companies are buying aircraft. They say one engine was gone. And then you say, well, was the engine gone or not? No, it wasn't really gone, but it had to have some repairs done to it. Well these are standard repairs done to any aircraft. Every so many hours you have to rip the engine apart. And your first implication, that the engine was gone, was certainly inaccurate. I just think that it clearly indicates the plight of the economy of the province under Premier Devine and his cohorts opposite. That's what it shows . . . (inaudible interjection) . . .

Well I could tell you that we won't be doing what Sterling Lyon's government in Manitoba did — buy a brand-new executive jet a month before the election. And what we have to be watching here as we approach this election is whether or not there is an executive aircraft, a jet, on order by these people across the way. Because that's what happened in Manitoba; that's what happened in Manitoba. Believe it or not, when the Pawley government was elected in 1981, sitting on the tarmac was a brand-new jet — had never been flown — purchased by the Sterling Lyon government. So we'll be watching closely whether this sale of this Navajo is sort of the down payment, the down payment on a brand-new jet that they may have sitting on the tarmac for after the election, the way that Sterling Lyon did in Manitoba. That's what happened out there. And I think this may be just a little phoney sell-off of an aircraft, but really what they're up to is buying a new jet similar to what was done in Manitoba shortly before the last election out there.

An Hon. Member: — False, false.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — No, it's not false. You can check the record. It certainly is as accurate as can be. And it was an expensive jet, as well. The member from Souris-Cannington will be well aware . . . I don't know the name, but he would know what model and make it was. He may even have rode in it to test it out when Sterling Lyon was buying it.

But I want to ask you a few questions about the process of getting consulting firms in your department. Now we have questioned you about consulting firms that you have hired in the past, and I have one here which we raised in question period, namely a company which is run by Ron Ryan, who set up an InfoCentre Network for \$85,000. Can you get me a list of all the consulting that was done in the department since January 1st of 1985 up to May 1st of '86?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, I won't get into a lengthy debate on whether in fact the price of airplanes is any real indication of the health of anyone's economy. I will indicate that I'll mention to Prairie Air that you have a standing offer of about \$200,000 that you've prepared to pay for that plane that they bought. I am sure they'd be interested to hear that.

I should indicate, just to update the member's information, that in fact the Pawley government purchased an executive jet just prior to the last election. So I think that he should be aware that that has happened.

I can give him assurance that there's no intention on this side of the House to be purchasing any jet aircraft. We felt that the fleet we have is extremely adequate, that the calibre of plane, the Cheyenne, do an excellent job of getting into the centres where we have to go as we travel across the province. We will admit a great deal to trying to continue to consult and talk with the people of the province about the things that we think are real issues, and in all honesty the price of that aircraft has not been one of them.

I will send you over, though, a list of the consulting services that we have contracted for. The list doesn't fit the dates that you asked for. It's the fiscal year '85 to '86, so it starts April 1st, but I think it's what you want.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — The one particular contract that I'm interested in is the InfoCentre Network, which was given to a company owned by Ron Ryan. Can you tell me again: — was that tendered, and if so, how many people bid on it, and whether or not this was the low bid which got the contract?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — My colleague from Saskatoon makes a good point. Possibly Pawley bought that jet to go to Expo to visit the Saskatchewan pavilion since Manitoba doesn't have one there.

However, as I indicated in question period, there were two bids on the InfoCentre process. The one that we accepted was in fact the lesser one because they are unmanned info stations and the other proposal called for manned stations which would have obviously driven the price considerably higher.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — The minister has indicated that the bidding process that took place involved two bids. Will you give me the numbers on those two? I missed them in the noise that is going on here in the Assembly.

And maybe, Mr. Chairman, we could get some order from some of your colleagues on this side who are shouting and hollering, if you could.

(1915)

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — I didn't offer at that time those numbers and I don't propose to give them. They were confidential bids on a proposal basis. As I indicated, one called for manned stations. We didn't feel that was necessary. Obviously that's considerably more expensive than the one we chose.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Well, what are you indicating here — that there were two of them? I'm having a difficult time hearing what you're saying. Are you saying that you chose the low bid, and if so, what was the difference in the two numbers?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Well, Mr. Chairman, what I am saying, I think, is rather clear. We called for proposals to provide the information to the public, as we have mentioned in question period responses, and in fact in my last response.

We got two proposals. One was a proposal for info centres that were in fact manned on a regular basis; obviously more expensive. The second proposal was for unmanned information centres, and consequently we chose that one. To indicate that there were two distinct bids on the same thing would be less than accurate. I'm saying there were two proposals. One was more expensive than the other. We took the least expensive.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — The minister has sent across a list of all the consulting that was done for the year as indicated. And I will take some time to check it over and I may have some questions coming back to that.

But I want to deal now with the property management corporation which was established by your government. I wonder who are the officers. Can you indicate to the committee who are the officers of this corporations? Do you have that list with you?

Mr. Chairman: — Order, order, please. I would like to bring to the attention of the minister and to the questioner that there will be a separate vote on the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, so perhaps you could just hold back that question until we get to that.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, I have no problem dealing with that under item 1, if that's satisfactory to the Chair. WE can get into it here.

Mr. Chairman, at the present time the deputy minister, Mr. Cutts, is serving as the acting president of the corporation. Miss Raab is serving as the treasurer; I serve as the chairman of the board and the Minister of Finance is the vice-chairman. The Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of Health also serve on the board.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — This nice, neat little group that we have running this corporation, I'll tell you . . . Could you tell me whether or not Mr. Cutts gets any extra remuneration for his involvement, other than maybe extra for attending meetings? What would the deal be with members of the board, including the ministers who

are involved?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Cutts nor Miss Raab receive any additional compensation for the responsibilities they've taken on there, and of course the board of directors receive no compensation for those duties, other than their normal cabinet remuneration.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — The minister has indicated that there is no involvement or no extra pay given to the deputy minister, Mr. Cutts, for his involvement, or to the cabinet ministers. Can you tell me whether or not staff is now in place to work, and how many people have been hired in that corporation?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — At the present time, Mr. Chairman, we have no staff with the corporation. We have two people on contract. We may in fact be hiring staff in the very near future. But as of now that's the situation.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Minister, can you indicate the two individuals on contract, who they are and what the arrangement in terms of fees that you will have with them, and the terms of the agreement?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, for the member, the two people we have on contract are Scott Adams at 3,000 a month and Paul McIntyre at 2,940.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — And what is the duration of the contract?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, Mr. Adams' contract is a month-by-month contract. Mr. McIntyre has been contracted for two years. And I'm not sure if you heard that; the member from Quill Lakes may have interrupted. I'll just give it to you once more. Mr. Adams is on a month-by-month contract and Mr. McIntyre a two-year contract.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — What staffing component is planned for the corporation? You must have some idea now. You may not have names attached to it before the election, but you must have a group of people or a number of people who you will have in the corporation — a structure, that sort of thing. How many people do you envisage having on staff once it's up and running?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — It's very difficult, Mr. Chairman, to give you an adequate answer. We are studying the other models that exist in the country; particularly we have done some work with B.C. We are designing the corporation. At this time we don't have any numbers approved by the board, so I think it would be in large part supposition for me to provide any definite information. But as soon as we have that, that'll certainly be public.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Minister, in the area of security on buildings, and particularly the Legislative Building, I wonder if you could give a run-down of the changes that you have put into motion and put in place here in the legislature, first in terms of the changes in security for ministers' offices, security at the door, and the cost of renovating the offices downstairs and putting things into place. Can you give us a little breakdown on how that all

fit together?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, the security of the Legislative Building is now under the Board of Internal Economy. And I think that that question, for a meaningful response, should be directed to either the Clerk or the Speaker of the House.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — What about ministers' offices? As I understand it, that would be part of Supply and Services, but maybe not. Can you tell me on, for example, your own office, if you had any remodelling done or that sort of thing, where would that money come out of at the present time?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, once again responsibility rests with the Board of Internal Economy. We will be paying for those improvements. They're in the process of being made. I think nothing has really changed since 1982. We've simply updated the response system. And the bills are not in and the system has not been activated, to our knowledge, at this moment.

Again, the activation of the system and seeing that it was up and running would be the responsibility of the Speaker.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — I just want to get clear . . . To date the renovations for the security changes that the Board of Internal Economy recommends or has passed — the bills haven't come in and they haven't been paid for?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — I think the situation is that it's been installed. The system has been redone, updated; it's in place; has not been activated. And the bills are not complete; we don't have a cost.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — I wonder, Mr. Minister, can you give me a list of the advertising that your department has done from January 1 of '85 to present time. Would you be able to get me a list. And that would be the print and any TV or radio advertising that you might have done, as well as the production and placement costs for that.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, I have a sheet. To the member, it's a xerox of a computer sheet. I apologize for the quality of the print. If there's some problem with it, we'll try to improve it for you; but I think it's okay.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — The minister was good enough to bring this list across to us. I wonder whether or not you can tell us what companies did the advertising. Can you indicate the firms?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — I think this sheet, in concert with the one you have, should indicate where that has gone. I would indicate . . . I'm not sure what date you asked for, but again we're dealing with the fiscal year '85-6.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Minister, I want to spend some time on the nursing home construction that is, I guess ongoing in Saskatoon at the present time, the level 4 facility. And what I want to do here is get you to explain whether there was a tendering process. Or was it a proposal call? And if it was proposal, how many people

put in proposals, and which company was chosen, and on what basis?

(1930)

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — It was a lease-purchase proposal call, Mr. Chairman, that was used. In the initial stage there were eight proposals submitted. That was short-listed to four in the stage 2 process and the Wolfe Group of Saskatoon were the successful competitors in that proposal process. The facility is moving along extremely well. Anyone in Saskatoon who wishes to see it could drive by the site, or I should indicate that there is a model of the facility in the Sturdy Stone Building where people can view the extremely innovative home, long needed in Saskatoon, that is now nearing completion.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Can the minister indicate which four firms were in the final proposal competition. You indicated the Wolfe Group was the successful proposal, but can you give me the other three who were involved. And also, was the Wolfe Group the low proposal?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — The other three companies in the stage 2 process were Boychuk Construction Ltd. of Saskatoon, Normandale Holdings Ltd. of Saskatoon and Remai construction of Saskatoon. And yes, in fact, the Wolfe Group was low.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Can you indicate what those proposals were — the numbers. Because there will be those who will have a difficult time agreeing with you that that was the low proposal. Can you indicate what those proposals were?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, no, we're not going to release the numbers on that.

What I will do, though, is send the member from Shaunavon the executive summary regarding the proposal call for the special care facility in Saskatoon that was written up by the independent committee that did the evaluations. And I think if he goes through that, most of his questions will probably be answered. And I will send that across.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Minister, on the issue of proposal calls — and I guess this is but the tip of the iceberg, the one that got a lot of attention in Saskatoon — but have you done any studies or any reviews of that system of giving out projects? Because I know it had caused a great deal of concern by a good number of people in the industry who saw it as a mechanism being used by the government and the department to hand over contracts to friends of the Conservative Party.

I'm not, of course, making that accusation, but there were many people, many people in the industry who were saying that. And there may be legitimacy to what they were saying and there may not be. But the special care facility in Saskatoon got a lot of those comments.

And I'm wondering: — have you done a study or a review of that situation, and have you changed from proposal calls back to a tendering process?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — I'm very glad to hear that the member from Shaunavon has stoutly been defending the government and its process.

The proposal call was a system that was put in place that had some very real benefits. There was some misconception amongst the industry.

We had a study commissioned — the IKOY study. The study pointed out that, in large part, it was misconception that was leading to a lot of the problems that we were experiencing. However, because that was the case and the industry seemed to feel more comfortable with the more traditional assigning of an architect and the basic tendering process, we have reverted to the other process in the department, except for office space, which is still done on a proposal basis.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Minister, I have only a couple of questions. I want to touch on a rumour regarding water bombers — sale of the water bombers — and I will then finish my questioning that I did with the Minister of Health regarding a contract for renovations to the Buffalo Narrows hospital, which the Minister indicated was handled by your department.

Mr. Minister, I want to start with the Canso water bombers. It's been rumoured that the department is negotiating a sale of the water bombers. I just want to say, and I've said this when I went through Parks and Renewable Resources estimates, that I was totally opposed, and I think you'll find most individuals in the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources are also opposed to any sale of the Canso water bombers.

You talked about selling off a Navajo aircraft for 70-some-thousand dollars. Let me tell you, I know and I think you know and everybody else knows that any aircraft that's owned by this government has been well taken care of and well maintained, and you're buying a good aircraft.

For the Canso water bombers, those aircrafts have been completely rebuilt. And I would sincerely hope that there is no negotiations to see the Canso water bombers. But if there is, Mr. Minister, I wonder if you could just indicate so. And when do you plan to put them up for tender?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, just to provide a little background — I'm sure the member has most of it — the government has determined to purchase four CL215's. We are actually purchasing two, and two are being provided by the federal government. One of those will arrive this fall, one will arrive next spring, and the other two next fall. That will obviously be a significant increase in our capacity to deal with the forest fire threat, particularly in northern Saskatchewan.

