

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Régina. Bonne chance. Bienvenue.

Deputy Clerk: I beg to advise the Assembly that Mr. Speaker will not be present to open this sitting.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Prayers

ORAL QUESTIONS

Justice Minister's Trip to Calgary

Mr. Brockelbank: Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice. It deals, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the confusing and misleading information that the minister has provided to his legislature, over the past three days, about his use of the government aircraft, at taxpayers' expense, to attend a wedding in Calgary.

Sir, the integrity of this Assembly and your government depends on public confidence. You have clearly lost that confidence.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brockelbank: As one example, I refer to the editorial in today's Regina *Leader-Post* under the headline, "Even a Bob Andrew must play by the rules".

The editorial states, in part, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

A ruling by the deputy speaker notwithstanding, the suspicion lingers that he was not as forthright as he might have been.

Continues on:

Parliamentary tradition . . . demands honest questions and honest answers. . . . Ultimately, upholding the tradition is more important than saving the political career of an individual minister.

Sir, will you now do the honourable thing: stand in your place, apologize to the people of Saskatchewan, and step down from your position in cabinet?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Andrew: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have set out the facts in this Assembly as to . . . as accurately as I can to the hon. member . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . If you want to, listen to the answer to the question.

I have acknowledged, I think on Tuesday, and I readily acknowledge today that the answers that I gave on Monday and Tuesday - both inside and outside the House - have led to some confusion. And I've indicated . . . I've indicated yesterday and I indicate today that I regret that confusion. I regret that confusion both for myself and for the members of this Assembly.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I honestly had no intentions, in those statements, to in any way mislead this Assembly. I honestly had no intention of misleading this Assembly, and I stand behind that, Mr. Speaker.

On the question of the use of the government airplane - I believe the use of the government airplane by myself was

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Koskie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Monday next move:

That this Assembly hereby expresses its lack of confidence in the Deputy Speaker, the member for Shellbrook-Torch River, because of his ruling on a question of privilege on July 22, 1987, with respect to the misleading statements made by the Minister of Justice regarding his use of the government's executive aircraft.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Berntson: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to, on behalf of the Premier and all members of the House, introduce to you and other members, a group of around 35 students, I believe, sitting in the Speaker's gallery. They are between the ages of 13 and 18. They're spending the month of July with Saskatchewan families around the province. They're French high school students.

This is a summer program that's organized by NACEL, an international organization which promotes the continuation of traditional ties between Canada and France. The purposes of the visit are to increase the students' familiarity with our way of life, our province, and to give them an opportunity to improve their English.

Some of the students who are staying in the Regina area, they are with the group, are staying in the Regina area; others in and around the province. They are escorted here today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, by two supervisors, Miss Hermant - I hope I have that right - from France, and Mrs. Rebecca Maloney from Regina.

I would ask that all members join with me in offering a very special Saskatchewan welcome to this group of students.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lyons: Merci, Monsieur le président. Comme le député chef du parti, je voudrai parler bienvenue à Saskatchewan. À les étudiants, et . . . j'espère vous avez un grand bon temps ici dans nos province.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Monsieur le président, au nom du premier ministre et du gouvernement de la Saskatchewan, bienvenue ici aujourd'hui. J'espère que vous allez enjouir de votre visite à la législature et à

proper given the circumstance.

Mr. Speaker, I've indicated to you I regret that confusion. I've indicated to this House on several occasions I do not intend to resign my seat from cabinet, and I do not intend to resign my seat from the constituency of Kindersley. That is what I've said before, and that is what I stand by.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Legal Aid Commission Fees

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Social Services who, whether he likes it or not, is the minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission.

Yesterday I asked the minister a question with respect to the new schedule of fees which the Legal Aid Commission has instructed the various legal aid offices to charge to the poor people who come to the clinics for legal advice and legal services, and the minister in responding to my question yesterday said, and I quote from page 1319 of *Hansard*:

... I believe the member opposite knows that I have no direct control over the Legal Aid Commission and very little influence over what they do. I am merely the minister who sends cheques to the Legal Aid Commission to pay the bills.

Now I remind the minister that he and his government sets the budget for the Legal Aid Commission and, in fact, appoints five members to the board of directors of the Legal Aid Commission, including the chairperson, and finally that the commission reports to this legislature through him. Now in light of these facts, Mr. Minister, do you deny full ministerial responsibility for the actions of the Legal Aid Commission?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: Well, as I indicated yesterday, I am the minister responsible technically for the Legal Aid Commission, but I have no administrative control over the commission. And I ask: is the member suggesting that I replace the members of the commission to have people that will follow my will directly?

Mr. Mitchell: All I'm suggesting, Mr. Minister, is that you are the minister responsible, and so you must behave in this legislature as though you were the minister responsible ...

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mitchell: You can't stand in your place and ask questions of me as to what's ...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, order! Does the member have a supplementary question?

Mr. Mitchell: Indeed, I have. Minister, it's common ground between us that the purpose of the legal aid program in Saskatchewan is to provide legal services for

people who don't have any money. Now the commission has introduced a policy that requires people to have money before they can engage the services of the Legal Aid Commission lawyers. Now you've known about this for several days ...

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, order, order. Supplementaries do not need a long preamble. I would ask the member to get to his question.

Mr. Mitchell: Minister, in light of the fact that you've known about this policy for several days, may I ask you if you have contacted the Legal Aid Commission about the policy; have you expressed your concern to them about this policy; and have you discussed any options to the ridiculous program with the Legal Aid Commission?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: I say to the member opposite: your sources of information are wrong. You have inadvertently misled the House; you have given misinformation, because this morning I spoke with the acting chairman of the Legal Aid Commission and he advised me that they haven't decided yet as to what they are going to do, and I asked him to advise me when they've decided. Now how can I do anything about something they haven't decided yet?

Mr. Mitchell: Supplementary. Minister, it is your information that is wrong, and it is you that is inadvertently misleading this House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mitchell: The fact of the matter is that this new policy will go into effect on August 3, and will be reviewed as to whether it works or not at a later date. Now it's your budgetary moves of cutting \$500,000 from the budget of the commission that has led to this problem. And my question is: in light of the obviously absurd notion of charging people who haven't got any money for legal services, will you either reinstate funding or ask the Legal Aid Commission to consider another option?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: The member opposite should apologize to the acting chairman of the Legal Aid Commission. He is suggesting that a QC in this province ... that that man's word should not be accepted, and the word of his NDP spies should be accepted.

I spoke to the acting chairman an hour and a half ago, two hours ago. I spoke to the acting chairman and he told me they hadn't decided yet. Now you're telling me that your NDP spies know more than the acting chairman?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Order.

Mr. Hagel: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is to the same minister. Let me review the reality, Mr. Minister, for you. In Saskatchewan today we have a legal aid plan which exists for people who cannot afford a lawyer. You are aware, as well as I am aware, that as of Monday, August 3 - a week and a half

from today - schedules will be implemented which will require payment of 100 to \$400 up front, cash in advance, in order to get legal aid, by people who cannot afford a lawyer.

I ask you, Mr. Minister, in light of the fact that this leaves poor people in Saskatchewan only two options: one, to represent themselves; and, secondly, to plead guilty because legal aid will only charge \$20 for a guilty plea, is this your idea of fairness in Saskatchewan today?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: Well, when it comes to criminals, I can tell you . . .

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I'd ask members to be quiet while the minister is answering the question.

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: What we're talking about here is a hypothetical because I have tried to ascertain the decision, and it hasn't been made. When it is made, I will deal with it.

Mr. Hagel: Mr. Deputy Speaker, again to the minister. Mr. Minister, I have in my hand a document of a memo dated July 7, advising that as of August 3 fees will be implemented, ranging from 100 to \$400, to be represented in court by people who cannot afford a lawyer in this province.

My question to you is: what action have you taken on behalf of people who cannot afford a lawyer in this province to protect their right to the principle of representation in court in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I haven't seen the document. If the member could table it, I will examine it and comment on it.

Mr. Hagel: Mr. Minister, I think you would be enlightened if you paid attention to the responsibilities that you have for the people of Saskatchewan.

My final supplementary to you, Mr. Minister, is this. You and your government have preached restraint unendlessly for the last several months. In light of the fact of the cut-back that has caused this decision to be made by the Legal Aid Commission has been \$500,000, one-twentieth of the cost of the political staff of the government cabinet ministers . . .

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Order. Does the member have a question? Would the member get directly to his question.

Mr. Hagel: My question to you, Mr. Minister, is this. In light of the performance of your government and the patronage, the pay-outs to the George Hills and the Paul Schoenhals and the Gordon Dirks and the Tim Emburys, in light of that kind of priorities in your government, how can you justify putting the boots to poor people in Saskatchewan while fuelling the coal of the gravy train of the government opposite?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: What was the question?