Because of the increased activity that is anticipated in the forest area, there are no negotiations under way to sell any of the existing fleet. The rumour is just that, and in fact we are planning on maintaining the fleet and in fact increasing it by the four CL215's, as I indicated.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. I

want to now turn to the question of the renovations to the hospital in Buffalo Narrows. I wonder if you could indicate who got the contract, and if that was tendered out and how much of it was contract work.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: Mr. Chairman, there were basically three portions to the work that was undertaken at the hospital at Buffalo Narrows. Two of the three were in fact tendered. The reshingling of the roof was tendered and awarded to Doug Pederson of Buffalo Narrows. The insulating of the attic was tendered, was awarded to Master Rock Pickers of Leoville. And the third element, which was the removal of the insulation, this part of the project was let to Baker's Airvac of Buffalo Narrows.

Mr. Thompson: — The removal of the insulation, Mr. Minister — could you indicate how many hours was put in for that removal and how much per hour was paid to Baker's construction?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, in that particular portion of the renovations at Buffalo Narrows hospital, I don't have the exact detail you want. The cost was under \$1,000. It was a piece-work job and I think fairly reasonable. It was felt that the company that got the award was the only one in the area capable of undertaking it, and so it was let to them. I hope that's satisfactory. I don't have details on per hour, and so on.

Mr. Thompson: — Removal of the insulation from the hospital — you indicate that it was for less than \$1,000. That could be \$999. Is that right?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — If the member wants to be specific, it was \$900.

Mr. Thompson: — Was that contract tendered out, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — As I indicated in the first part of my answer, that part was awarded; the other two portions were tendered out.

Mr. Thompson: — How would one award a job like that? Who would be in charge of hiring the individual to do such work? Would it be done from the La Ronge office, or some individual locally? How would they end up hiring an individual like this, and setting the price at \$900?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — The awarding of the contract was carried out by a project co-ordinator initially housed in Regina, but who would have been in Buffalo Narrows, I'm sure, to make the arrangements.

Mr. Shillington: — Mr. Minister, a year or two ago, it might have been two years ago, I asked some questions to . . . I put some questions to the then minister, the member from Maple Creek, with respect to a jail in Saskatoon, which I understand was being leased. It was at least a correctional facility. I wonder, Mr. Minister: — has the facility been completed? If so, could you give me the cost per square yard or per square foot. It doesn't matter.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, possibly I could ask the member to be a little more specific. We seem to be at a loss as to exactly what the topic is here.

Mr. Shillington: — It was a correctional facility in Saskatoon that the minister indicated she was having built, and had intended to enter into a lease of the facility, somewhat along the same lines as the court-house.

(1945)

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — I think we have it, Mr. Chairman, there's some general information. I think that the question relates to an urban camp which was leased in 1982. I believe it consists of 12 Atco trailers. The lease, I believe, is for five years. So it's still in and it's in conjunction with the correctional centre in Saskatoon. And I'm not sure exactly what details the members wishes. But I think we're going to have to undertake to provide anything in more detail than that to you.

Mr. Shillington: — I wanted the cost to the department in square metre or square foot, or however you want to state it, of the facility.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, I think there's a long standing tradition that in fact cost per square foot of leased space are not provided during estimates. Certain information is available. We're prepared to discuss the name of the landlord, the amount of are, and the duration of the lease. But information on rental rates is not disclosed because it could have an impact on market conditions and could invite non-expert evaluation of the rates. And we make that clear to the people when in fact they submit rates, that this information will not be released.

Mr. Shillington: — Mr. Minister, am I correct in my remembrance of this item, that there was no particular tendering system? There are no competitors who might have taken advantage of this information, because there were none around. As I recall it, this was a — There were not competitive bids for the building of this facility, if I recall correctly. Am I wrong?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, I'm at a bit of a disadvantage — obviously considerably before my time. We don't want to stand by this information. We think that the fact is that there were three proposals submitted, and we chose the best one. But obviously we haven't carried that with us as general information, since it occurred four years ago. But the understanding of the officials is, in fact, that there were three proposals and that the Atco one was in fact the lowest.

Mr. Shillington: — Well would you confirm that in writing, Mr. Minister, if you're not sure about it? And I gather you're not.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — We'll commit to that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Shillington: — Mr. Minister, with respect to the aircraft — I wasn't in the Legislative Assembly and I apologize for that — could you tell me where the plan was advertised?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, the aircraft was advertised in the leading daily papers in the province and

in all the major trade journals.

Mr. Shillington: — Did you give my colleague the number of hours on the airframe?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — The plane itself was a 1969 model — 17 years old — with 6,300 hours of airframe time.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Minister, I wonder on that same topic, if you would give me the list of all the charters that the government would have taken from the year January 1, 1985 to present.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Everything's on a fiscal year.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Well if you'd get it for me, then on that basis. Have you got that list handy there, of all of the flights that would have been chartered with the various companies here in Saskatchewan and elsewhere?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, what we will provide . . . What I have is the CVA charter costs by minister and then totalled. I'll send that across.

An Hon. Member: — How much did I spend?

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — The Deputy Premier spent \$2,046.88.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Minister, as well, I wonder if you would give me your personal travel expenses in province and out of province — how many trips you took and where you went; who went with you; and at what cost to the taxpayers.

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, since assuming the duties, responsibilities for Supply and Services, I have not been out of the province at the expense of this department. So there's nothing there. I have been to Saskatoon five times on exec air. However, they were all charged to other departments since the primary reason had to do with other departments. So all that shows in the expenses is \$140. There's air total of \$158.75. It may not be what you want, but it again falls into the problems associated with multiple responsibilities and where the costs are charged.

Item 1 agreed to.

Items 2 to 19 inclusive agreed to.

Vote 13 agreed to.

**Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure
Supply and Services
Capital Expenditure — Nil Vote**

**Consolidated Fund Loans, Advances and Investments
The Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation
Vote 168**

Item 1 agreed to.

Vote 168 agreed to.

**Special Projects Fund Budgetary Expenditure
Supply and Services
Capital Expenditure — Vote 14**

Items 1 to 6 inclusive agreed to.

Vote 14 agreed to.

(2000)

Hon. Mr. Schoenhals: — Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to thank the members of the opposition, for the most part, for the brief, concise questions. I hope the information we provide has been adequate, and the things that we have committed to, we will get to you within the next few days. I'd also like to thank the members of the department. They did an excellent piece of work putting all this together and preparing it — the people who are around me at the back and in the galleries. And my sincere thanks for a job well done.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — We would just like to reiterate what the minister has said and look forward to getting the information that you have committed to us. The one other item that I would want, if I don't have it in my office, is the list of the rental contracts and space for your department. You have indicated that you have sent it to me. I looked again over supper; I don't see it. But I'll be in touch with you if I don't locate it.

**Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure
Justice
Ordinary Expenditure — Vote 3**

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes, Mr. Chairman. Ken MacKay is with us, acting deputy minister; Terry Thompson, acting assistant deputy minister and he's also the director of corrections. John Hylton behind me, executive director of management services; and Jim Benning, executive director of justice services; Mike deRosenroll, executive director of legal services. And there are others that we may require from time to time.

Item 1

Mr. Koskie: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some preliminary questions, Mr. Minister, and I hope you can send those over. First of all, your personal staff attached to your department — if you could forward that over with the information as to whether or not their salaries and whether or not there has been any increases during the currency of the year, and the amount of the increase, if you would. Would you send that over?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes, I'll supply that, if you wish to go on to your next question.

Mr. Koskie: — And what I'd like to know also is: — can you give me a list of your executive officers in your department and their salaries, and whether or not there has been any increases in respect to their particular salaries.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes, we can give you a list of those.

Mr. Koskie: — Will you be getting those over here this

evening or how soon will you be providing them? I mean, if it's as fast as what we get motions for return, then it's not much use of taking that commitment — because the House Leader has been consistently indicating to us that he is so prompt with information. But most of the ministers have that information available, and I was wondering whether you're prepared to send that over at the present time, because it's information that we'd like to have.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes.

Mr. Koskie: — Yes what?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well you wanted it quickly; you're going to get it tonight.

Mr. Koskie: — That's all I wanted to know. And similarly, can you set out . . . In respect to travel for the department, I'd like the total amount of travel for the department in province and out of province, and I would also like a record of the minister's travel in province and out of province, the total cost of that. And if you could break it down into the various headings of hotels, accommodation, the miscellaneous, gratuities, taxis, we would appreciate that. I know the minister should not have any difficulty in disclosing that information to the general public. Could you provide that information?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — We'll supply you with the customary information in terms of trips out of the province and costs and the number of people that accompanied me. The number of trips I could almost count on one hand. They're to Ottawa, Toronto, and one trip to Vancouver on Justice conferences and conferences on the constitution.

Mr. Koskie: — Then you'll send that over; I take it the same commitment you said yes.

I'm rather surprised. We start off with these questions in every department, and the information isn't being sent over as we ask the questions. Because there are certainly some comments which we'd like to make, and certainly relative to the amount that is being paid to executive assistants and staff.

The other question that I want to ask you: — whether or not again you can provide me, in respect to the prosecutions, the list of all the law firms and/ or members of law firms that the department employed during the course of the year for public prosecutions.

This information was previously provided to me by the former minister of Justice, and the amounts that was paid to each of the individual firms and/or individual members of the firm. Can you provide that information, please?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes. In keeping with tradition, you'll receive that as well.

Mr. Koskie: — Okay. I'm going to have quite a stack here. I don't know when I'm going to get it yet, but certainly a lot of commitments here from this boy.

I was wondering whether you can also indicate . . . Can

you make up a list of all the legal actions in which the Department of Justice is involved in, either defending on behalf of the . . . This information was provided to me also by the former minister of Justice — the legal actions which the Department of Justice is involved in either on behalf of the government and/or other corporations. We had a list of those in previously. And can you provide that information?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes.

Mr. Koskie: — How soon will you provide this?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well, I just sent several pieces of information over to the member. He has it in front of him now, and I'm holding more information. And as long as my officials can get this information out of their materials, I'll keep sending it over. I don't think the member has had difficulty with my office previously, and we'll continue to operate that way.

Mr. Koskie: — Well, I wouldn't be presumptuous that I haven't had difficulty with your office previously. But I think you should let me speak for myself in respect to that.

But I'd like that information, and also what I would like you to provide is in respect to PURC (Public Utilities Review Commission). The previous minister was able to provide a significant amount of information in respect to the Public Utilities Review Commission, and the expenditures related to it. And I have the number of PURC hearings from the period April 1, 1984 to March 31, '85. What I would like is the follow-up from April 1st, '85 to March 31st of '86. And what I want is the number of hearings.

And if you could break it down as was done previously in respect to SGI, SPC, SaskTel. And also I'd ask you if you would provide the cost breakdown of the Public Utilities Review Commission hearings for the period which I mention. And that information was also provided relative to SaskPower SaskTel, SGI, and the total. And also the commissioners' per diem expenses for the period April 1st of '85 to March 31st of '86. I have for the previous year; I want to make a comparison in respect to the cost.

And also I would ask for the total amount paid for consulting or professional fees for the period April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986. This is the basic information. You'll see the format that the department provided to me in the previous, and I'd ask the minister if he would in fact undertake to provide that information as well.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — You're unfortunately asking the wrong minister. PURC is under the Minister of Finance, the member from Qu'Appelle-Lumsden. We aren't responsible for PURC.

(2015)

Mr. Koskie: — I apologize. I notice that it was under the Minister of Justice that I got it before. It has since been transferred. I didn't realize that. But that's fine; we can get that from the Minister of Finance.

I want to generally turn to a few of the aspects in the

department, Mr. Minister, which I think really represent some concern in respect to your department. There's a couple of areas I want to raise with you and to have your reaction in respect to them.

And I think the first is really in respect to what some call the "watch-dog" agencies, and generally the actions of the government in respect to the financing of the so-called watch-dog agencies. I turn particularly, Mr. Minister, in respect to your department. And we see in respect to the Human Rights Commission . . . And you'll find that in respect to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, that the number of staff has been decreased, and that the total expenditure has also been decreased.

Now I draw this to your attention, Mr. Minister, because there is concern that some of these bodies which help to protect individuals both against governments and other actions within society have not been supported fully by your government.

Other areas I might mention which sort of signifies what is happening is in respect to the Ombudsman. A similar action is happening there. And you take the auditors — there's a decrease in the funding of the auditor's office and a cut-back in staff. Crimes compensation — there's a decrease in the funding of that — which is assistance to those in need. So this apparently seems to be a trend which is developing in your department.

And I wonder if the minister can generally indicate a justification why those watch-dog agencies, and particularly here, the Human Rights Commission, and also the crimes compensation, which is really protecting the citizens too, having a decrease in funding. I'd like your explanation, if you would in respect to that.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well in a general sense, I'm not sure what type of a trend the member is referring to. However, the trend of financial responsibility of government towards watch-dog agencies is similar to the trend of governments toward all other agencies of government. We basically are cognizant of the value of taxpayers' dollars. And in terms of government, I suppose we're the watch-dogs of the taxpayers' dollars. In that respect, we are sensitive to the way that the dollars are spent.

Specifically crimes compensation expenditures reflects the awards. So there would be no cut-back on the part of government, because we simply pay what is awarded by the board. In relation to the Human Rights Commission, we have a fairly large budget for a Human Rights Commission dealing with a population of a million people. The budget is around \$1 million. The decrease in the budget for this year was \$30,000, roughly. That puts us a fair degree ahead of Manitoba, for example, in terms of per capita spending. It also puts us almost 100 per cent ahead of Alberta in terms of per capita spending, in terms of the Human Rights Commission.

In terms of my responsibility, I tend to view the human rights area and determine whether the commission is operating adequately and whether the public has full access to the services offered. And that should really be the test, rather than how much of an increase we provide

or whether we hold the line or decrease slightly. What we've seen is a slight decrease due to budgetary issues and due to our review of the expenditures of the commission, as well as other agencies of government.

However if the member has something specific that may indicate a defect or a gap or vacuum in the system leading to the loss of human rights, well I'd like that to be brought to my attention.

Mr. Koskie: — Well I want to refer you to some concerned citizens, and I think important individuals, in respect to the cut-backs. And you may not think they're significant, but I have here the "Watch-dog agency ill-treated in budget," and it's an article by Mr. Ken Norman — the viewpoint of the writer, a law professor and former chairman of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. And that may not be important and representative to you, but I'm going to point out some of the concerns that he has expressed in respect to the major cut-backs.

In this article, he says:

Between the covers of the Estimates is to be found a rather unsettling message in proposed financial treatment of certain watch-dog agencies. I refer to the offices of the Ombudsman, the Human Rights Commission, and the Provincial Auditor. Each has had money and positions taken away from it at a time of increasing work-load.

An Hon. Member: — The Ombudsman isn't under him.

Mr. Koskie: — I know it isn't. I'm talking about the general perception of what's happening in the government. And I don't need the Deputy Premier, who hardly ever comes into the House, to start instructing me how to carry out estimates. Because he never is here often enough; he probably has forgotten the procedure.

I want to anyway, Mr. Minister, indicate, Mr. Chairman, that the Human Rights Commission is certainly a very significant watch-dog agency, and there is a trend in government, in your government, for the cut-back in significant areas. It goes on to say that:

The Human Rights Commission faces a year in which it is going to have to live with \$30,000 less than it had to manage last year. The commission's annual report of 1985 shows that the complaints to the three offices of the commission increased by 19 per cent in the past year.

And it goes on, this article, to analyse in respect to the trend of this government. And I want to say, it's consistent. Because when you people were in opposition, one of the things that you were saying is that the public should be protected, that information should be provided to the public. And the reverse is true once you have assumed office.

I say that in several aspects. The freedom of information Bill — that was preached time and time again by members when you were in opposition, and now it's four, almost four and a half years and we haven't had a

freedom of information Bill. Another aspect which you were constantly indicating is that Crown corporations should be televised, that the public would be able to hear what is happening. That has been shelved.

So I say to you, Mr. Minister that there is considerable concern with the way in which this government is approaching the protection of its citizens, indeed the funding of these watch-dog agencies.

I have a release here from CUPE Local 1871 which also verifies its concern:

The union representing workers of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission is concerned with the cut-backs at the commission announced in last week's provincial budget. (It goes on to say:) For the past four years there have been no staff increases at the commission.

Now, instead of rewarding a job well done, the Minister of Finance has chosen to cut back the protection offered to the victims of discrimination. And it says, "it is a slap in the face," and it goes on to indicate the nature of the cut.

I ask you: — in view of the fact that the amount of work-load is increasing, how can you justify quite a significant decrease — and according to your estimates, a decrease in the staffing — if, in fact, you're indicating your support to a very important agency for the protection of some of the rights of the citizens in the society?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well, I suppose the member and I can agree to disagree. Clearly, there's a philosophical difference between the NDP and this government.

You indicate that the Law Reform Commission had to live with less. Well it's quite apparent that taxpayers have had to live with less on occasion, and when we find that, when we find the need to finance on a deficit basis, surely we can't expect to keep increasing agencies that are already funded higher than either neighbouring province on a per capita basis.

I haven't heard you complain about what Manitoba has done. We finance higher on a per capita basis than the province of Manitoba, and unless you would assume that Saskatchewan has more — a greater number of human rights infractions than Manitoba — then we finance almost double what Alberta does on a per capita basis in terms of the Human Rights Commission. Over the last three years, in Saskatchewan, we've spent 20 per cent more than Manitoba.

Now clearly we have to put this thing in balance. It's easy for you to quote Mr. Norman, who obviously has his personal interests, his views. However, Mr. Norman isn't elected by the general population to be cognizant of the value of taxpayers' dollars and to consider priorities of government, whether it be in nursing home construction, construction of hospitals, and so on. So we've had many demands upon us and many priorities by us.

Increasing the Human Rights Commission has not been one of those priorities. We find that the Human Rights Commission has been operating quite well. We find that

there are some internal adjustments that may be made, perhaps, in the Human Rights Commission. I have a meeting with the chairman shortly to discuss the future, to discuss possible restructuring. It's up to every government-funded agency to do the best with the dollars that are available to it rather than simply having the government produce increases every year, and we don't intend to do so.

Mr. Koskie: — I want to further indicate another article, the Leader-Post writes, "Commission claims staff overworked".

"Despite 400 per cent increase in human rights complaints to the agency, since 1981 the number of its employees has stayed the same," said the chairman, Ron Kruzeniski.

The organization annual report released last week says it will be increasingly difficult for it to do its job. Mr. Justice Minister Sid Dutchak said in the interview he has seen no evidence the organization can't operate well on its present budget.

And that's the position that you're taking tonight. All I can say, Mr. Minister, it's rather, I think, insulting that you would stand up here in the House and start preaching a restraint of the taxpayers' dollar in light of the actions of your government during the course of your four, almost four and a half years. I say that in light of the massive, massive amount that you have been spending in advertising.

You have no hesitation whatsoever when it comes to advertising for self-promoting of the Tory party, but when it comes to defending and protecting the rights of the citizens, then you start talking about restraint. And it's no use going into another province and try justifying it. The fact remains, Mr. Minister, is that what you have done, in spite of the fact of the increased work-load in the Human Rights Commission, that you have cut back the amount of funding, you've cut back the amount of staff.

(2030)

And I want to say that it's certainly not justified. And I'd say, more than not being justified, I would say to you that in fact it should be increased because you find that, during these difficult economic times, Mr. Minister, of ten people are requiring more and more assistance using these various types of agencies. I say that, and I think it's fully proven because during the tough economic times — the Tory tough economic times — which is . . .

An Hon. Member: — Tory times are tough times.

Mr. Koskie: — And as the member from Moosomin says, Tory times are tough time, and that's true. And certainly individuals, you will find that as you check in respect to the number of offences that takes place, there are many more. There are less availability of the general public to being able to pay for the services of lawyers to protect themselves, and these agencies become very, very important.

I think in the past in Saskatchewan we have had a record of certainly funding these to a full extent and properly staffing them, and when you have the chairman himself indicating that the work-load has increased very significantly and that the staff has never been increased, that I think it's clearly very clear that this government has a determined effort to reduce these watch-dog agencies for the public.

I'll say to you that you have no problem when it comes to spending money for yourselves, and I take a look just at the number of executive assistants that you have. One minister has 1,2,3,4,5 executive assistants. I'll tell you, if you scrap one of those and applied the amount that you're paying to one of your executive assistants over to the Human Rights Commission, I'll tell you, they wouldn't have to be cut by \$30,000.

So what I'm saying to you here is that don't start standing up here telling us that you're concerned about protecting the rights of the public because you aren't. What this government has demonstrated is that it wants to protect its life in politics, and during the course of the last year, have spent in excess of \$20 million advertising self-serving advertising. When it comes to human rights, you have abrogated your responsibility and you've cut back on the amount of funding and you have decreased the staffing. I think it's totally unjustified.

Mr. Minister, are you aware and do you agree with the statement by the chairman of the Human Rights Commission that despite 40 per cent increase in human rights complaints to the agency since 1981, the number of its employees have stayed the same? Would you agree with the statement of the chairman, and do you think that they have sufficient staff in order to meet all the complaints?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well I think the NDP sometimes fail to realize that my responsibility extends beyond people who are personally interested in the Human Rights Commission and the extent of the public in general to people who may want to utilize the services of the Human Rights Commission and for those who pay the bills to operate the Human Rights Commission. I think some of the member's comments are a bit unfair.

For instance, he indicates that we haven't had an increase in staff. Well one small item which I might mention to the member is that under the former administration when the union contract was negotiated, the deal was made whereby some of the workers in scope happened to work a 32-hour work week in the Human Rights Commission.

Now I find it very, very difficult for you to stand on your feet and quote other union leaders, and yourself giving me an opinion that these people are over-worked and require more money. Now I will be interested in looking at the Human Rights Commission to see whether services are going to be jeopardized or whether alterations can be made in the internal structure. However, I don't intend to operate like you did to simply provide increases every year when the taxpayers are asking for explanations, and they have been.

I believe that we are in a position to monitor the situation

and to find out whether the Human Rights Commission can operate on a budget which in a per capita sense is double Alberta and, in fact, over 20 per cent higher than Manitoba. Now you say I shouldn't compare with other provinces. Well I would rather do that than compare with your opinion or the opinion of the union leader that you quoted.

For example, this year our decrease is 2.8 per cent; Manitoba's decrease in budget for the Human Rights Commission was 4.4 per cent. Now that's an NDP province, understanding that they must reflect the wishes and the financial situation of their taxpayers and have to look at the function of the Human Rights Commission to determine whether increased expenditures are necessary. That's how I intend to operate. I don't intend to simply provide more money with total disregard to the taxpayers and disregard to whether, in fact, the commission requires more money to function.

Now I want to also correct the member. In this House he seems to have the habit of attacking people who aren't in the legislature, namely the people who work for government. When you indicated that I had five ministerial assistants, I'll indicate to you on the list of five, and second, third and fourth are secretarial staff.

Mr. Koskie: — I asked you to send over for our information the personal staff, and you send them over as ministerial assistant 2 and ministerial assistance ACDC, and I'm not sure if I can read your mind. That's what you send them over as. Whether they're secretary or otherwise, that's not what you put them down as, so don't be offended.

You're overstaffed in every office, and the people of Saskatchewan know that. It's been a disgrace the amount of waste that you've perpetrated on the people of Saskatchewan. But I want to . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I think the people of Saskatchewan will be the judge as to whether or not you have properly funded the Human Rights Commission.

I want to ask you whether or you could provide the amount of remuneration for each member of the commission. If you don't have that, can't send that over, as long as you're prepared to send that over. I want to make a comparison in respect to the expenditures you're providing versus previously when Mr. Norman, in fact was the chairman of the commission.

And so I ask the Minister to send that over, the amount of remuneration for the members of the commission.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — We have information for the chairman and the commissioners. Is that what you wanted?

An Hon. Member: — Yes.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I'll send it over.

Mr. Koskie: — In respect to the enforcement procedures, it indicates that if a settlement cannot be affected by the Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Commission may direct that the Attorney-General

appoint an independent board of inquiry composed of one or more persons to her and decide the matter.

I'm just wondering whether there were any settlements that were referred to the Attorney General to appoint an independent board relative to any of the work of the Human Rights Commission.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I'll get the list for you. There may have been several that were referred.

Mr. Koskie: — Okay. Send that over then.

The next area, I think, of some concern has been in respect to the overcrowding of our correctional institutions, the increased amount of incarceration. And I think that is of concern to all of the people of this province, and certainly we would like to get some details from you in respect to that.

In the previous year I received from the Attorney General a chart indicating Saskatchewan's prison population for the year 1980-81 to 1984-85. And I want to indicate to you, in respect to the prison population, that it reached in April of 1981 an all-time . . . well a low of somewhere around 730 prisoners, and under your administration, that has now risen to almost 1,300, in March of 1985, the latest statistic that we have. So I think one thing is perfectly clear is that during your administration, Mr. Minister, there has been a significant number of people that have been incarcerated. Our jails have been certainly overcrowded.