Mr. Hagel: My question to you, Mr. Minister, is: how do you justify the patronage that your government gives to the defeated political members of your party, in light of this injustice that's imposed upon people in Saskatchewan who cannot afford a lawyer? How do you justify that?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: I don't know of any party members working for legal aid, so I don't know what you're talking about in patronage.

Mr. Mitchell: A further supplementary to the minister. Just assuming for the moment . . . just assuming for the moment that you're right, minister, and that this policy is not coming into effect August 3. In light of what you've read in the media and heard in this House, and as the minister responsible for so many programs affecting the poor people of this province, will you prevail upon the chairman, the acting chairman of the commission, to abandon any idea of adopting this ridiculous policy?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: When legal aid, the commission, has made their final decision on how they're going to operate legal aid, I will assess the entire situation, and then I will deal with any problems that may arise.

Mr. Mitchell: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, you're saying you're just going to sit idly by and wait until a letter comes to you saying that the worst has happened, and that the commission has implemented the policy.

I'm asking you, as the minister responsible for so many of the programs in this province affecting poor people, whether you will take the initiative of speaking to the acting chairman of the commission, and asking him to prevail upon the commission to abandon any thought of implementing such an absurd policy?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: I spoke to him this morning. I indicated to him that I was concerned if there would be any limitation of services with respect to single mothers. He said they would take that into consideration, and I said I would take that into consideration.

Mr. Mitchell: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. While you've got him on the phone, Mr. Minister, will you please explain to him how it's going to work for welfare recipients who don't have an extra dime of cash to put to anything, and how they're supposed to raise the money to come in and pay for these services that they're going to have to pay for if they run afoul of the similar law. Are they to do it out of their food allowance, or how are they supposed to do it?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Schmidt: If there are any special needs, we will deal with them.

Changes to Medical Care Insurance Commission

Ms. Atkinson: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My question is to the Minister of health, and it deals with the fact that you and your government are so incompetent and have mismanaged the affairs of this province so badly that you can't even make medicare payments to Saskatchewan doctors on time. On May 14, you issued a news release to announce that the Medical Care Insurance Commission was to be phased out and that medicare payments would become the direct responsibility of you and your department. You said the change would make operations more efficient.

Mr. Minister, what is going on, and what have you done to get the problem fixed? Is this latest problem just another example of your government's incompetence, or is this part of your ongoing strategy to undermine the medicare system in our province?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. McLeod: First of all, Mr. Speaker, if I can keep the series of question in order, the first one was related to the rolling in of the Medical Care Insurance Commission into the department, which is to take place on January 1, 1988. So the present circumstance that's happening with the erratic payment to some doctors is not related to the rolling in, into the Department of Health - that's number one.

The problem, as I have said for a couple of days now, after having had a discussion with Dr. Scharfstein, the president of SMA (Saskatchewan Medical Association), is that we will solve this in a very short order, in fact, in a matter of days - days, not weeks. And I readily admit that there have been some troubles for a period of a few weeks.

As far as the questions in terms of some underlying strategy, the answer is no. And the question as it relates to her perception in her rhetoric about incompetence, the answer to that is no, as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Ms. Atkinson: Mr. Minister, I'd be interested in knowing why we have this ongoing problem at the Medical Care Insurance Commission? Can you explain to this House why it is that, hundreds of doctors in this province are not being paid, and aren't being paid for several weeks? Can you explain that? Can you somehow describe to us what is happening in the Medical Care Insurance Commission?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. McLeod: This has been blown out of some proportion, and that perception continues with the question here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is not an ongoing problem. This is a problem that, as I have said to you and have said to the House, was a problem for a period of some weeks - will be rectified - very short

order.

The fact is . . . The reason there was a problem is because we had 18 people from the Medical Care Insurance Commission who took advantage of the government's global early retirement program. And they took the early retirement program and we're now in the process of refilling those positions. But we have, as well, put temporary people into those positions to fill up the backlog, and we will be moving on it and are moving on it presently, as a matter of fact.

Ms. Atkinson: Mr. Minister, it was you and your government that forced those early retirements. It was your plan. You worked on it for months at secret cabinet meetings.

Do you mean to tell the taxpayers of this province that when you sat down and plotted how to get rid of hundreds of people in the civil service, no one thought to ask, how are we going to maintain services after all of these people are gone? And if you did think about those problems, why are you scrambling to hire new people now?

It sounds more and more like this is part of some hidden agenda to undermine the credibility of medicare with the people of this province. Is that what it's all about, Mr. Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. McLeod: Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all, as I said, the program of early retirement was one which went across all of government. It was a voluntary early retirement program. Eighteen people took advantage of it in the Medical Care Insurance Commission.

As it relates to me as a minister of the government, apologizing to that member, or to anyone, for the fact that we are reducing the size of the public service in Saskatchewan in a global sense, we do not apologize for that because the people of Saskatchewan say: provide those services as efficiently and as effectively as possible. And I will say that there will be, because of the number of people in the small unit that is the Medical Care Insurance Commission took early retirement, there has been some problems for a period of a few weeks.

But I might add to the member as well, the onerous sort of circumstance that she portrays to this House is not, in fact, the case. It's not, in fact, the case. I mean, we're not talking about people who are really in some serious circumstance here. We're talking about people who are being inconvenienced. And I regret that inconvenience, but I don't want it to be portrayed by the member that these people are in some kind of very onerous and difficult circumstance. I admit their inconvenience, and I regret that, and that will be solved. But they're not in very, very difficult circumstances.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Atkinson: We are talking about people who are in onerous difficulty. Many doctors in this province are young doctors, and they're just starting out and they

don't have the kind of capital required to keep an office running on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Minister, the budget for the administration of the Medical Care Insurance Commission was cut by 17 positions and \$350,000 this year. And I refer you to page 47 of your own budget estimates. You knew that 17 positions had been cut and that the budget had been cut months ago. My question to you is this: what are you going to do so that this problem is not a constant problem and that doctors can get paid in this province? And is this not a long-term strategy to undermine medicare?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. McLeod: Well, Mr. Speaker, the last portion of the question, in terms of her perception of some long-term strategy to undermine medicare, does not merit a response. It is not the fact, and I've said that on many occasions, as have all of us. That's number one.

And secondly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have said on several occasions, outside the House and here to the member today, said on several occasions that we are working actively to have this solved. It will not be an ongoing problem. It's a circumstance. It's a very particular one for a very short and particular period of time. It will be solved very shortly and, in fact, is in the process of being solved now.

And that's in conjunction with the SMA, and I have had discussions with the president of the SMA. When he brought it to my attention, action began almost immediately after he brought it to my attention.

Study Regarding Government Policies

Mr. Goodale: Yes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a supplementary question to the same minister on the same subject. The minister is telling us that the problem that has been identified here is merely an administrative problem of a short-term nature, and it does not constitute a policy decision on the part of the Saskatchewan government.

I want to ask the minister: if the Coopers Lybrand study group that was dealing with government restraint and cut-backs and making recommendations on that subject to the government, if that study group has considered recommending to you, Mr. Minister, or to the government, that you delay making payments to physicians and that you shift certain administrative duties to doctors from the government, and thereby make a saving of potentially something close to \$1 million a year? Has the Coopers Lybrand study looked at that, and have they made such a recommendation to the government?

Hon. Mr. McLeod: There are many very specific things that are looked at and will continue to be looked at over a period of time. One of the things, and I believe what the member is referring to, is that there's a system of coding of bills and so on which goes on, and which is done inside MCIC (Medical Care Insurance Commission) at present, and continues to go on inside MCIC at present.

I must say to the member and to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this is the only province in Canada where that kind of

coding is done by the commission or its equivalent, whatever that may be in the other provinces. Every other province, the doctors themselves do the coding in the office before sending their submissions to the ... But that's a discussion that's ongoing as well with the SMA. The SMA executive and the members of the SMA are very aware of those discussions, and they'll be ongoing. And that relates as well to the effective delivery of the services, whatever they be, including the payments to physicians for the services that they render to the people.

Mr. Goodale: Mr. Deputy Speaker, again to the same minister. I gather the minister has not denied that Coopers Lybrand has looked at the coding issue that the minister refers to. And I gather he has not denied that Coopers Lybrand has, in fact, looked at the proposition of delaying payments to physicians as a deliberate strategy to save money for the government.

I wonder if the minister could say very clearly to us in the House whether that option of either delaying payments as a long-term policy decision, or transferring coding as a long-term policy decision, is an active option being considered either by the Coopers & Lybrand study group or by this government. Is the issue still on the table, or is the minister killing it and stopping it at this moment?

Hon. Mr. McLeod: What I will say is that I am not aware of any discussion about delaying payments as an ongoing thing. I don't believe that that's the case; in fact, I will reject that.

But I will say, as it relates to the coding issue which I refer to in my previous answer, that's a suggestion that I have made, the deputy minister of Health has made, others of us have looked at that and said, that would make some eminent sense, given what has happened in the rest of the country for the very similar sort of things.