I have the statistics in respect of up to, as I say, March of 1985, I guess. And I was wondering if you can indicate what the situation is at present because obviously there is a major amount of concern expressed by the guards. They had asked to met with you, and you had refused, apparently. You indicated you were not prepared to intervene. And so I'm wondering if you can provide us with the details as to the '85-86, the general number of people that were, the Saskatchewan prison population.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well the member received a chart from us last year, and I'll send an updated chart. The chart indicates that this year's prison population is down compared to last year. If you have any further questions, in terms of the numbers, I'd be pleased to respond.

Mr. Koskie: — Well relative to the statistics, can you indicate . . . The last that we had was Saskatchewan prison population '84-85, as I said, of March, and we have here over 1,280, and apparently March of '86 it was at 1,160. Now that is some decrease, but certainly the conditions in our correctional institutions are in a very overcrowded condition. I think you will accept that.

Also I notice that in respect to the province's situation in respect to crime that the province's crime rate was up 5.1 per cent during the past year. So I would ask the minister, in respect to the very crowded situation in the jails, in respect to the actions taken by the guards, are there any matters which you are proceeding with to help to alleviate this situation?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well in terms of a process, we have

an ongoing process whereby the management in our institutions deals with the union in terms of issues such as overcrowding, working conditions, and so on, and those are continuing. I believe some progress is made in that regard. The member may also be aware of our new agreement with the federal government which will result in additional prison beds, and additional staff to be added to existing institutions in Saskatchewan.

However, having said that, I think I want to bring it to your attention that I have also indicated publicly that we don't feel we want to expend millions of dollars of taxpayers' dollars in terms of a perception of overcrowding on the part of certain union leaders, and I've taken that position publicly. We are always monitoring the situation to be sure that we have maximum safety for the guards and the public at large, and will continue to do so.

(2045)

We also monitor other parts of Canada to determine where the provinces are going in terms of facilities. As you may know, Alberta also signed a joint federal-provincial agreement which is creative in terms of new institutional developments.

You mentioned the growth in crime. In Saskatchewan there has been a slight growth, although again, I think if the member is trying to indicate that somehow the government is responsible for the crime rate, you would be stretching a long bow. And again, because the only way I can bring it to your attention — or bring the irresponsible nature of your comment to your attention — is by again comparing us with Manitoba, which has grown drastically in terms of the crime rate compared to Saskatchewan. However, I would never say that that's because the Manitoba government happens to be responsible, because I don't think that's correct.

Crimes are caused by various things which afflict society, and it's something we have to be cognizant of, and it's an ongoing challenge in terms of rehabilitation, in terms our legal system. And that is why we have management that have been creative enough to explore new ways of handling prisoners and yet by maximizing the protection of the public while doing so.

Mr. Koskie: — What factors, Mr. Minister, would you indicate, or have you analysed, would be the contributing factors to increase in crime rates, and the very dramatic increase of number of people that are in the jails in Saskatchewan compared to the time when you assumed office? What are the factors that you have analysed are basically responsible for the huge number of people that are filling the jails at the present time in comparison to when the previous government was in office?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well I want to advise the NDP member that there are a number of factors, and I don't think any one of us have a total answer for the reason why crime fluctuates and in fact has increased in the last few years. Some of it has to do with the age of the population, the increased mobility of the population moving from province to province, and so on. As well we have to look at the types of crimes that are being committed.

If I read the member's question correctly, I think he's trying to indicate that because the Conservative government is in the position to govern, we're somehow responsible for the increased crime rate because of the economy. I think that's what the member is suggesting. However if you look at the types of crimes that are being committed, you'll find that the crimes involving property such as theft, and so on, which would be indicative of a poor economy, has actually dropped. As well, impaired driving offences have dropped. However crimes against the person have increased.

Mr. Koskie: — The statistics here indicate that the number of property crimes across the country edged up during 1985, not down. And I don't think there's any doubt.

And obviously, Mr. Minister, you should be embarrassed that rather than giving people jobs, what you have found is that under the policies of your government what we have is our jails bursting at its seams. That's what we have. We have over 1,180 people in our correctional institutions. And I want to say back in April of '81, there were 740 — almost double the amount under the previous government.

I want to say to you that certainly you can draw some conclusions, conclusions that at the present time that many of our young people and many of our underprivileged people in society have less opportunities during the past four and one-half years — no jobs, high unemployment, high welfare dependency. And I would submit to you that there is a correlation between this. And obviously the minister is embarrassed by that fact.

We have the fact of the overcrowding to the extent that guards are finding it unsafe. They have drawn that to your attention, Mr. Minister. And your only response even when we asked you in the House, was to indicate that you're not prepared to look into it; you leave it to the normal process, the natural process, so to speak.

And I think that the general public again will formulate the cause of why our jails are bursting at its seams; why we are having to build more jails rather than provide meaningful employment to our young people. And this is exactly what has happened here, and you haven't been able to address it in a meaningful way. And of course you are embarrassed by the fact that the jail population has almost doubled during your tenure in office. That's a great legacy of your party — great legacy.

And the member from Moosomin is chirping again, thinks it's very funny; and the member over here from Eastview who isn't running again, and the other guy that's not running, are doing all the chirping. But let there be no mistake that many of the young people of this province haven't had opportunities under this government. There is no doubt that unemployment has increased almost double.

You know what has happened in respect to welfare — it has certainly increased. And don't stand here and say that there isn't a correlation of a lack of opportunity and economic opportunity and the number of people that you find here in the jails.

I want to draw to your attention again, Mr. Minister, that in April of 1981, 740 was the total average daily count in April of 1981. And in March of 1985 there was almost 1,300 — 1,300 citizens of Saskatchewan filling our jails, overcrowding our jails, and that situation essentially continues.

And you may want to argue that it's not a result of your economic, policies of no opportunities, but I think the young people and the interested members in society will draw their conclusion. Your priorities is not helping those people who have no opportunity for jobs. Yours is priorities of spending with announcements, large amount of expenditure in public relations and advertising.

And so I say to you that this is a deplorable state. I think it's a disgrace that during your term of office the number of people incarcerated have in fact almost doubled.

But I want to ask you: — in an analysis of the population, the daily population, I wonder if the minister has done any analysis of whether or not in fact it represents . . . For instance, to what extent are our native people representative of the population of incarcerated people? On a per capita basis, are there more native people incarcerated than there are non-native?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well the NDP member a few minutes ago quoted from a press story relating to percentage of crime increases or decreases, and by some luck I happen to have the same press story before me. And it appears that the member has neglected to give the House some information. Perhaps he read it differently. In relation to property crimes, the property crimes have actually dropped, and that's indicated in the same press statement that he was quoting from.

Also I wonder, you know, I don't think it's responsible to indicate that a government is responsible for the crime rate. And again, Manitoba, for example, reported the largest percentage of increases in violent crimes. Now do you expect me as a Progressive Conservative to stand here and say that the Manitoba NDP government is responsible for that? That would be ridiculous, and I won't say that. I think the member has got to do a bit of research on his own to clarify his problem, obviously.

The question relating to native and non-native incarcerated people, the percentage of native people incarcerated is 64 per cent, and 36 non-native.

Mr. Young: — Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Minister, I want to take you back for a moment to the Human Rights Commission that was brought up earlier by the member for Quill Lakes, and in particular, their annual report which is a 1985 annual report. I happened to be reading it when it was distributed to the House. I assume it's distributed throughout Saskatchewan, and that in part, Mr. Minister, is the basis for my concerns with respect to this annual report.

On page 12 of this report, Mr. Minister, under the headings "Boards of Inquiry", subheading "Complaints Awaiting Appointment of Boards", paragraph number three, Mr. Minister, reads in italics, Elizabeth somebody and Barbara somebody versus Gus somebody and such

and such a restaurant. I won't put in the names of the parties or the name of the restaurant because that's what I'm complaining about, effectively, Mr. Minister. The paragraph underneath reads:

In this instance the Commission has asked that a Board of Inquiry be appointed in relation to the complaints filed by Elizabeth (somebody) and Barbara (somebody) and Mrs. (someone else) and Mrs. (someone else) are alleging that they were subjected to sexual harassment by the respondent, Gus (somebody). The decision to direct a Board was made on December 12 1985 and the Commission is awaiting the appointment of a Board.

Well, Mr. Minister, in my opinion the owner of the restaurant and the person involved has already to some extent been damaged publicly by virtue of the Human Rights Commission themselves in taking upon themselves to print his name and his restaurant's name in their annual report, which is 31 pages long and provides interesting reading, to say the least, under the sexual harassment sections.

And I think if the inquiries are conducted, you know, in camera, certainly that the people's names involved shouldn't be printed in the Human Rights Commission's annual report until there is some find of guilt. And I think that it is a little much printing this particular person's name and his restaurant's name in the annual report until there is some finding of fault on his behalf.

I don't think any member of this House or anyone in business would want their name in the annual report of the Human Rights Commission under the heading of sexual harassment unless something more than a complaint had been filed with the commission.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well I believe the member has a good point. As you know, from listening to the NDP member earlier, this is a "watch-dog" agency which has a great deal of autonomy by legislation which was formulated under the former administration. And it may be in due course, as we go through a restructuring or possible internal changes, that those types of issues should be brought forth and dealt with because we certainly don't have this happening in our criminal justice system where such a wide distribution of information does take place. However, I've never had that matter raised to me personally, and I certainly will undertake to look into it.

Mr. Koskie: — You gave the breakdown in respect to the average daily count, provincial correctional facilities, indicating 64 per cent native, 36 per cent non-native. I wonder also, Mr. Minister if you could also give a breakdown in respect to those that are incarcerated, a breakdown in respect to age. What I want there is various age breakdown, you know, from 16 to 20, or 20 to 25, whatever breakdown you have. But I want to get the general population and a breakdown in respect to age of the individual.

(2100)

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I'll send that over as soon as we locate it. Perhaps you can go onto your next question.

Mr. Koskie: — It's very difficult in asking any questions, co-ordinating it, because what you're going to do is keep sending it over. And if I had some information I would be able to ask some questions relative to the information. Do you or do you not have the particular breakdown? Certainly you should have an analysis of the people who are incarcerated. My feeling is that a large percentage of the people that make up the prison or the jail population are young people. And I don't know if you have . . . I wonder if you could send that over because I want to provide you with some further questions relative to it.

But let's go on to the next area then, and that's the area in respect, Mr. Minister, the freedom of information legislation. And you have been indicating that certainly you would be providing freedom of information legislation. And I wonder if the minister could indicate at what stage that preparation is, and are we likely to have that brought forward during this session.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — In relation to freedom of information, as the member knows, the Progressive Conservative Party in general has been the prime advocate of information, access of information by the public, and a movement towards a more open form of governing. And evidence of that can be seen at the national level with the national legislation brought in. As well, we have been working on provincial legislation. As you recall, when the Conservatives were in opposition of Saskatchewan, they asked for the commencement of that process for years.

And in fact your administration refused to get started in terms of structuring legislation for that result. And we're in the process, the final stages now, of formulating legislation. We are dealing with the federal government in terms of informational issues, and issues which go directly to the concerns raised by the public in relation to information from government. And we're expecting further meetings with the federal government in the month of June, as a matter of fact.

We're also reviewing the success areas — and perhaps failure areas — in the federal legislation. In other words, I don't want to put forth legislation that isn't well drafted, and isn't well intended. However, we've made a great deal of progress, and I believe that you'll see the results of that progress shortly.

Mr. Koskie: — I guess I asked you a specific question: — are you likely to be able to bring in legislation during this session? Previously when you were interviewed, you indicated that you were working on it, and there again you indicated that we would see progress. And what I'm asking you is: — are you likely to have it introduced during this session? That's what the people are asking.

You know, you've been around for four and a half years and they're asking why haven't . . . It seems a lot longer than four and a half years. I guess the specific question then is: — are you likely to be introducing it during this session? Are you along the way in drafting it and can you give a commitment?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — My officials advise that their work regarding the legislation should be complete this year. So I expect you'll be seeing the results of the work we've undertaken.

Mrs. Caswell: — Thank you. My concerns tonight are about the Human Rights Commission and the power of the Human Rights Code. Generally speaking, the people are concerned that the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Code have powers that contravene the idea that people are innocent till proven guilty, and I think the member from Eastview brought up one very small but good example. And more and more people are finding that once charged under the Human Rights Commission, that they have to prove their innocence rather than they're deemed innocent till proven guilty. And the fact is that the Human Rights Commission is investigating . . . It will cost them a great deal of money, will cost them a great deal of bad publicity, and when they go against the Human Rights Commission they are going against lawyers who seem to have a great deal of money for research and for legal effort that the private citizen doesn't have.

So they're defending themselves against the taxpayer money; taxpayer which you say, well that's what a Human Rights Commission is for. But it's at the same time while the government is trying to defend human rights. I think it's very important that we don't attack human rights, and the issue, I think, is becoming a national issue as to the power of Human Rights Commission. I have some other questions. Perhaps you'd like to make a comment on that.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — It's clear there are a number of aspects of the Human Rights Code that requires review, and likely in due course it will be necessary to acquire public input into the process. And we're always cognizant of the fact that often certain interest groups are listened to by certain governments more than the public in general. And in terms of future reviews of the Human Rights Code, it's going to be . . . It's my hope that we'll be able to invite a wide cross-section of opinion, unlike the process sometimes followed by the former administration.

Mrs. Caswell: — Do you personally fund the Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights through your department?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes, we have minor funding that goes to them; however, the bulk of their funding is from the federal government, the Secretary of State.

Mrs. Caswell: — Can you tell me exactly how much they get?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I believe it's approximately \$17,000.

Mrs. Caswell: — Yes. Well concerning the SAHR, many of us have felt that as . . . Well some of us are critical of advocacy groups being funded at all. But many of us have felt that particular group has a very — what does one say? — a selective view of human rights, meaning to say

human rights for, you know, in a certain ideology and philosophy that does not include what would be considered broad-based views on human rights. And so I would just like to register my concern of taxpayer money going to a group which I consider extremely partisan and one-sided. And perhaps you may or may not want to comment on that, but I just want to publicly register that.

Another thing, in terms of some of us have been discussing if the Human Rights Commission would be . . . a check could be that we could agree on some basic principles on which these decisions are made. It's clear that sometimes, while we worry about the rights of one group, we may be excluding the rights of another group. And by concentrating on the rights of a visible minority, for example, we may be attacking the rights of a majority; or by concentrating on "women's rights" we may in fact be attacking men's rights, just as some example.

But to have a basis that . . . Diefenbaker's Bill of rights was predicated by a principle that we think gave it some balance and was a good direction. And some of us have wondered if the Human Rights Code could be amended by putting his predication as part of our Act.

And I'd just like to read it:

The commission shall found its decisions on principles acknowledging the supremacy of God, the dignity and worth of the human person and the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions.

And I would like to register that I would certainly like to see that in the Human Rights Code or at least certainly to be discussed as a possibility. Because when we have human rights it seems like often while we're concentrating on the individual perhaps we're attacking the institution of the family; or when we want to be vigilant of other people's rights but perhaps we're attacking the basics of some of our fundamental justice that people are innocent until proven guilty.

Perhaps you'd like to make some comments about some of those concerns. Perhaps I've given too much at once.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I really don't have anything further to add. Obviously your opinion, as well as opinions shared by others in communities, should be heard by governments and by people who formulate legislation or the code itself. It's always difficult for government, I suppose, to understand that there are others to listen to besides pressure or interest groups. So I'm certainly cognizant of the approach and the fact that government has to listen to a wide scope of the public to properly formulate policy and legislation. So I understand your point.

Mr. Koskie: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I want to turn to the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan and their report. In their 1985 annual report, we will find on page 9 the final report to the minister of Justice in 1985. Part of it deals there with the recommended changes or proposals relating to the matrimonial property legislation. Again, Mr. Minister, you have clearly indicated, when interviewed previously,

that in fact you would be bringing about a final decision and would be introducing it probably in the spring.

In January 18, 1986, you indicated:

. . . a final decision on what changes will be made to The Matrimonial Property Act will be made in the spring, Minister of Justice Sid Dutchak said Friday.

And he went on to say:

In the last few weeks I have been concerned with the process of getting men's and women's groups together and not arguing the 1978 arguments. Dutchak said, I think by this spring we should have finalized the basic restructuring of the Act.

You have more recently indicated that the Act does need some fine tuning — I think the words that you indicated.

I want to just deal with the basic provisions set out by the Law Reform Commission and ask the minister if he would outline the essential changes to The Matrimonial Property Act that have been set out by the Law Reform Commission; if you would outline briefly your interpretation of some of the major changes that they are recommending.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well I'm not totally clear on what the member wants but perhaps I can indicate some follow-up information to the press story that you're quoting from.

Since that time, we have continued our consultation with various interest groups and the public at large relating to that particular piece of legislation. And we have reached consensus amongst all the people involved, including the representatives of the interest groups that, in fact, fine tuning is necessary at this time.

So after reaching consensus, we've gone over a list of recommended changes, and that list has gone out to the various groups, a little more than a month ago now. We still haven't heard all the responses back. When those responses come back, we'll be in a position to formulate our legislation based on the responses and on what we feel reaches a fair result from the consultation process.

I want to remind the member that it was the former attorney general, Mr. Romanow, that actually submitted this particular Act to the Law Reform Commission for review, because it was a new Act at that time, and the intent was to see how it would work.

AS far as the public is concerned, as far as the courts are concerned, that review took place and the Law Reform Commission report which you're dealing with does not automatically mean that that becomes legislation. That is a report which is intended to assist government in formulating legislation. So we took that report and we also went into a consultation process beginning at the beginning of this year, and we're nearly complete with that particular process.

(2115)

Now there are many, many areas of the Act that are affected by some of the recommended changes, and I suppose we can go into that if you want to. However, if you want to be more specific on the highlights that you would like to expand upon, I'll attempt to address them.

Mr. Koskie: — Well obviously, again what we see here is exactly the same as with the freedom of information. This is an amendment to The Matrimonial Property Act. The government is taking the same stance. It's not a government that is governing, it's a government that is governing to try to attempt to get re-elected. It's not dealing with the basic issues.

You know that this is a very sensitive area. You have turned it over to . . . The work and research had been done and an interim report was given to you, Mr. Minister, or to your predecessor, by the Law Reform Commission — an interim report. At that time the minister of Justice said that there was going to be more hearings and more consultation. And he provided me with a list of all the groups that the Law Reform Commission went back with their proposal in order to consult further.

What you are saying now again is that this is a very delicate matter. It's very difficult and what we want to do is to put it on the shelf until after the next election. But more . . . Being specific, I want to ask you: — one of the exemptions that was included here is that any increase in the value of property brought into the marriage that is not the result of an improvement to the property should ordinarily be exempt from division, except in the case of a long marriage where both spouses have made a contribution to the maintenance, preservation, and management of the property. Says the courts should have a discretion to increase or decrease the exemption in corporate cases.

Are you in general agreement, or have you reviewed that? You said there's some consensus that have been arrived at during your consultation. What are some of the areas in respect to that particular recommendation? Have you got a position? And through your process of consultation, what is the position that your government is taking?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — The particular recommendation that you cite has not been accepted and we didn't reach a consensus to accept that particular item. But let me go back a step, because I think either you are misinformed or you're then attempting to misinform this House.

If I simply accepted the Law Reform Commission report, it would result in legislation which you would be shouting about now. so what I did is take a consultative process after that point. and I don't know why you're being critical of that. I don't know why you feel I shouldn't be consulting with the Action Committee on the Status of Women or the matrimonial property coalition. That's what I've been doing, and I intend to operate that way. I don't think there's any sin in government consulting before we bring in legislation. And that's the process I'm following whether you like it or not.

The whole Act should be based on fairness. And what we're attempting to do is reach consensus in the areas that

provide the public with a general sense of predictability.

It's very difficult to get people to provide input into this type of legislation unless they themselves have been through a history of problems regarding the Act. As a result we have to be very cognizant of the fact that we are drafting legislation which affects people who perhaps will have problems later, and not now, and that's why we have to be very careful. As a result, we're trying to fine tune the Act to provide certain levels of discretion to the judges so that when you find the unusual situations, the unusual cases which the media appear to talk about on occasion, those would then be dealt with with fairness and predictability by both the public and the courts.

That's what we've reached consensus on. As a result, I make no apologies for consulting before changing this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Koskie: — Well can you indicate in respect to the recommendation again, of the Law Reform Commission in respect to gifts and inheritances during marriage, is there any consensus reached in respect to that particular recommendation?

Here they are indicating, gifts or inheritances received by a spouse during a marriage should be presumed to be exempt from division. Has there been any consensus reached in respect to that, either the adoption or the rejection, again, of the Law Reform Commission's recommendation?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — The consensus reached indicates that the Act should be specific and clear enough to provide the discretion for the court to deal with issues such as the one you mentioned rather than simply bringing in a clause with the wording which you mentioned, which basically ties the hands of the court. And that was the consensus reached by the groups which we consulted with.

So you can see that there's been a great deal of involvement by the groups, and in fact the face wording of the Law Reform Commission report has not been accepted in totality, and will not be. However, there was a good deal of work put into the report. We found it very fruitful, thought-provoking, and it really assisted us in the process that we're going through now, which will very soon result in new legislation which I'm sure the public will accept and certainly those involved in the courts will accept, including the courts themselves.

Mr. Koskie: — Well what is the process that you intend to follow from here on in? You say that you have been discussing the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission with various groups. I'm not objecting to that. What I'm asking you is: — can you outline what the process will be from here on in? this is pretty important, and a lot of people have a lot of feelings in respect as to what particular changes, if any, should be made. So I'm asking you: — are you proposing to introduce it, the legislation, in the form of a white paper so that the public can properly take a look at it?

I was wondering if . . . certainly you did that in respect to the proposed Act for the chartered accountants, and this

affects many people of course, and is very important legislation. So I was wondering whether you have any proposed method of maximizing then the opportunity of interested people of reviewing the proposed legislation and examining the particular impact that proposed amendments may have.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I'm favourable to tabling the legislation and then inviting any discussion that may result therefrom. However, before that happens, what we're doing is awaiting the feedback from the various groups that we have consulted with, as well as The Canadian Bar Association, that has been involved as well. We asked for their views since they are the practitioners who deal with this issue on a daily basis. And after that's over we'll be drafting what we feel to be the changes reached from consensus, tabling; and at that point any other people that require input will have the opportunity.

Mr. Koskie: — Is there any possibility of indicating a sort of a timetable that you have? Are you likely to be able to, as you indicated earlier, the possibility of getting legislation during this session, or is that likely to not proceed?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — No, I don't think I'll be in a position to do it in this session. I don't feel I want to rush the people that are doing extensive studies on our proposals at this point. We've had some indication from the groups that I personally met with that they needed some time on it. We have existing legislation that's in place now so we don't have a situation where people are not being dealt with through the courts. However, I believe our consultative process will be finished by late summer, likely, and I would expect that the bar association will have their recommendations in to us by this fall as well. So it won't take us very long after that point to draft the final changes.

Mr. Koskie: — Just turning to a couple of other matters that I want to deal with here, and it deals with the particular — the judicial system in Saskatchewan and the strain that is placed upon it, as has been indicated by in fact some of the provincial justices going public indicating that their work-load is exceedingly heavy. And we have also had some representation in respect to that. I was wondering in . . . Provisions were made for early retirement of some of the provincial justices, and by your predecessor, and he indicated at that time up to nine could take early retirement. I'm wondering whether you have been able in any way to meet their complaint of being overloaded, so to speak, in the administration of justice?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well our provincial court is comprised of 45 judges, and we have thus far, I believe, had one early retirement, and I believe there are more that are coming shortly. And as well, as you may know, we've recently appointed a new judge in Saskatoon. We have been addressing some of the shortcomings in the system that has developed over the last 10 years or so, and I believe we are making some good progress there. And I'm not sure particularly what representations were made to the members opposite. I would find that surprising if the judges actually have consulted with the NDP.

However, if that did happen, I haven't received any

formal indication from the NDP as to what these representations were. And I find that a bit unusual; I find that a little unusual.

However, if you have any specifics, I'd be pleased to receive that because I would be concerned if in fact a provincial court judge would have talked to the opposition.

In relation to a news story out of Saskatoon, as I recall, one judge was quoted, and the name wasn't provided, and I just want to correct the member because you made it sound like there was more than one. And other than that, I'm not aware of any other story or any other issue that has been raised except the issues that I've been dealing with in the provincial court with the provincial court judges themselves.

Mr. Koskie: — Well I think it's another indication here that the minister setting his . . . trying to appear that there are no problems.

And here you have in fact a provincial court judge who shouldn't have to go public, but obviously, I would suspect, was in contact with the justice department. And the headline here is "Too much work, salary low, judge says." And that's the situation.

A defence lawyer also was interviewed during that particular interview, and he indicates that we see longer backlogs and they are already an unreasonable burden on the judges. There are going to be real problems at the provincial court with Tucker, King, and MacKay all gone.

And what I'm asking the minister: — have you in fact done an analysis of the work-load? Are you saying that the utterances of the judge is not factual; that they are not overworked; that there is not a backlog in the provincial courts; and that their salaries are low relative to the federal judges?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well there's a number of issues which the member raises, and I'm not sure what you are suggesting on behalf of the New Democratic Party.

Again, the only way I can bring reality to your attention is by comparing with other provinces. And I hope you're not suggesting that because we have a Progressive Conservative government that somehow one judge decided to say something to the media, because if you're talking about work-load, let's compare.