And the SMA does not disagree with it, but they would want to have a period of time for implementation and for some discussion, and they have been granted that, and that's what's going on now. The discussion goes on as it relates to the way the coding is carried out.

Waiting Lists in Saskatoon Hospitals

Mr. Rolfes: Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. Mr. Minister, this deals with the growing waiting lists at the Saskatoon three acute care hospitals and the fact that, in spite of these waiting lists, your government is responsible for the closure of 308 hospital beds in Saskatoon this summer.

On July 9, Mr. Speaker, in this legislature you said, we are working on that problem specifically with surgeons in Saskatoon and with hospital administrators and the hospital boards. Mr. Minister, what specific steps have been taken to cut into the critical waiting lists at Saskatoon hospitals since you made that commitment on July 9? And how many of the 308 closed beds that you are preparing to close will you reopen?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. McLeod: As I said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I

said on earlier in July, and as I will repeat again here today, those measures which are, as I said at that time, both short-term for now and for the length of time that some of those beds are closed, that trying to diminish that or reduce that length of time, those discussions are ongoing right now.

As it relates to the long-term strategy of rationalizing some of the service and so on that goes on in the three acute care hospitals, in the three acute care hospitals in Saskatoon, that's as well ongoing.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure Parks, Recreation and Culture Ordinary Expenditure - Vote 39

Mr. Chairman: Before we being the questioning I would ask the minister to please introduce his staff.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seated beside me to my right is Bill Clarke, deputy minister; seated immediately behind me is Doug Cressman, assistant deputy minister; beside Mr. Cressman is Brian Woodcock, acting assistant deputy minister; to my left is Ross MacLennan, executive director, operations; and to the immediate left or the far left on this side is Keith Rogers, assistant deputy minister.

Item 1

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I want to make a few opening remarks before I get into my questioning of your department. As the folks will realize, you now have a very big department and a very important department in Parks, Recreation and Culture, and I will have a lot of questions on all three parts of your department as we go through your estimates.

As I indicated, Mr. Chairman, at the start of my remarks, that this is a very important department, a department that can take a leadership role in providing the citizens of Saskatchewan with a better way of living. And I want to, first of all, start in northern Saskatchewan in my constituency of Athabasca, where I want to say to you, Mr. Chairman, that things are in bad shape. And I think that the Department of Recreation and Culture can take a leadership role there and should take a leadership role there, and I will be pushing for, and my colleagues, to see that this takes place.

When we take a look at the unemployment rate that we have in northern Saskatchewan and then we see programs that are being cut off by Parks and Recreation, such as the campsites, and the forestry division, nurseries are being cut back; these are taking much-needed jobs away. And what they should be doing is maintaining these departments so that we can keep the jobs that we have, not lose them.

I think it's important that, as I say to you, Mr. Minister, that

you take, and your department take a leadership role in trying to solve the problems of this province, not adding to the problems that we have.

You have already cut back on the nurseries in the province. You and your government have given away, without any down payment, 800 million acres of Saskatchewan's prime forest land to Weyerhaeuser Canada, and this is something that should not be tolerated in this province. But it has taken place, and you, Mr. Minister, as the head of your department and representative of the government of Saskatchewan, have had great input into the give-away of our resources and the closure of our public facilities in the province. And I would get into the campsites and things like that a little later on.

But as I said, when I see the give-away of 800 million acres of prime forest land to Weyerhaeuser Canada, I see the closure of public campsites, I think that - and I'm going to get to the private members - they're going to have to stand up here and take a stand on this.

We see in the far North a \$250,000 food transportation subsidy. You can't put up the money for that, but yet you can give \$200,000 a year to the chairman of Sask Power. The money that you allotted to Mr. Hill, the chairman of Sask Power, Mr. Chairman, would almost pay for the food transportation subsidy cost in the far North. But that's not a priority.

And I want to say that, especially in Parks and Renewable Resources in the North, you also brought in your compulsory retirement program, and that, I tell you, Mr. Chairman, is a disaster. There are many citizens in this province, men and women, who have worked for 25 and 30 years and were in the best years of their life, in the last four and five years of their life; the family had been raised and now they were starting to put money away for retirement, and all of a sudden this early retirement package was offered to them.

And it was offered to them and they couldn't resist it. Because I tell you, it was a compulsory program. I know an individual who thought, well, maybe I'll just hang on and they'll let me remain in my job, but he found out that that job would be eliminated. So there was an individual with 30 years seniority, five years left to go. His family was all educated. They were out working, and he had an opportunity to start putting money away. And what happens? Early retirement! You have a philosophy that is literally destroying this province/

And I say to the back-benchers, the private members of the Conservative Party who occupy the back benches, that when you were out campaigning in last fall's election, you didn't go to the doorstep and say that if you were re-elected that you were going to close down campsites, that you were going to give away the campsites. You didn't say that you were going to implement a new drug plan.

And I tell you that is a vicious plan. I witnessed an individual the other day who went into the drug store and had a prescription that cost him \$60. The conversation went like this: he was asking the druggist if he could get

one week's supply - pay \$15 for one week's supply because he only had the \$15. Had it been under the other plan he would have paid \$3.85 and he would have had his prescription. That individual was bartering to try and get a week's supply of drugs, and that's the policy of this Conservative government.

And you didn't; and I say to the private members back there, I'm sure that's not what you campaigned on. I'm sure you never indicated that you were going to cut the dental program and lay off 400 dental therapists and nurses, and that your government was going to, if re-elected, sell all the dental equipment that has been built up in the schools. And I say to the private members across there, that's not what you campaigned on. You didn't campaign on that. You didn't campaign to close down the campsites. You didn't campaign on the drug program. You didn't campaign that you were going to increase the sales tax to 7 per cents, and that takes the individuals who are travelling across this province. Now it's hitting them hard. You didn't campaign on that.

And I say to the back-benchers, who occupy the back seats of the Conservative party, I think it's time that you stood up, and it's time that you stood up and fought for Saskatchewan. You didn't campaign on the fact that you were going to close down just about all of Kelsey, that you were going to get rid of 137 teachers, and that there was going to be 500 less students. You didn't campaign and say that the resource program would be eliminated from Kelsey - the resource program that works in conjunction with parks and renewable resources. The diploma nursing program - you didn't indicate that when you were campaigning.

(1445)

So I say, Mr. Chairman, that it's time for the members who occupy the back benches of the Conservative party - the private members - to stand up and fight for what you believe in because this is . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I'll tell you, Mr. Member, what I believe in. I believe in fairness for this province, and I tell you it's going to come, and it'll come under a New Democratic government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thompson: So I say . . . I'm going to start my questioning now, Mr. Minister, but I say this in all sincerity to the members who occupy the back benches. You didn't campaign on that type of a program, and I ask you to stand up. I ask you to stand up in this House and question the government on what they're doing, and take a stand, because if you don't this will be the end of your political careers. I can assure you that.

Mr. Chairman, I want to now turn to the minister and direct a number of questions to him. And first of all, Mr. Minister, I wonder if you could supply me with the names and titles and salaries of each individual on your personal staff, and has any of those individuals had a pay change in the past 12 months?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, if I may be permitted to have a brief response to some of the introductory remarks the hon. member from Athabasca

has made in his preamble.

He touched on a couple of areas that are certainly out of my responsibility - they belong in education or health, and I really don't want to dwell on those. However, I would be remiss if I did not point out to the hon. member, because I think he made a serious mistake, that we did not, in fact, wipe out the resource program from Kelsey Institute. What we did was take a conscious decision, some three, four years ago, that we would move that program to Prince Albert Technical Institute. Furthermore, it would not only be closer to the type of activity which we're trying to teach, it would also be based on a competency based module of learning. That was the idea, so we could encourage other people to apply for the program who, hitherto, perhaps felt that they were not academically qualified to get into that program.

And another thing we did with that program, Mr. Chairman, was we re-examined it from top to bottom. We took the instructors, we sent them off for retaining and upgrading, so that when they came back they would be more able to teach our students the types of skills that have become necessary with changes in the forest industry and changes in The Wildlife Act - all those other things that have gone on in the last number of years, including some of the good things that happened when the members opposite were in power.

So, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is remiss in that. The program isn't wiped out. The program is transferred. And I offer that for his information.

One other thing he referred to was a compulsory retirement program. At no time, Mr. Chairman, did this government say that retirement, the early retirement program, was compulsory - at no time. And I'm not aware of anybody who was told: you must retire. In fact, I seem to remember the SGEU (Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union) doing precisely the opposite, and calling meetings around the province, and bringing in their members to explain to them the ramifications of the early retirement program.

When it comes to the question of campaigning and what we campaigned on, I know how I campaigned in my seat. I campaigned on the basis of fiscal responsibility and reducing the deficit. And I heard that on farm after farm after farm. And I heard people saying, we know times are tough, and we know that when you are re-elected there will be some difficult decisions ahead of you, and we fully expect as a responsible government, that you will take those difficult decisions and you'll implement them. And that's precisely what we have been doing.