In Saskatchewan we have one judge for every 22,360 people. In Manitoba, NDP Manitoba, we have one judge for every 34,564 people. And in Tory Alberta, we have 20,971 people to one judge. As a result, I'm not sure if your argument is valid. What is valid I believe is the necessity of reviewing work-loads on a consistent basis, and we're presently dealing with the court to find ways that we can be more sensitive to perhaps a need to transfer certain judges to take the higher work-loads and recognize some of the shortcomings, because we have case-loads that are large in certain areas of the province. However, that doesn't apply across the province.

(2130)

And if the member is asking whether we intend to appoint a bunch of judges, the answer is no. As far as filling vacant positions, we will always look for the very highly qualified people that we have been able to attract.

In terms of being underpaid, that's also something which is always under review by our department. The provincial court judges make over \$70,000 per annum. And perhaps before the estimates are over, the NDP may want to indicate to me what level of salary you think the judges should be at. That may be helpful as you are an opposition member and should be suggesting that.

However, we believe that we've had some increases and we're looking at future increases. However, we also have to realize the provincial economy, the salaries earned by other people in the province who also provide essential services, valuable services, to our public. So perhaps the member could leave us with a word of advice, if he wishes, on the salary level that he would like to see.

Mr. Koskie: — All I'm asking you — it's your estimates, Mr. Minister, and what I'm asking you is whether you have in fact done an analysis of the case-load in respect to it, and whether you have discussed it with the representatives of the provincial judges, and whether or not you are prepared to take any actions. That was the question, and you failed to respond to that particular question.

I can indicate that we have received correspondence. And I'll read just a paragraph in respect to this letter.

Because we had no confidence that the judicial compensation committee was an effective avenue to an executive arm of government in that we do not know what recommendations have been made to government as regards to judicial concerns, we thought it appropriate that another avenue be developed.

And this is a recommendation by the provincial court judges. And it has been submitted to you and to the opposition. And I'm asking you whether or not you have received any recommendations to replace the judicial compensation committee. And it has been recommended by the provincial court judges. They indicate in their view a bi-partisan legislative committee would be more able to hear and respond to the legitimate needs of the judiciary in a far more objective and open fashion than that which is closed in the judicial compensation committee which is, as they say, an arm of the government. So a recommendation has gone to you, I suspect. And I'm wondering whether you have reviewed it, and whether you have responded to the complaints of the justices who have made this recommendation?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well I'll indicate again that we're aware of certain opinions by some judges across the province, and we have been addressing that process. In fact I personally have been dealing with a number of issues with the provincial court. And I think we've been making a good deal of progress in that regard. And you'll be able to see evidence of that in due course, I suppose.

However, it's unfortunate that we have the NDP — we have the NDP standing here and complaining that the judges again are not compensated adequately for their services and yet offer no position as to whether you think judges should earn more money or not. I'm telling you that we have a process that's working well, and if you have a complaint on the salary level, well let's hear it.

Mr. Koskie: — Well, I'm going to ask you: — have you met with representatives of the provincial judge recently to discuss a mechanism for them addressing their concerns?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes.

Mr. Koskie: — When did you meet and who did you meet with?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Earlier this year I met with the president of the judges' association, as well as other judges. I've had several meetings with judges specifically, and I've also met with the annual meeting of the judges, which was held within the last three to four weeks in Yorkton.

Mr. Koskie: — Did they express any concerns, and what were they?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well, the concerns that were expressed were wide-ranging — everything from judicial compensation to education to transfers of judges from various points in Saskatchewan. There were a wide array of issues and I believe the issues aren't unusual. They're issues which must be addressed, and I am in the process of addressing the issues.

This is a professional group, a group that provides a valuable service to the public, and obviously I'm in touch with them and I believe they have been satisfied with the dialogue they've been able to achieve with me as Minister of Justice.

Mr. Koskie: — You indicated that you're in the process of addressing their concerns. Would you outline the specific concerns which you are in the process of addressing, and what is the timetable that you have for addressing them?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well, you know, it's unfortunate that the member, and the NDP in general, don't simply phone me on occasion and ask me for a list of the concerns, because I would have provided you with a detailed list.

There are a good number of concerns. One of them is an ability to transfer judges from centres after a number of years. For example, certain judges in smaller centres wish to be transferred to a large centre for a different type of judicial experience, and that's been a big issue. As a result, I am going to address that issue, and I have indicated that to the judges.

As well, the issue of judicial independence has been raised; the issue of monetary compensation has been raised; the issues of education; the ability of judges on the bench to have access to education to improve knowledge and their opinion, and I'm favourable to that.

There's a number of times that we're dealing with on an ongoing basis. In fact, we have meetings on this every couple of weeks now, because we are addressing a number of concerns. I would prefer not to get involved in the personalities that we are dealing with in this forum, but I think I am prepared to say at this point that the process is to the satisfaction of the provincial court in my view.

Mr. Koskie: — Well I think in respect to that, the minister as usual vacillates and doesn't specify any particular action, but he may think it's very smart in not directly addressing the answers to the questions, but that's fair enough. There'll be those who will see the position and have dealt with this minister, and I'm sure that we are not the only ones that have a particular impression in respect to this minister.

I want to ask you, in respect to the recommendation of the abolition of the Q.C. title, I understand that the law society has given you a recommendation, vis-a-vis the Q.C. title, and there has been a recommendation that since so many . . . it's awarded to so many without perhaps the criteria that it was initially supposed to attach to, that is, individuals high in standing in the bar, and has somewhat used as a political recognition.

I'm wondering what is your position in respect to the Q.C. title. Have you taken it upon yourself to grant you that, grant yourself one, because the former minister, one of the first acts that he did was to grant himself a Q.C.? Could you indicate . . . I understand that the law society here, the bar society here in Saskatchewan made some recommendations to you. What is your position, and what is the recommendations that the bar of Saskatchewan is making in respect to the Q.C. titles?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well, it was my understanding that Roy Romanow did award himself a Q.C., but I'm not sure you should hold that against him. I did not award myself one.

In terms of the Q.C. designation . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I wonder if the member would allow me to answer the question.

Mr. Chairman: — Order, please. Order. Order. The minister's having some difficulty answering the question. Order.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — In terms of the Q.C. designation, I've always had a great deal of respect for that designation as a practitioner in Saskatchewan, and I think the law society in general in Saskatchewan has that same high respect for the designation. I would suggest to the member opposite, that the fact that the Liberal-NDP coalition in Ontario did away with the designation should not reflect upon our position in Saskatchewan.

Historically, the designation of Q.C. under every form of government including this one — this government presently — has always held a high regard for the quality of the people appointed, and I hope the member wasn't suggesting he advocates the abolition, because the Law Society of Saskatchewan certainly doesn't advocate that position.

Mr. Koskie: — Well the law society made recommendations to you in respect to recommendations in so far as the awarding of them, and I'm wondering whether you're reviewing it, and what are the proposed recommendations to be used in the future?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — The law society provided a list of ideas. I've spoken to the president of the law society, personally, and asked for his input as well, and we've received input. We're considering the future of the designation.

The issue unfortunately came to a head this year because of the actions in Ontario, which I think the Ontario government in due course will regret, because there's some problem in Ontario now regarding the retroactive dealing of Q.C.s regarding lawyers that received Q.C.s over the years. However, I don't believe we have that situation in Saskatchewan, and I believe we'll carry on with our tradition which is respected by the bar in general.

Mr. Koskie: — Just in respect to the changes that you made in the elimination of the court reports, I also note that the bar association, the Prince Albert section, have made a recommendation to reinstate court reports rather than the mechanical recording and then the transcription of it.

Certainly the other factor with the elimination of the court reports and the payment as was previously the situation, what has happened here by changing from the court reports as we previously had is a very substantial increase in the cost for examinations for discovery, to be paid by the client. And this has been echoed by the members of the bar, that there has been very, very substantial increase. And since the bar, from which you were a member, has indicated that they made a recommendation to the minister to reconsider the reinstatement of court reports, I'm wondering whether you're satisfied with the removal of court reporters and the adoption of the system that you have adopted, and whether you have received any complaints in respect to the elimination of the court reporters.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well the member indicated a number of points, and he may want to clarify his question more specifically after I speak.

In relation to civil cases, I suppose it's a question of who pays for the cost of the examination for discovery. The public at large can pay for the individual cases, or the lawyers and clients involved in the cases can bear the greater amount of the cost, and that's what we've gone to.

(2145)

I believe it's working. We've had mixed feedback on it. I've had people indicate that they acquire a better degree of service at this time. I haven't been personally involved with this issue for some time, and if the member has some specific indication that the system is not working better than before, perhaps he may want to be more specific.

Mr. Koskie: — Well this is the representation of the

lawyers in Prince Albert that passed a resolution which they forwarded to you, and I'm wondering whether you're aware of this resolution and whether you have discussed the matter with the local members of the bar at Prince Albert who are concerned.

Obviously, in respect to the cost, there is a concern because it increases very significantly the cost of civil actions for examinations for discovery. And here again it hits those with the least amount of money to be able to proceed and may in fact exclude the access to justice to those without financial resources.

So I'm asking you whether or not you have been receiving any complaints, and whether there's been any particular problems drawn to your attention, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well I met with the Prince Albert bar recently, and that wasn't one of the issues that was brought to my attention. I believe you could be talking about a letter that went out some time ago. In a general sense the turn-around time has been reduced by roughly 30 per cent in terms of transcripts, and I think that's been a favourable accomplishment. Again, if there is something more recent, perhaps you could bring it to my attention. However, I believe that the Prince Albert bar, who are generally acquainted with me, would have brought it to my attention if there still was a problem in Prince Albert.

Mr. Koskie: — Well I'm reporting here to you from The Law Society of Saskatchewan, Practitioners' Journal, of May of 1986, page 6:

The Prince Albert bar association has indicated their strong disapproval of the use of tape-recorded court proceedings transcribed by secretaries. They prefer court reporting services by court reporters.

That's the reference that I'm making, and I would have thought that you would have essentially addressed that.

I go on to an item that is of interest I guess to all of Canada, and it's in the federal field, Mr. Minister, and that is the recently introduced tough law proposed on pornography and child sex. There has been a fair amount of comment in respect to the Minister of Justice in Ottawa, the introduction of regulation of pornography. And certainly, as I think everyone will agree in respect as it relates to children, there's complete unanimity in so far as the direction taken by the Minister of Justice.

There has been some expression of concern in the general wideness of the definition used by the Minister of Justice in Ottawa. And what I'm asking the minister, whether he was contacted and had an opportunity for input in the proposal that was put forward by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Crosby; whether indeed there was a prior consultation; and whether or not the resulting legislation that has been brought down, whether you're essentially in agreement, or are there some concerns?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes, I'm pleased to advise the House that we've had a very good degree of co-operation between Mr. Crosby's department and himself and the Government of Saskatchewan. We've had justice

conferences, and one as late as this year in Vancouver, where we dealt with a number of the recommended changes that were on the horizon involving the evidence of children, which in my view was long overdue, and I took the position that changes were required.

In my time as a private lawyer, I dealt with criminal cases and never could understand why there wasn't greater protection in relation to children through the evidentiary process in court. That change, I'm pleased to see, has now been made.

As well, the stiffer penalties and redefinitions of the area of child abuse was important to the Government of Saskatchewan. We dealt in that area as well and are in general agreement to what Mr. Crosby is proposing.

There are some areas, though, that do not reflect totally what our understanding was of the changes that would be coming down. One of the areas is the one that has been carried in the media more than anything else, which is unfortunate in a sense. However, that area is in relation to the definition of pornography, and it's our view that more work has to be done on that provision perhaps to narrow the scope so that there is predictability so that the public understands what is illegal and what isn't. And I'm not totally satisfied that the wording is clear enough to meet that test.

Mr. Koskie: — And I take it from what you have said, that there will be further discussions in respect to this by the Justice ministers from the various provinces along with the Attorney General. Or is the Bill that he has introduced now going to the finalized product from your discussion?

Certainly I noticed in the editorials that pornography controls go too far and they indicate in respect to the wideness of the definition. And it says, "Rather than the Crown having to prove undue exploitation, an artist will have to demonstrate a work as artistic merit or educational value," and it goes on.

And similarly with Dalton Camp, who many of you may know, also indicates the intentions of the pornography code in doubt, and he indicates that certainly all can agree in respect to the control of pornography as relates to children, but the extension and the extent of the definition in his view, went further than it was necessary or advisable.

And so I indicate to the minister, I expect that you will be able to report back to us subsequent discussions with the minister. Are there any particular meetings scheduled to review this, or will it first go through the parliament?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Our officials have already been in touch with the federal department to indicate some of our views. Our understanding is that the process will involve consultation. In fact, my understanding is that the federal minister has already indicated publicly that the amendment, or the changes, are subject to further change and fine tuning to reflect some of the wishes.

However, in the final analysis, we probably will never be at a stage where we get the approval of all groups, and that's going to have to be a decision by the federal

minister. There are always groups that believe in greater permissiveness, and it may be that we don't satisfy all groups. However, our primary concern from Saskatchewan's point of view is the protection of young people, the protection of our population, and that's what will guide us in our deliberations.

Mr. Koskie: — I just want to ask the minister, in respect to the RCMP, can you indicate what the contractual relationship for the cost of providing RCMP services to the province? I know there's a formula of federal and provincial, and I'd ask you if you could indicate what is the percentage that each has to pay.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — This year we're at 62 per cent. That's up 2 per cent pursuant to the 10-year contract which ends in 1990-91, that particular year, and it goes up 2 per cent each year.

Mr. Koskie: — I note that you indicated to the Delisle residents that you're likely to add a detachment to Delisle. Is that within your jurisdiction, or . . . This is what I read in the Star-Phoenix, that you had made some indication that you may add a detachment to Delisle, I believe it was.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — The Delisle example you use is a redeployment from Saskatoon to Delisle.

Mr. Koskie: — Is that going ahead, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes. It has been approved and announced.

Mr. Koskie: — Just in item 1, I want to . . . (inaudible) . . . decrease in the number of person-years from 83.9 to 80.2. And I'd like to ask the minister what positions are being deleted there.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I'm not sure, precisely, what the member requires. Dealing with man-years is very complex and there is a number of transfers, movements, deletions, additions, and I could . . . The net result is a reduction and I'm not sure what specific information, other than that, you require.

Mr. Koskie: — Well what positions are being deleted from 83.9 down to 80.2? There must be some positions that were previously filled that are being deleted.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I'll give you some examples. One individual was taken from the service to a contractual position. Two were transferred to the Public Service Commission because of their work requirement there, and one was transferred to the jobs agency because of his requirement there. He was formerly over on the Justice side. And these are the type of changes that we've experienced.

Mr. Koskie: — Have you any personal services contracts in the department? Any persons with personal services contracts other than appointed on the public service?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Other than an employment service, no. We've got obviously a number of law firms that provide services to us, and I've sent the list to you.

That's about it.

Item 1 agreed to.

Items 2 to 28 inclusive agreed to.

(2200)

Item 29

Mr. Koskie: — Mr. Chairman, you're running a little fast. On 29, the grants to justice organizations for justice related activities, I was wondering if the minister could provide us a list of the grants that are provided — a list of the agencies, and the amount of the grants, under item 29.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes, I'm sending it over. Excuse me. I want to make sure you receive it all. Perhaps I'll get them put on one sheet and send the information over to you.

Item 29 agreed to.

Items 30 and 31 agreed to.

Vote 3 agreed to.

Supplementary Estimates 1986 Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure Justice Ordinary Expenditure — Vote 3

Items 1 to 14 inclusive agreed to.

Vote 3 agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I certainly want to thank the officials for their attendance and help tonight, as well as the questions from the opposition.

Mr. Koskie: — Well yes, I want to join with the minister to thank all of the officials, and to thank him for providing the information as requested.

Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure Northern Affairs Secretariat Ordinary Expenditure — Vote 48

Mr. Chairman: — I will call on the minister to introduce his officials.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — With me tonight I have Walter Keyes, the secretary of the secretariat, Darcy Mitchell, who is behind me, the assistant secretary to the secretariat, and Brian Goffin from the La Ronge office of the secretariat.

Item 1

Mr. Yew: — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I'd like to start questioning the Northern Affairs estimates by asking the minister what the mandate of the department is.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well the mandate of the secretariat, as outlined in my estimates last year, was to and is to co-ordinate the activities of government, to

increase the sensitivity of various government agencies and departments to the needs and aspirations of Northerners in northern Saskatchewan. We've had quite a wide sweeping mandate actually, and the member may be aware of some of the things we've been working on, and it ranges from the social services side of services in the North to the economic issues which face Northerners. We have been involved in everything from deliberations and negotiations on surface rights arrangements with gold companies, to working to enhance employment opportunities in uranium mines by Northerners. So there has been a very wide mandate that we've been entrusted with, and I have to say that although we have much work ahead of us, we have a good number of accomplishments which I believe the staff of the secretariat can be proud of.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, in terms of evaluation of that agency, I would like to ask you: — what criteria do you use, and how regularly do you evaluate the performance and the success or failures of the Northern Affairs agency?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I always believe that a responsible government evaluates on a constant ongoing basis. I personally attend communities in northern Saskatchewan with people from the secretariat. The secretariat people are constantly working with departments and government agencies on specifics.

Possibly the best mode of handling your questions, specifically, is for you to mention one of the areas that you, perhaps, are interested in, and I can give you an update.

I'll take one as an example. The negotiations before the Star Lake mine went into construction involved the secretariat people. We were concerned and were interested in increasing northern participation in work involving the mining in northern Saskatchewan. As well, in terms of dealing with training issues, for example, in Amok or Key Lake, the secretariat has been involved with the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower; involved in training opportunities for Northerners to increase the content of northern participation in the uranium operations, as the member knows. And I believe the member is one of the few members on the NDP side that are in favour of continued mining operations in uranium.

So you will agree with me, likely, that it's important that we continue training mechanisms to increase those percentages of Northerners working in the uranium operations. And I'm pleased to say that we have had good success in increasing the numbers at the mine sites.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, I want to ask you, with regards to the purpose and objectives and functions of each of the divisions within your agency, the criteria that you apply to evaluate performance. And I look at your report, your annual report, the first one published, I believe, the 1984-85 report. And I see on page 11 yourself being the minister responsible for this agency and under your secretariat, and under your administration branch; and then the northern economic development, NEDSA; the information statistics data base; planning research and development; and the advisory services. I wonder, Mr. Minister, if you can provide me with a report of each

department or agency that evaluates and co-ordinates socioeconomic activities in northern Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I'm trying to ascertain exactly what type of report the member is asking for. I would have no general report to provide as you've asked, unless I didn't understand your question. There is no general report covering all agencies that I could provide to you. However, if you have any specific question on any particular item that we could focus on, I'd be pleased to supply that to you.

Mr. Yew: — Well a little more specifically, Mr. Minister, I was of the understanding that that agency was to co-ordinate all government programs and departments so that the social and economic issues confronting Northerners could be addressed. And I am of the understanding that that agency ought to have a full report based on the issues confronting Northerners, and on that report there ought to be recommendations to resolve the issues.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Okay. Perhaps I'll explain to the member precisely that we don't do a report. We're not an agency such as the Ombudsman, for example, to provide a critique on all the agencies and departments of the government in the past year. I suppose if we did that we'd be spending all of our time reporting — providing written reports to the legislature. The work that the secretariat has been carrying on is much more valuable than that, and the work entails working with all departments to co-ordinate and attempt to have departmental activities governed by aspirations of the northern people.

I'll give you an example. This secretariat is responsible for formulating the Northern Development Advisory Council concept which has now been officially appointed, and the council is acting in northern Saskatchewan. It's an 11-body member chosen through public nomination process. That was an idea which was formulated by the secretariat and is working very well. The particular group has held meetings across northern Saskatchewan prioritizing issues for government, and then my job is to accept the recommendations from the northern advisory council and submit those recommendations to various departments. And it ranges again, everything from a new road in some community to perhaps a deficiency in certain housing programs in another community. So we've had very good public input from various communities, and obviously we're dealing with a large area of Saskatchewan, half of the province occupied by just over 30,000 people. So there are many diversities in the North that must be recognized, and the secretariat has spent a great deal of time acquiring that public input process.

As you will recall, the DNS (Department of Northern Saskatchewan) was there before, and one of the complaints we had is that it was a bureaucracy which was superimposed on northern Saskatchewan in a colonial atmosphere, rather than operating as a government agency should. And I believe even your side of the House wouldn't disagree with that. So we're trying to improve by providing access from individuals to specific departments.

In terms of employment, that's been a key feature — economic development and employment. In the mining industry, for example, we've spent some time attempting to increase investment in northern Saskatchewan, increase new production, new exploration. And we've been dealing with SMDC, the Saskatchewan Mining and Development Corporation, as well as other agencies that are in the business of creating new jobs, and we've spent some time with that as well.

However, I can go over a whole list of general items. You may want to be more specific, and I could then indicate to you what we've done in a particular area.

Mr. Yew: — Well seeing as how we've now turned to the sounding board that you appointed, Mr. Minister, I want to ask you: — can you please explain your decision to appoint that northern advisory committee when you have access to locally elected officials?

(2215)

We have access . . . The government knows full well that in all of our northern communities we have locally elected people that are responsible for their communities, responsible to issues confronting them and their electorate. If anything goes wrong in La Ronge or Stanley Mission or Pelican Narrows, the elected official — the mayor or the councillor or the reeve, whatever name tag you want to put on that person — that elected official gets bounced off by the people in terms of issues.

You know, when people are confronted with the high welfare dependency rates, high unemployment rates, problems at the community level, anything related to that particular area, the local elected official is the one that gets the flak. He carries the burden, so to speak, with regards to problems associated with any particular community or region.

And I myself conclude, Mr. Minister, that the northern advisory committee that you established is nothing more than window-dressing. It's an alliance to yourself, propaganda, or a sounding-board, whatever phrase you want to us.

What I would suggest, Mr. Minister, is that you listen to the locally elected officials. We have various organizations in the North that are elected to do the job, like yourself, like many of our colleagues in this legislature. You and I have a job to do. If anything goes wrong provincially, we get the flak, we get our electorate after us, and we have to do something about that problem.

But what I see you doing in terms of that northern advisory committee, that you appointed, is that you're bypassing locally elected officials. You're bypassing them. Instead of going directly to the elected official in the North, you're going to an advisory sounding-board and taking recommendations by them when they're not actually responsible to any electorate except for yourself.

That's a contention I have, Mr. Minister, and I would suggest strongly that you, in your capacity as Minister for Northern Affairs — which we are discussing under

estimates — ought to make yourself more responsive to locally elected officials. I can name a dozen of them: — the Saskatchewan Association of Northern Local Governments; the urban municipalities, the town of La Ronge or Creighton or Buffalo. You know, we have communities that have a lot of issues confronting them, and it's the locally elected official that gets the burden of having the responsibility to try to resolve those issues.

But when a sounding-board is set up by yourself, by this government, it's bypassing the locally elected officials that ought to be met by yourself and your senior officials to try to resolve those issues that confront many of our people in the North.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well in this area, as well, Mr. Member, we're going to have to agree to disagree. We have a difference in philosophy there.

Let me just mention two points. The first point is that I don't believe a specific elected member level of administration in the North should speak for all Northerners on all issues. It just would be as if we suggested that a reeve in a particular rural municipality in a southern community speaks for the people on all issues, including health, social services, economic development. It simply doesn't happen that way, and the North should be no different. I believe that it's important for a wide cross-section of Northerners to have an equal voice. In fact, some of the elected members that you're referring to have appeared before the northern council to submit their ideas. And I think it's been working favourably.

In terms of some of the questions that were raised initially, it'll take time for Northerners to get comfortable with the new body because they've been through years and years and years of governments appointing various commissions and bodies in northern Saskatchewan, which unfortunately didn't result in a lot.

And we have used a rule of thumb to attempt to get a good cross-section of people on this committee, and I believe they're making some interesting and worthwhile progress.

And in terms of a report which you asked about, very soon the northern council will be publicizing their first public report, because they are new. And I guess I'd ask you to judge them at that time, and judge them by the results that they bring to various communities because we're finding that the communities have been pleased with the fact that the council has listened and has communicated to government on a whole range of issues.

Mr. Yew: — I guess we'll have to agree to disagree again, Mr. Minister, because I see headlines here that says, "Northern groups reject advisory committee." There's quite a dozen of them — there's quite a few of them, Mr. Minister. I won't go through the whole newspaper headlines.

But definitely, you know, there was a lot of discontent by the people, you know, when the appointment of this advisory committee was set up. More specifically, Mr. Minister, you know, that advisory committee, when it comes right down to it, what terms of reference does it

have, and in terms of reference, while speaking about terms of reference, what authority does it have in terms of legislative authority to resolve those issues?

I concur with you that many of our elected officials in the North have met with that group. In fact, I've met with them a couple of times, listened to the grievances and presentations submitted by the Northerners, but to this point in time, Mr. Minister, how many issues have they resolved? That is the big question.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well I suppose where I differ in opinion with yourself is that I've asked the committee to structure it in such a way that we expect performance; we expect results on job creation, on economic development, on social planning. And because of the wide cross-section of people on the committee and their expertise, the wealth of knowledge we have in those 11 people, I think they can be very helpful to people in northern Saskatchewan by reaching into the communities and getting out some of the valuable ideas that we've already acquired.