Now, specifically, I was asked about my staff. I've prepared a list for the hon. member because I know we've debated back and forwards. And I must say I've always looked forward to the spirit and the spirited debates we've had in the past. I anticipated he would ask me this, so I prepared this list for him, and I'd be pleased to pass it over for his perusal.

He asked me if, in fact, anybody had a pay raise in the last 12 months. I searched my memory. I believe not. But I'm going to have that checked with the officials to make sure

that I'm giving the member completely accurate information. He'll note the number of members on my staff, and he'll note also on there the monthly salary being paid to each one.

I've heard bandied around in the House, Mr. Chairman, all kinds of stories about the massive staffs that we have, the number of political hacks we have, and the huge salaries we have . . .

An Hon. Member: True. Very true.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: And the member for Quill Lake is joining in from and through the seat of his pants again, yelling true, and yes. So I did a little research. And here's what I found out for the hon. members opposite.

I found out that in 1982, prior to us taking power, there was one Clint White, minister of culture and recreation, and he had four staff. He had a Darlene Marchuk at 2,219 a month, secretary; he had Jill Robinson, executive assistant, \$3,315 a month; he had Sandra Vanstone, secretary, \$1,770 a month, and he had a Gregory Zaba as an executive assistant at \$3,013 a month - or \$10,317 per month in salaries.

But I also took a look at one Reg Gross, who was minister of tourism and renewable resources, as it was called at that time. I looked at his staff because, Mr. Chairman, in our down-sizing of government we've a much smaller cabinet, certainly a smaller cabinet than they had - fewer ministers, with fewer expenses, with less staff. So I took the portfolios of culture and recreation and parks and renewable resources and have combined them.

Now I've read out the staff and the salaries of Clint White. Now let me tell you what Reggie Gross had. He had B. Kenny, executive assistant, \$2,486 a month. He had D. Beach, executive assistant, \$2,262 a month; D. McCormick, secretary, \$2,219 per month; L. Dunsmore-Porter, secretary, \$1,570 a month and D. Wedhorn, secretary, \$1,049 per month. Now if we add that up, that's \$9,586 per month that was being paid out to those individuals.

And if you take those two salaries and add them together you find that it's about twice what my staff gets.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Minister, does any of your staff have a government car or a car allowance?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, hon. member, nobody on my staff has a government car or do they have a travelling allowance.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chairman, can the minister detail for us the out-of-province travel which has taken place in 1986-87 by the minister and his staff, and I refer to out-of-province travel by the minister and his staff separately and together - the minister alone, staff alone, and the ministers together.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, hon. member.

There is a time-honoured fashion in this House by which such information is provided to members opposite. The pertinent information which the member requires will be forwarded to him in due course in that time-honoured fashion.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister, are you going to provide me with the details and the total cost of the flights in the province and out of the province, also?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, hon. member, details such as those I have provided in previous years in the estimates will once again be provided to the hon. member.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Chairman and Mr. Minister, would you agree that you will provide us with that information before we get finished with your estimates here in the House?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: I'll undertake to have that information at the earliest possible moment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Thompson: So I have to repeat my question, Mr. Chairman. Will you have that information before we're finished your estimates here in the House?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: As soon as it's ready, it will be sent over the floor.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister, as soon as it's ready - that doesn't really tell me anything. Would you indicate whether you plan to provide us with that information while we are doing your estimates in the legislature?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, the information won't be passed over this afternoon. It will be passed over as soon as I have it all together.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Minister - sorry, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, I didn't get your last remarks.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: I'm sorry. I said I don't have it this afternoon, but as soon as I do have it all, it will be forwarded to you.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, could you indicate if any of your senior staff have had any increases in wages in the last year, and if so, how much?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that senior staff who are seated directly around me have had no increase in the time frame referred to by the hon. member.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Mr. Minister, would you provide me with a list in amount of moneys that are being paid to your assistants?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Clarification, Mr. Chairman. Is the hon. member referring to the senior officials of the department? Yes?

An Hon. Member: That's right, and executive assistants.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Well, you have my own staff. I sent that one over. The salaries being paid to the senior administrators within the department, I'll send over to you. I think we've probably got that with us.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I want to . . . before I turn into parks, I want to make a few remarks on your last statement there. And you indicated when you were campaigning, you campaigned on fiscal restraint and trying and get the deficit down.

And I want to indicate to you, Mr. Minister, that it was your government who created this large deficit. And it was your government who gave the oil companies the billion and a half dollars. And it was also your government who started off with Manalta Coal at \$30 million, and Weyerhaeuser at 250 million, and Peter Pocklington at 21 million. And you're saying that the taxpayers of this province now have to pay for your mistakes.

And I say to you that when you were campaigning that that's not what you were saying on the doorstep. You were saying that, yes, we have a financial problem in this province; but you most certainly didn't tell them what you were going to do when you got elected.

I want to also indicate or ask you, Mr. Minister, when you moved the resource technicians program from Saskatoon to Prince Albert, is the tech. program now the same as it was in Kelsey? Are you still providing the same type of training to those technicians as you did in Kelsey?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Again, that question would probably be better directed towards the Minister of Education. But because of the nature of the course, obviously, Mr. Chairman, our department officials are quite intimately involved with it. We have concerns that it does, in fact, meet the needs of our students for our Saskatchewan circumstances.

The program that is in place now in Prince Albert is an improved program, mainly because the instructors have been upgraded on more modern methods. And we've try to make sure they're to the forefront of knowledge that exists in resource management.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Chairman, I now want to turn to provincial parks, Mr. Minister. And I wonder if you could indicate, in the last year, if there has been any new provincial parks opened? Also, has there been any new provincial parks planned? And I would like to have you comment as to where we stand on the grasslands park at this time.

(1500)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, hon. member, I believe you asked me a threefold question. The new parks created, as you be aware - and you and I debated this in the House at one point when I brought in legislation to establish our new Parks Act for Saskatchewan - we did in fact create some new provincial parks. They are the

Clearwater wilderness park, north-west in Saskatchewan - our first wilderness park; Candle Lake, Crooked Lake, Makwa, and Blackstrap. Those are the five new ones.

We've been asked to consider provincial park designation, which first of all means declaring a parkland reserve. And then we have a period of five years during which we can study the area, hold public hearings, and decide on whether or not an area is worthy of designation as provincial park.

And two of those areas that we've been asked to consider are the Athabasca sand dunes, and the Great Sand Hills on the west side of the province. And we have officials who are doing some ecological studies on those areas. Before anything goes ahead, however, we would be having public hearings and getting some feedback from the public.

You also asked me if I would comment on the status of the grasslands park. As you're aware, there's some difficulties encountered between federal and provincial officials over ownership of a water-bed with the park. Traditionally, the province has maintained that water rights, water-beds, and rivers are the property of the province. The federal Department of Environment were insisting that before any park area could be designated, ownership of the water-beds would have to be transferred to that jurisdiction. That proved to be a stumbling block in our negotiation.

The last few months there have been discussions between our Minister of the Environment and the federal Minister of the Environment, Tom McMillan, and their officials. Their officials have made some movement on the argument about who owns the water-bed and if, in fact, under their Act to satisfy their Act, the water rights would have to be transferred. And it looks like now there's a little crack in the door and they're saying, well, perhaps they didn't have to have ownership. And that's where it's at right now; talks are continuing, and I'm fairly optimistic that this one can be resolved and we will, in fact, have a grasslands national park.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, then what you're indicating to the House is that once the federal government and the provincial government can solve the water rights problem, that you will be proceeding with the grasslands park. Is that right?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: The hon. member is correct. It is our intention to proceed with the grasslands national park as soon as any outstanding issues are resolved. This is something that I know that the government before us were interested in doing. There has been discussion going on for probably some 15 years on this. We've had some difficulties, obviously, in the past. We've got it to the point now where it is down to one stumbling block and we really think . . . we really think we've got a resolution for that last problem and that the grasslands will be a reality in the not too distant future.

Could I just add one other thing. The federal Minister of the Environment is very anxious that, in his term of office right now, he completes what has been set out by he and his officials as the national plan for Canada in terms of

parks. He's just added South Moresby, he did Ellesmere Island, and now he would like to see grasslands added to the system. It may not completely complete the system, but it certainly fulfils his mandate for a master plan for national parks in Canada. So given his own personal enthusiasm and commitment to this project, I think we're making progress.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister, and Mr. Chairman. I suggest that the Hon. Mr. McMillan better hurry up and get his plan in place especially after the last three by-elections and the last polls.

Mr. Minister, has there been any capital expenditure carried out this year, in the year under review, in any of the new provincial parks, specifically Clearwater valley and that area? Has there been any capital put into those parks, or have you just created the park and left them as they were - the five new ones that were created last year?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: If the hon. member will give me a second, rather than just speak in generalities, I'd like to look up some specifics. There has been capital put in over the last several years in the parks and, yes, over this last year.

Clearwater wilderness park is going to be a different kind of a park. We're not looking at any "Coney Island North" up there or infrastructure. We want to maintain it in its present natural state; that was the intent of the park. So the type of activities which can be permitted in that park are very limited. We're looking at things like white-water canoeing, rafting, that type of activity, and to things that would normally require structures or buildings. Any beneficiary from that park we feel should be determined in the residents of La Loche. They're close by and we feel that they can offer the accommodations; they can offer the meals. And any rentals or guiding could be run through the town of La Loche and shouldn't be centred within the park.

So in terms of capital going into that park, we're not contemplating any, other than maybe signs or something of that nature. But I'll find you the list of capital for the other parks.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Yes, I fully agree that the benefits . . . or any of the benefits that accrue from the Clearwater valley should go into the community of La Loche, as La Loche is a community that has very, very high unemployment, and it's a serious situation up there.

Mr. Minister, you're going to provide me with the capital that you've put into the new parks. You indicate that there has been no capital at all put into the Clearwater valley. I wonder what you . . . Is there any plans to go in there and selectively cut the over-mature timber that we have in that valley, or does that have to remain as it is?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: I can speak to over-mature timber, because this is a problem. We do - as the member well knows from his own constituency and his own background - we do have over-mature timber in various areas of the province.

Two things: one, there is no commercial value to letting it fall down and die, to anybody, and I'm speaking about local residents. And two, it becomes a fire hazard and also subject to disease which, in turn, could wipe out the entire forest. So we would give serious consideration to permitting selective harvesting of over-mature timber.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would urge your department, in conjunction with Sask Forest Products, to immediately take a look at the over-mature timber and go in there and provide the capital for the community of La Loche so that they can take advantage of the jobs and harvest that over-mature timber. I would ask that if you're going to harvest it, that it be sawed and planed and everything done up in that area, rather than taking the logs out and hauling them to a southern saw mill or sawing the lumber and taking them to a southern planer. I would ask that you consider that.

I also want to make a comment on the Athabasca sand dunes. And I want to indicate they're on the south shore or Lake Athabasca, and they are a very beautiful sight, especially from the air, when you fly over them. And I think that it would be beneficial to the province to make that a provincial park or a federal park, whichever could be worked out.

But I do think that we have to be very careful with both the Clearwater valley and the Athabasca sand dunes. And I would ask that, number one, that you take a look and work in conjunction with your other ministers and go into La Loche and see if that over-mature timber could be taken out of there and provide much needed jobs for the community of La Loche.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: As the hon. member recalls, last year we had some meetings with . . . or earlier this year, with local residents in that area. And we are interested in finding them some supply of wood to give them some economic viability. And the very thinking that the member is suggesting appeals to me. I think it's a distinct possibility.

The other thing, when the member refers to the Athabasca sand dunes, I agree with him 100 per cent. There are other concerns that have to be satisfied and we have to look at, but it's something I'm particularly interested in. I think it's a life form, it's an eco-system that exists there that is unique. It's the highest sand dune north of South America some place on this continent, and it deserves protection and it deserves preservation for future generations.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. And you will provide me with the capital expenditures to all the new parks that have been created. Is that right, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Yes, I have them in my hand now. I'll pass them over to you. Perhaps I'll just read them out for you: Blackstrap was 48,000; Clearwater 18,000 - I indicated Clearwater was an infrastructure; it was a plaque landfill and a tower cabin renovation - Crooked lake, 57,000; Candle Lake, 102,000; Makwa is 3,000.

Mr. Chairman, I also have the numbers that the hon. member asked for - salaries of the senior administration of the department, and I would pass that over to him now,

too. Thank you.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I wonder . . . I see there's \$18,000 has been spent on the Clearwater valley, on that wilderness park, and that is a plaque landfill and tower cabin renovations. Are you talking about the tower, the fire tower cabin? Is that the tower you are talking about?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Yes, that's right. And that's what we will have to spend on it.

Mr. Thompson: And that is being charged to your department rather than to fire suppression?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: That's right, Mr. Chairman. We're paying for it.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Mr. Minister, I now want to turn to the provincial golf courses. Could you indicate how many provincial golf courses we have in this province?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: I've jotted them down very quickly. Duck Mountain, Moose Mountain, Greenwater, Cypress, Battlefords - five in total.

Mr. Thompson: And of the five that the provincial government are operating, are there any plans to sell or lease any of those out to the private sector, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, in response to the last question: we have Moose Mountain and Cypress; we ceased operating the golf courses currently. We are considering proposals, or are considering tendering . . . Rephrase that: we have already tendered and deferred The Battlefords and Greenwater and Duck Mountain.

Mr. Thompson: You're indicating, Mr. Minister, that you have tendered those three provincial golf courses out for sale to the private sector? Is that right?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Not for sale, Mr. Chairman. They lease the golf course, and the lease fee as a percentage of their gross is reverted back to government.

Mr. Thompson: But up to today there has been no golf courses leased out; they're still under full operation of the provincial government? Two of them have been leased out? Could you then indicate to me, of the two golf courses that have been leased out, to whom they have been leased out, and the amount of moneys that they are paying in lease fees.

(1515)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, Cypress Hills Provincial Park golf course: lessee, Wilbur Desjardin. He put in capital \$150,000; installation artificial greens, clubhouse upgrading, driving range. Details of the lease: 10-year lease, no renewal. Lease fees: 5 per cent of his gross revenue. Lessee purchases clubhouse and equipment.

Moose Mountain: Lessee, Schafer and Liabel, Corporate name, Golf Kenosee Incorporated. Private capital, their contribution: \$1 million. Added a new two-storey

10,000-square-foot clubhouse. They completed the irrigation and the driving range. Lease agreement: 25-year lease term. Lease fee: 5 per cent gross revenue.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Minister, it's only Cypress Hills and Duck Mountain that have been leased out. Is that right?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: No, I missed one. I'm sorry. Valley Centre, which is in Fort Qu'Appelle, was leased some time previously. Valley Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle.

Mr. Thompson: Would that be under the same lease agreement, and 5 per cent of gross revenues would be their contribution to the provincial government?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is correct. The lessee is John Smith. The corporate name is Mission Ridge Development Incorporated. Put in private capital of \$200,000, a new 3,000-square-foot clubhouse, a driving range, irrigation expansion. Lease agreement: 25 years. Lease fee: 5 per cent of gross revenue.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. It would seem to me that the three individuals who have leased the three provincial golf courses and who are paying 5 per cent of the gross revenue have got a pretty good deal. And I think that time will prove that right.

I want to now turn to the provincial ski resorts, Mr. Minister. And I have a number of questions I want to ask under that.

Before I do, I . . . Could you indicate . . . At all golf courses, there is provincial staff who are hired on temporary throughout the summer months. Could you indicate if they were transferred also over to the individuals who took over the three provincial golf courses? And did they hire, or did they have an agreement to hire, all the individuals that had been working previously as part-time employees in the summer?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised, and as I recall now from my own notes in previous discussions, we absorbed all of the staff involved into other areas of Parks.

Mr. Thompson: So you're indicating that there was no individual who lost their job because of the transfer over to the private sector.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, any affected employees were offered alternative work within the department or severance pay. So nobody would have lost their jobs as a result of this initiative with the golf courses. If they left, it was voluntary, because everyone was offered alternative positions.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I now want to turn to the provincial ski resorts. And I know that there was some problems with . . . labour problems up in Blackstrap, and you may want to just comment whether that has been resolved or not when you get up.

But first of all, Mr. Minister, I wonder if you could indicate how many ski slopes that the provincial government

operate in Saskatchewan. And also, Mr. Minister, could you provide me with the information that you just had on the privatization of those three golf courses, please?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Did you want the details again of the three golf courses?

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Minister, provide me with the information of the individuals and the agreement that they have, the 5 per cent agreement, and the input.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, if it's acceptable to the hon. member, the specific questions he asked relative to those three golf courses, we'll just write it down and send it over to you. It'll save you taking notes. Will that be enough?

Mr. Thompson: My question was, Mr. Deputy Chairman, could you indicate how many provincial ski slopes that your department operates and where they are?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: There are currently three ski slopes, Mr. Chairman, which fall under the auspices of this department: Blackstrap, White Track, and Cypress.

Mr. Thompson: And of the three that you indicated, how many of them have been turned over with agreements to the private sector?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: We have a lease agreement, Mr. Chairman, with Lloyd Hedemann. The corporate name is Headway Management Ltd., for operation of Blackstrap. He has a five-year lease of the entire area, including a ski chalet. Lease fees are 30,000 for the first year plus \$2,500 for each subsequent year, to a maximum of 40,000.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Minister, of the three slopes that we have in the province, how many of them have chair-lifts?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, Blackstrap is the only one with a chair-lift.