An example of that is the numbers of northern employees in the Key Lake mine, for example. Under the former administration it was very common to legislate quotas, affirmative action. You have to have this per cent, or you can't dig in the ground. Well that was ridiculous, and many companies never ever reached the percentage that was legislated or regulated. What we've done instead is work co-operatively, and I think Key Lake is a prime example of successfully approaching a problem, working together — not in a confrontation mode — and reaching some results.

The Star Lake development is another example of a development where, by consulting with people, we've satisfied the trappers' association locally, the various people that live by Star Lake. Everyone now sees the Star Lake areas as a potential job creator, a real positive development; no threat to the environment and no threat to anyone's security. That's what you get from co-operation as opposed to legislation.

I think in due course you'll see more of that type of progress. I think the potential in the North, as well as some of the severe problems in the North, are too well recognized by government to simply play politics on some of these issues. And in a sense, the fact that the northern council are not elected members may be a plus because perhaps too much power has been provided to elected people to deal with some very severe problems. As a result, I take the recommendations from the council very seriously, although they're not elected, because I believe they have a sincere intent in solving of some of the challenges ahead.

Mr. Yew: — I have to disagree again there, Mr. Minister. I don't think that the elected officials have too much power at all because the fact today is there's no economic base. The Saskatchewan Association of Northern Local Governments, along with the other municipalities, along with the major centres like La Ronge and Creighton and Uranium City, have continuously asked for a fair share of revenues generated from our resources in the North. But to this point in time, can you tell me if Pelican Narrows or

Wollaston Lake or Sturgeon Landing have an economic base? I doubt it very much, Mr. Minister.

You mentioned a moment ago a comparison of the number of people employed at Key Lake and Star Lake. I wonder if you can give me figures, statistical information, Mr. Minister, the percentage of people of native ancestry employed in those mines back when we had the surface lease agreement as compared to today. I'm referring to Key Lake and Cluff Lake. Star Lake is a new project; that was not part of the surface lease agreements. But I'd like to get information about the other two mines, Key Lake and Cluff Lake. If you can give me that information, I'd appreciate it.

And while we're on the subject of the northern advisory committee, could you also provide me with all their recommendations, Mr. Minister, in terms of issues and resolutions that have been submitted to yourself? Mr. Minister, if you could provide that information in writing, I'd appreciate it.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well let me give you some information you asked for, and you'll have to clarify your last request for me. Roughly, I think you're aware that Cluff Lake has always had a fairly good record of percentage; in fact, it's near 50 per cent in terms of northern content. Key Lake is the one where we've been spending some time on, and in fact you recall the estimates last year where I was questioned on the percentage. At that time I indicated that around 25 to 27 per cent were Northerners — and native Northerners, according to the definition under that particular agreement.

We took the April employment status, and it appears that we've increased the northern resident content by almost 20 per cent at that particular mine. So there's been a substantial increase because of some of the programs — and I'll give you an example of one. On August 2, '85, I attended a graduation of 20 young Northerners in Buffalo Narrows, and it was a very fulfilling experience. It was a graduation from a NEDSA industry-sponsored training program. It was unique in Canada.

Each student was called upon to be presented with a certificate of graduation by an instructor. But, Mr. Chairman, that wasn't all they got, because standing next to the person giving the certificate was someone handing out job offers, and in fact each student that day received a job offer. That's the type of planning for northern Saskatchewan that has been overdue for years. And that's something I think we all can be proud of, because we have to see more of that type of training for specific tasks. As a result, it has achieved some remarkable numbers at the mines sites in northern Saskatchewan. And rather than forcing by mandatory quotas under legislation, we're working in co-operation, and it's certainly proving itself.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, I wonder if you might provide that information in writing for my reference, as well as for reference to my colleagues back in my constituency.

(2230)

The other question I had raised, and the one that you

wanted specifics on, was the one related to the northern advisory committee. It has gone throughout the North, meeting with various interest groups, Mr. Minister, and surely they've received a good number of briefs, resolutions, recommendations, etc. That's the list I'm asking you about. If I could get that in writing, I'd appreciate that.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — What we will supply to you is a summary of the submissions because those are readily available. I don't have them with me, but we'll get them over to you within the next week or two.

Mr. Yew: — Well if you could provide them tomorrow, Mr. Minister, I'd appreciate it.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well the reports are in La Ronge. In fact you can have someone pick them up at the La Ronge office in the morning — tomorrow, if you wish. The council, as you know, is a body that travels around the North, and they get many submissions at each meeting. However, we will compile the various summaries of recommendations, and I believe you have an office or spend some time in your constituency which La Ronge is in. If it's easier for you to pick it up at La Ronge, we'll have it available for you, otherwise it will be here as quickly as we can get it here. But it has to come in from La Ronge.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, I'd appreciate getting that information and I concur that — I believe that you are prepared to give it to me. What I'm hesitant to . . . you know sometimes the bureaucracy . . . I don't know what the bureaucracy is like in your department, but I would sooner prefer to have your secretariat phone La Ronge and have them deliver it to the designated person and I can receive it via the mail or whatever. You can either mail them to me or I can have someone . . . If Mr. Keyes or Mr. Goffin could phone someone up there and advise them that we need this information, I could probably advise either one of your officials of whom I could send down to pick up the information.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well the information is certainly available to you. In fact, you're the first one that has requested it, and that information is public. So we will supply it to you in whatever manner you wish.

Mr. Yew: — Can the minister advise me what remuneration is paid to the members of the northern advisory committee?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — We chose a middle range of commission and boards, and the individuals receive \$100 for their attendance; that's per day, and the chairman receives slightly more, \$125. And obviously you know the chairman, Bill Klassen, who was formerly the deputy minister, with a wealth of experience in northern Saskatchewan. He is the chairman.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, could you also provide me with a list of your staff, their salaries, wage increases and bonuses paid to your staff during the course of the last year?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes. I'll send it over to you immediately.

Mr. Yew: — Pardon me, Mr. Speaker. In terms of NEDSA, Mr. Minister, the Northern Economic Development Subsidiary Agreement — the federal/provincial agreement which was signed in August of 1984 and was to be operational by 1985 and '86 with funding from a variety of provincial departments and agencies as well as by the federal government. Can you tell me, Mr. Minister, whether this program is cost-shared on an equal basis between the province and the feds?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — It varies somewhat. Some are paid for almost entirely by the federal government. In a general sense, you're looking at 50 per cent funding from each level of government.

I might mention that as provincial administrators for NEDSA, secretariat staff attempt to co-ordinate provincial and federal development projects in general. And by the end of '85-'86 about 8.5 million in commitments are made under the agreement in areas directly related to economic development, job creation, and technical, and professional training, which is really the key in terms to the solution to some of the extreme difficulties that have been faced by Northerners over the last several years on the unemployment side. So it's been a good process for the North, and we see some interesting economic development projects.

I think if you look in the last four years and look at the strengths in northern Saskatchewan, you see mining possibilities, and that's being developed. You see the wild rice industry, and I don't think anyone from that side would doubt that our government is primarily responsible for getting the wild rice industry on its feet and being one of the best advocates of that particular industry. And I don't think you'll find many wild rice people that would disagree with that, and if they do I'd certainly like to hear of it because we've had some interesting developments in that industry, although there was a bit of a crop failure last year, since it is a crop, and the indications are that there is going to be a good crop this year. And it's a big industry. It has great potential for the future of the North.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, in terms of the \$8.5 million fund that you're talking about, is that the provincial share, or is that the federal government's share?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — No, that's the total amount spent in the North.

Mr. Yew: — What was the provincial government's share, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Approximately half of that.

Mr. Yew: — Could you tell me, Mr. Minister, what is the approval process with regards to this program?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — There's a federal-provincial management committee, in terms of developmental proposals and so on, that come to it, and then certain officials carry more of the burden on the day to day work side of the process. And it works very well. We've seen some good progress on the economic development side in northern Saskatchewan, and I think there is much more

opportunity on the horizon.

Mr. Yew: — Mr. Minister, I look at the report that you have. On page 9 it says that the northern — well NEDSA, for short, (Northern Economic Development Subsidiary Agreement) program was officially agreed to in August, as I mentioned before. And this program is a five-year, 36 million, cost-shared agreement aimed at enhancing long-term employment prospects for northern residents and stimulating northern business initiatives. The agreement is regional in its approach and is intended to supplement other programs and sources of financial support available for northern development.

I wonder, Mr. Minister . . . You know what, I believe strongly in local participation, local decision-making, local autonomy. Just what process have you got in place to include the local people in northern Saskatchewan in terms of the whole process of evaluating and receiving applications, etc.?

I recall we had an economic development program in the North whereby we involved local community residents — elected — and members of various interest groups recommended at the local level and appointed by government. There were local loans committees and district loans committees, etc. Then we had local participation and local involvement. And consultation was there. But now I see all of a sudden a transfer of a program which is controlled by the bureaucracy, by bureaucrats rather than by people.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well, I'm not sure if there's any reality to this specific complaint that the member seems to be putting forth. I'll give you some examples, the NEDSA agreement has now funded an economic development plan for La Ronge, for example, which affects all the community of La Ronge, because the community of La Ronge wanted to do that for their future enhancement of their opportunities.

The community development planning for an Indian reservation, for example, falls within that mandate. I guess one thing that we do not do under that particular agreement is fund political groups for various activities, and perhaps that's what you're referring to. There is a good deal of community input in the process. In fact people from the community are benefiting under an application process for various developments that are taking place in the North. So when I talk to Northerners, they indicate to me that they want an opportunity to develop on their own without government bureaucracies. And again they use the example of the DNS, which didn't create anything of any lasting value.

So it's one or the other, and we choose one. and that's dealing with specific projects in mind for the benefit of individuals in communities.

Mr. Yew: — In terms of that . . . Pardon me, Mr. Speaker. In terms of that program, Mr. Minister, could you provide me with the policy in terms of reference of that program?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Yes, we will.

Mr. Yew: — A couple more questions, Mr. Minister, then

we can get into the specifics of the estimates before us. I want to ask you, Mr. Minister, in terms of the fresh food and transportation subsidy, can you tell me, Mr. Minister, can you advise me what input your agency had to the Department of Health regarding the cancellation of the fresh food subsidy for Northerners? And also what studies have your staff and your advisory council conducted into the impact of the cancellation of this fresh food subsidy program?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — The northern advisory council will be visiting Stony Rapids in July, and they will be dealing with the issue, amongst many other issues. We've been attempting to determine the difficulty that's being faced by several of the communities. It doesn't involve many communities; however, some are adversely affected.

As a matter of interest, on June 2nd I had my staff do a bit of research to find out the variance in food prices. And it is for Stony Rapids, as an example, where it is extremely high compared to other centres. Interestingly enough, we find that the La Ronge food prices were less than Regina on that date, in terms of the items that we analysed.

So you see some discrepancy across the province, and it's something that we have to look at. And presently I'm dealing with the Minister of Social Services in terms of difficulties that are faced by people who can't afford to buy the necessary sustenance; and if that is the case, we will deal with it. However, the community availability of services must be considered as well, and that's one of the reasons why the council is going into the area this summer.

Mr. Yew: — Getting to the estimates before us, Mr. Minister, I note that your 1984 budget — 1984-85 budget was underspent by over \$135,000. I wonder if you can tell me, Mr. Minister, about your spending activities during that fiscal year.

(2245)

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — Well, I never thought I'd hear anyone complain about a department underspending, but in that year that you refer to, we did not have a full year of operation in terms of the activities, and that's the reason for the shortfall in expenditures.

Mr. Yew: — I also note now, Mr. Minister, that the budget for this agency has increased by \$150,000, and probably that is welcome news, for what it's worth. But do you really believe that this is enough to solve the social and economic problems confronting Northerners, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I'd like to advise the NDP member that we've never taken the position in the North that government would solve all the problems. That's why we're working with industry and real economic development. That's the reason why we negotiated the Weyerhaeuser paper-mill deal, is to allow the forestry industry to grow in northern Saskatchewan.

And all of those economic development projects and our activities will result in increased employment, increased participation like we see at Key Lake, and that is our

motive behaviour in government at this time. We just don't believe that government unilaterally can solve the problems, because the DNS proved that government couldn't.

Mr. Yew: — One final question, Mr. Minister. The agency that we're referring to here, does it have any meetings and co-ordination with the western northlands agreement?

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — The questions relating to NEDSA that you asked me refer to the same thing. It's a different name but it's involving the same program.

Item 1 agreed to.

Vote 48 agreed to.

**Supplementary Estimates 1986
Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure
Northern Affairs Secretariat
Ordinary Expenditure — Vote 48**

Item 1 agreed to.

Vote 48 agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Dutchak: — I'd like to thank my officials and the opposition for their questions.

Mr. Yew: — I, too, Mr. Speaker, would like to join the minister for northern affairs and his officials for their co-operation, and I look forward to getting the information that I requested. Thank you.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly adjourned at 10:50 p.m.