Mr. Thompson: Could you provide the committee with a cost of that chair-life for Blackstrap, please?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the chair-lift operation at Blackstrap was valued at one time around \$600,000.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. You indicated that it was valued at \$600,000. My question, Mr. Minister, what did it cost to install that chair-lift? Is that the exact cost to install that chair-lift?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: The \$600,000, Mr. Chairman, was for the cost of purchase, the cost of moving, and the cost of installation. So that would be the total cost.

Mr. Thompson: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, are there any plans to privatize the other two remaining ski slopes in the province?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, we have intentions to allow public participation with White Track. It has already gone to tender.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, White Track is a slope in North Battleford. Is that right? Do you not have a provincial slope in North Battleford?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: No, Mr. Chairman. That's Table Mountain, and that falls under the jurisdiction of a regional park. It wouldn't fall under our jurisdiction.

Mr. Thompson: Okay, so White Track is up for tender at the present time. Is it normal to issue tenders at this time of the lease to lease out a ski slope?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we've been preparing tender documents and examining the situation for the past two or three months with a view to having it ready in time for someone to tender successfully, take over the operation, and be prepared late fall for, perhaps, an early winter so they can get started in November.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. Mr. Minister, you're indicating that tenders have been closed now and could you indicate how many tenders that you have for White Track?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Tenders close August 17, so I wouldn't know yet, hon. member, how many we'll have.

Mr. Thompson: They close August 17; and when will you be making your decision as to who will be awarded that contract?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: That decision would be made as soon as possible after the closing of tenders, Mr. Chairman, to allow the successful proponent as long as possible to prepare for the winter.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, my final question on the ski slopes is then: it is in your plan then to privatize the complete provincially owned ski slopes?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: At this point, Mr. Chairman, we've had no discussion about Cypress at all. The other two, certainly we have. And as the hon. member's aware, we've moved on those. Cypress is nothing; there's no plan at the moment. I don't preclude that happening, however.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now want to turn to the provincial campsites that we have in this province. And, Mr. Minister, you have closed a number of those down last year. And you've now closed a number of them down this year. And you've also leased out a number of campsites. And what I'm going to be asking you and your officials is for some information as to the number of campsites that have been closed down, in what areas. And you may want to provide me with a list of the campsites and the areas that have been closed down.

I'm also going to be asking you to get some information on the fact that you have leased out to the private community, a number of these campsites. And I will be asking for the details.

I think, as I've indicated in the House before, Mr. Minister, that . . . Mr. Chairman, that the privatization and the closure of public campsites in Saskatchewan is a grave step backwards. I have many, many folks who have indicated to me during the last two years - and I speak of senior citizens groups, Mr. Chairman, who take bus trips throughout this province and, on an annual basis, use our provincial campsites.

And I can think of areas in the Dore Lake area and in the Big River area where individuals have complained to me. There's groups of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. There's many, many of our senior citizens who drive in this province and who use our campsites, now find that either they're closed down or they're privatized and they have to pay to use them.

And I think, Mr. Minister, that this is a situation that should not be tolerated in a province like Saskatchewan. We continually promote tourism. We try to get as many tourists in from other parts of Canada and the United States, and we want to encourage them to come into this province. But what we're doing by closing down campsites, historic campsites that have been in place, Mr. Chairman, for 30, 40 years, closed down or privatized . . .

And individuals who all of a sudden . . . they've used these facilities for a number of years, come in there late at night and they find that they're either closed or that they're privatized and new regulations and new fees. And I say to you, Mr. Minister, that this should come to a stop.

You continue to privatize. You're privatizing the golf courses. You're privatizing the ski slopes. You're giving everything to the private enterprise. And mainly you're giving it to out of province, to individual like Peter Pocklington from Edmonton, and Manalta Coal from Calgary. And this is continuing on.

(1530)

And I say to the Minister of Finance that this is serious. And that's why the Conservative government is down in the polls. And that's why the Conservative government, Mr. Chairman, is going to lose both the next federal election and the next provincial election in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Thompson: Because you're continuing to give away, and give things to the private enterprise. And as soon as you give it away to the private enterprise, then all of a sudden we lose the jobs.

The only thing they're concerned about, Mr. Chairman, is the economics in running our campsites, our slopes, and our golf courses. They all go on one thought, and that is economic - not for the public at large. They're not worried about that.

An Hon. Member: Don't forget the patronage, Fred.

Mr. Thompson: Yes, you bet, the patronage. And that's what's got you into this trouble. And I just say, and I say once again to the private members who occupy the back benches of the Conservative Party: when you travel

around this province and you go out to the sports days, I tell you, you must be getting an earful, because I know I'm sure getting it.

And especially when we're dealing with these campsites and they're privatized. And individuals who have to go out to use those campsites, and especially late at night when they drive in for . . . Lots of them have driven for 2, 300 miles that day, and have always used that particular campsite. They drive in there. The sun has gone down. And they're so sure that it's there. And it's gone. It's either closed down or there's a sign: privatized. Please come into the office. And this is what they have to do.

And just about every time, Mr. Chairman, when they go there, they find that the fees have increased. And a lot of them there was no fees. It was a service that we provided to the senior citizens and the Boys Scouts and the Girl Guides of this province. We provided that. And we should continue to provide it, not take and turn it over to the private enterprise.

An Hon. Member: Are you going to take them back, Fred?

Mr. Thompson: Well, I'll tell you, the Minister of Finance asks me if we're going to take them back. And I say to the Minister of Finance, within the next year you won't be sitting in that seat making the decisions; we will be over there. And you just mark my word - you must mark my work what's happening to the Tory party in this province and the rest of Canada.

An Hon. Member: Answer the question. Are you going to take them back, Fred?

Mr. Thompson: I just answered the question.

An Hon. Member: No, you didn't; you avoided it.

Mr. Thompson: We'll be making the decisions. I now want to turn to the minister. Mr. Minister, the Minister of Finance who continually chatters from his seat, and I . . .

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Order. Let's get onto the topic.

Mr. Thompson: I suggest that the former Liberal member is going to be taking a look at the Liberal Party again fairly closely now. I know he'd love to come and sit in our ranks, but we most certainly don't want him over here. And I tell you, that former Liberal has got you into a lot of problems. You allowed him to become the Finance Minister, and now he has just contributed . . . you saw what Liberals do; they're no different than Tories.

So I say to the Minister of Finance: we'll be making those decisions, and we'll be making them within the next year.

Mr. Minister, I wonder if you could indicate to this House how many public campsites you have closed down in the last two years, and how many public campsites you've planned to close down this year, and how many have been leased out to the private enterprise?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: A fairly wide-ranging conversation

taking place again, Mr. Chairman, demands a fairly lengthy response.

I wasn't aware that Peter Pocklington had bid on any campsites or any camp grounds within the province. I'm not aware of any that have gone out of province, and I'll make a list available to the member of the campsites which were tendered publicly as to who has them and who's operating them.

No camp grounds have been closed this year, and we have no plans to close any camp grounds. We certainly gave nothing away. Anybody who is operating a camp ground, or anybody who is operating anything else that was formerly operated by the government, pays us a fee for the privilege of doing so. So nothing has been given away . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . including the Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park.

In terms of fees which were mentioned, yes, our fees went up this year. And our fees are comparable with those across the country, because we didn't raise them in the last four years, and we don't plan to raise them again, barring unforeseen circumstances, in the next four years, Mr. Chairman. Our fees are comparable with what is being charged in other parks and other jurisdictions of this country . . . (inaudible interjection) . . .

I hear the former minister of Finance from the opposition over there talking about, does that make it right. Let me tell him that the camp grounds, the provincial parks in this province, operate around \$7 million a year; revenues are 2. That's a \$5 million shortfall. I believe, and the members on this side of the House believe, that every time we have an opportunity to save money for the taxpayers of the province, where we can improve the services within the parks, where we can provide a service that perhaps did not exist before, whether it be a water-slide or mini-golf or parasailing or hang-gliding, or other things the public have been asking for. If we can do that at no expense to the taxpayers of this province, then we have an obligation to do it. And if his . . .

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: And if his phone is ringing off the wall with people complaining about privatization initiatives within the parks, mine certainly isn't. And nor is my mail piling up on this subject, other than, of course, one or two SGEU (Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union) leadership-motivated, write-in campaigns, and they didn't really amount to very much either, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to answer one specific the hon. member asked. He asked about the operation of camp grounds in the province this year - how many were leased, tendered, and so on. For 1987, 23 camp grounds were offered for lease. Tenders were awarded and lessees are operating 17 of them. The department has opened the other six and is continuing to operate them. Eight provincial camp grounds were offered to local communities. Six communities accepted the offer. Two others did not accept the offer, and they are currently being tendered for lease. We are operating them in the meantime, during this year. And there were some specifics that I have on paper

that I would be prepared to send to the hon. member to save him taking notes on all of them.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Minister, and will you provide me then with a list of the campsites and the names of the individuals who have gotten leases from your department to take over the 17 publicly-owned campsites. You provide me with that information.

Also, Mr. Minister, I want to now turn to the campsite at Little Amyot Lake. And would you indicate who you have leased that to, and what type of an agreement that you have reached . . . your department has reached with that individual group at Little Amyot Lake.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Now, Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that Little Amyot Lake camp ground has been leased to an operator who has an adjacent camp ground, and if you can give me a couple of minutes, we'll dig up some details on the name for you, because I believe it's under a corporate name. And the other information you requested, I've asked for photocopies to be made. I'll pass that over to you.

Mr. Thompson: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Minister. I would like to indicate to you that the information that I have received from you - and I really fully don't understand this - is that the department has leased the Little Amyot Camp Ground for a five-year term. I would like to know what the terms of that lease are to Mr. Lavoie, Mr. Germaine, and Mr. Nicole. I don't really understand this. It's a corporate group as you indicate, but to me it almost looks like the Conservative membership in the community of Duval.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, we're trying to find the particular details on the Lavoie situation. My verbal understand back here is there is a Mrs. Lavoie who is an operator of an adjacent camp ground who took this thing over. There's been a policy in the past that there's an adjacent camp ground to a government camp ground, if you're interested in operating it, they operate it. I have no idea whatsoever of Mrs. Lavoie's political affiliation, if any.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister When you talk about the adjacent camp grounds at Little Amyot Lake, I suggest to you, Mr. Minister, that there's no such a thing as an adjacent camp grounds. I also . . . I drive by that camp ground every time I go home, and coming back. And most certainly there's no adjacent camp ground. if there is an adjacent camp ground, Mr. Minister, it would have been just constructed in the last few months.

For your information, the Lavoie - you talked about Mrs. Lavoie; she is the president of the Conservative party up in Athabasca. And I think that's something maybe you should . . . that you maybe should know. And I believe one of the other names may have been the official agent, I'm not sure.

But could you indicate, Mr. Minister, under the agreement that they have for the five years, what type of a lease agreement they have, how many they are going to be paying the Government of Saskatchewan, in particular

your department? And could you indicate if they are going to operate than on a 24-hour basis, or did you attach any regulations in the lease agreement that they have to maintain that? And are they able to charge individuals?

As you know, Mr. Minister, that particular camp ground was there for the citizens of this province, and there was no charge to anyone. I wonder if you could indicate if there are any conditions within that lease agreement that would indicate whether they have to . . . or have to charge, or is it going to be a free service that they're providing?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to track down the details on this particular situation. I don't have those ones in my head, and some of the officials are tracking down the paperwork right now. As soon as we have it, we would be pleased to make it available to the hon. member.

Mr. Solomon: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the minister some questions with respect to the provincial parks, some of the campsites and so on, along the lines of my colleague from Athabasca.

Mr. Minister, as you may or may not be aware, many people in this province view our parks as a natural resource that they have a right, and their families have a right, to visit and participate in and to take advantage of and to enjoy, since the 1930 federal Act which transferred the Crown lands to our province for safe keeping and for the purposes of enjoyment of our people.

What we have seen in the last little while, Mr. Minister, with respect to privatization of parks, is a government neglecting the responsibility of that Act of 1930, and instead of ensuring that these properties, these natural areas that are defined as provincial parks and campsites and golf courses and so on, rather than seeing them being enjoyed by a wider, wider number of people within our province, we're seeing this government being negligent in that responsibility, and in fact leasing that Crown land out - those properties - to private entrepreneurs, to deliver services which they will deliver on their own, on their own terms.

(1545)

And my questions, Mr. Minister, I'd like to commence with, relate specifically to some of the agreements that you've signed in the provincial parks. For example, I understand that the Kenosee Lake golf course - or the Moose Mountain Provincial Park golf course, whatever the name of it is - has been leased out. And I'd like to know what requirements and obligations of the lessees are with respect to maintaining and enhancing that property, and to ensuring that as many people as possible can participate in the golf course and its surroundings.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe I've already answered that question to the previous member who was questioning, and gave some details as to the lease and his obligations - the fact that he also has to put up a certain amount of capital for improvements to that park. There are some specific clauses within the agreement which he may be referring. I can dig them out

and we'll send them to him.

Mr. Solomon: Okay. You're saying, Mr. Minister, that you'll send me a copy, or you sent the member from Athabasca a copy?

An Hon. Member: I believe the member from Athabasca has some details on that.

Mr. Solomon: Okay, you have forwarded that information to the member from Athabasca. I'll have a look at it and get back to you on some of the questions.

What I'd like to know, Mr. Minister, is whether the department, or any of your officials, or anyone you have contracted with, undertook an economic forecast or some kind of study with respect to the privatization of parks and its facilities. I'd like to know whether you have undertaken those studies to date?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, if I may get some clarification from the hon. member. He's talking about an economic forecast. Could you maybe clarify what you meant by that. Do you mean a project revenue/expenditure for parks, or . . .

Mr. Solomon: What I'm asking for, Mr. Minister, is: I'd like to know what information you and your officials used to make your decision with regard to privatizing some of the campsites, privatizing some of the golf courses and other elements within our parks?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Well, Mr. Chairman, I've a better idea what the member was meaning now. I'd like to tell him that the campgrounds alone were losing \$855,000 a year, as an example. We knew that. We know that Blackstrap ski hill just south of Saskatoon would lose anywhere from 150 to \$200,000 a year; the White Track ski hill operates with a deficit of about \$100,000 a year.

So on the one hand, Mr. Chairman, we have all of these losses in services that we are providing. And we said: is there a way that we can provide the same service or better at a reduced cost to the taxpayers? Or are we going to continue to operate, let's say, the \$7 million provincial park scenario - where the revenue is 2 and the outlay is 7 - with a \$5 million shortfall borne by all of the taxpayers, or are there ways of narrowing those figures together? That's on the one side.

On the other side we said: is there a way that we can improve the facilities in the parks and put in facilities that perhaps we wouldn't do because maybe we don't want to justify a \$2 million water slide at Kenosee. The public like it. We know that from the volume of traffic that's going through there. But in all conscience, as minister of this department, could I say I'm going to justify \$2 million of expenditures in there.

So I think the answer to the hon. member's question is twofold. On the one hand we were looking to save money without giving up service; and secondly, we were looking to ways to improve services within parks. I think the golf course at Kenosee is a case in point. Had we continued to operate it as it is, we would not have made the improvements that have been made. The proponents

have put a \$1 million-10,000 square foot clubhouse. They've completed the irrigation down there at their expense and installed a driving range. We would not have been doing these things had we continued to operate it.

Mr. Solomon: Well, Mr. Minister, you're not giving me the information that I am looking for. What I'm looking for is not your definition of "losing," and I'd sure like to have your clear definition on losing. You say this certain area has lost a fair amount of money. Does the minister believe that parks and recreation and other facilities that we, or you as a government hold in trust for the benefit of the citizens of this province, that they should be money making. Or how do you define "losing," whether they are costing us a few dollars to operate so that the vast majority can use them at a reasonable cost, or do you believe in farming them out to private operators who will, therefore, because of increased costs, limit access to these facilities because of increased prices to those people that these lands and facilities were put together for their benefit.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, and hon. member, I don't think there can be any question about the commitment of this government to the provincial parks system. I'd remind the hon. member that last year it was this government, the members of the Progressive Conservative government sitting on this side of the House, who brought in a new Parks Act that virtually doubled the amount of park land in this province, and the party he represents had a number of years to do the same thing - 11 years in one stretch alone - and they chose not to do that.

So I don't see how he can be somehow critical of us as being negligent and looking after the interests of the public of Saskatchewan by supplying them with adequate recreational opportunities. We're doing that and more.

And I'd be prepared to provide for that hon. member the number of new electrified campsites that we've put in since we've been in office; the amount of capital we've put into all of the parks since we've been in office. And together with all of the other initiatives, one of which, only one of which is public participation within the parks systems - whether it be to run a water slide, to run a golf course, to run a store - as long as the service is being provided, and in most cases an improved service, I may say, Mr. Chairman, at less cost to the taxpayers' of Saskatchewan. That is fiscal responsibility, in my view, and it also plays an important part in our economic diversification program for the province.

If you look at the numbers of tourists and the number of visitors to the parks, we are as busy as we have been in the past. There has been a trend in the last number of years for parks to be going down in attendance, partially - last year was a case in point - partially affected by Expo and fewer internal tourists within the province as they were going to Expo, and partly because of inclement weather, particularly one month of the year, and many weekends, attendance was down. That has been general across the country, and certainly is not unique to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Solomon: I was going to get to that question, but since you're there already, Mr. Minister, since the

increase in park fees have been forced upon the residents of this province, can you tell this Assembly what the difference in terms of revenues are from this year, your latest number, as compared to a similar period last year; and secondly, can you tell us whether the numbers of visitors to these parks have increased this year over last year as well?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, and hon. member, we anticipate increased revenue this year in the order of \$2 million. The numbers we have at present, and naturally they're not finalized, of people coming through the park system would lead us to believe that that target figure will be achieved.

Mr. Solomon: You indicated that a \$2 million increase is what you project to be, in terms of revenues to the treasury. Is that from the contracts that you signed with the private operators? Or is that the fees into the parks specifically, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, hon. member, not the consolidated fund, the commercial revolving fund of the department, and includes both to which you referred - fees and private.

Mr. Solomon: So it's a \$2 million increase in revenues. I'd like to as the minister now: what does that mean in terms of a net loss or a net profit, as you were talking about earlier? You talked about, before the privatization of some of these facilities, there was losses, as you defined them. And I'd like to know now, since the privatization, how much dollars difference there is - (a); and (b), answer the second part of my other question. With the increase in the number of dollars coming in, are we seeing more people visit these parks, or are we seeing less over last year?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: To use the member's phrase of profit/loss - and I'll come back to that in a moment - we predict a net loss on the operation of \$2.6 million for this year. In terms of the numbers, we won't know that for some time as they're not tabulated on a daily basis and forwarded to me; they're tabulated on a monthly basis and forwarded to the department. So we don't have those numbers right now.

And, no, I don't believe that we operate the parks system purely looking at the bottom line, and saying, what is the profit/loss situation. I think we're going to be operating the parks in a manner that is fiscally responsible, providing the best possible level of service to the people of this province with the least possible burden on the taxpayers. That's what we're aiming for.

And do I ever think the parks will break even? No, I really don't believe they will.

Mr. Solomon: The objective of the minister's department, as I indicated earlier, is not to make a profit. And he's illustrated that very clearly with the numbers he's given to us today. I'd like to ask the minister now whether he can get from his officials those numbers. In terms of visitors to our parks, that are supplied to his officials on a monthly basis. And if so, could I have them today, or when?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry to say to the hon. member, I won't be able to get that information to you for some time. Officials are advising me that the way it is tabulated is not by head count, it's by vehicle count into the park. And we usually don't get it all tabulated until towards the end of the season, till the fall. So I wouldn't have that information.

What I do have is the last couple of years. The numbers are by park. I don't know if that's of any interest to you. It would certainly give you something to compare with when the final numbers are in. If you'd like something like that, we'd certainly make that available to you. We can also give you some idea of across the country comparisons of how it's been going over the last couple years.

Mr. Solomon: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is it possible to provide . . . I'll accept the information as soon as you can provide it to us.

I would also like to obtain from you, Mr. Minister, so that we can see very clearly the impact of these increased fees, a number . . . what the number is in your department of annual passes sold this year as compared to the previous year or two; and also the average, what the daily fees are, or either a monthly basis or an annual basis, as quickly as you can provide them to us, with the latest documentation in comparison of, say, last year, for example.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry we're not going to have the information for this year's park numbers until the season's over. I'm advised that we have two or three difficulties. The system itself is hand generated - it's not computerized. It goes through several branches, including administration, for tabulation. I'm sorry, I just can't give you that number.

I know what you'd like to see, and I share your concern. I'd like to see the same thing. With the increased fees are we, in fact, going to experience a drop in the numbers attending the parks? I should point out that about 65 per cent of the people using the parks are Saskatchewanians. So it's internally generated. As soon as I have that information I'll get it to you. I can undertake to send it to you, but it won't be till fall. I'm sorry, but we'll all be interested in the comparisons.

(1600)

Mr. Solomon: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Hopefully, we'll be done estimates of your department by October or November, so you'll have an opportunity to give them to us. But we're not quite sure - maybe January.

You indicated, Mr. Minister, that according to your officials' calculations that there will be a loss somewhere in the vicinity of \$2.6 million. What I'd like to ask you now is: with the forecast that you did, which you used, hopefully - we're assuming this because no business or government should do this without proper forecast - with the forecast that you used, could you let us know what the comparative figure would have been if you didn't privatize these operations.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Last year, I believe I indicated earlier, Mr. Chairman, the losses were about \$5 million. This year with changes about 2.6.

Mr. Solomon: Was the difference in the figures attributable to one or two major programs or program changes or events, and if so, what were they?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, the numbers I'm looking at come out . . . with increased revenue accruing to us will be approximately 2 million. And we will be decreasing expenditures 1.5 million. But we have to deduct from the increase in revenue some capital outlay and some expenses that we're putting back in.

Mr. Solomon: So you're saying that because of the decline . . . Or I should say, the reason for the decline and the loss is not . . . cannot be attributed (a) to more efficient government or more efficient running of the parks system; but perhaps, (b) to the fact there are fewer employees being employed; and (c) that there is less capital expenditure in the parks that has been undertaken in previous. Would that be close to being correct, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: What I think is a combination of fact is, one, we are being more efficient in what we're doing. Certainly we're more efficient because our expenditures are down. Some of the expenditures are things that are being taken up and losses that are absorbed by the private sector. They have also put in some 6, oh, closer to \$7 million worth of capital expenditures into our parks that we don't have to do.

Mr. Lyons: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to take up some of the comments, and I notice with some interest some of the comments of the Minister of Parks, Recreation and Culture in this regard. And the last comment in particular is somewhat puzzling. He said that the private sector was going to take up some of the losses and this accounted for the increase in efficiency for the government. Can you tell us, Mr. Minister, where it is and in what particular parks, and what particular enterprises are going to take up those losses and in which way those losses are proportioned, please?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: I'd advise the hon. member I already sent some information over in that regard. For instance, we were losing \$855,000 in camp grounds alone. There are some other factors that I'd already mentioned earlier to a couple of the other members.

Mr. Lyons: Well that wasn't my question, Mr. Minister. You made a statement here just not more than two minutes ago, that private sector operators who are going to be operating the camp grounds and parks would be taking up the losses. I wonder, would you hand across the list of those operators of camp grounds and parks and the lessees of the park system and the extent of the losses that your department projects that each of these operators will incur?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: A somewhat convoluted economic statement I just heard from the member. They're not absorbing our losses. What we're doing is

saying we are cutting ours because we are not going to operate some of the things that have been losing up to \$855,000 a year. Someone else can run it, and if they can run it more efficiently and make a dollar at it, good luck to them.

And that includes the Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park which is going to lose \$250,000 this year of taxpayers' money. If somebody else can operate it and run it and break even, good luck to them. If they can make money, so much the better.

I would remind the member of the NDP, as they should well remember from their years in office: gentlemen, it doesn't take brains to lose money.

Mr. Lyons: Well, Mr. Minister, you can ask the member for Qu'Appelle-Lumsden; you could ask the member from Estevan, who once said that you could drive this province into a mud-hole and still make a profit at it - you didn't need any brains. I'm sure the members . . . When the Minister of Parks says that, he's certainly passing along the wisdom from those who sit on the other side.

Because the point is, Mr. Chairman, that the minister and this his government has not proved to anybody that they can operate anything efficiently, and does not answer . . . in fact is begging the question that was originally putting to them. You said, sir, that the private sector was going to take up the losses. You said that your government was more efficient because you were going to pass the losses along to the private sector. In order for you to make those kinds of statements you must have done some kind of economic analysis, some cost-benefit analysis, as to how that was going to occur.

The question is, Mr. Minister: have you done a cost-benefit analysis for each of the camp grounds and parks that you have leased out or sold to the private sector?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I didn't say we're passing losses to anybody. I said we're cutting our losses and letting someone else run the operation. If they can do it better, more efficient than government can do it - and heavens knows, there seems to be lots of instances where it can be done more efficiently when the government isn't involved - then good luck to them. Let them do it.

We know, park by park; we know, camp ground by camp ground, what we would be losing if we operated it. All we're saying is if we don't operate it we're not incurring a loss on it. If someone else operates it, good luck to them. I wish them well. I hope they make money doing it.

Mr. Lyons: Mr. Minister, you're begging the question. I asked you a direct question. Have you or your department carried out a cost-benefit analysis in terms of privatizing each of the camp grounds and parks? If so, is it for each of the camp grounds and parks so privatized; or in fact have you done one overall study; or precisely what kind of studies did your department do to making the decision that you've made?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: I believe, Mr. Chairman, we have

done a cost-benefit analysis because we have examined every facet of public expenditure that takes place within this department. We don't say it's the most parsimonious facet of public expenditure by any means, but we're trying to make it one of the more responsible facets of public expenditure.

Mr. Lyons: Mr. Minister, will you table that cost-benefit analysis that you've done in regards to your decision to privatize the parks and camp grounds?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: No, Mr. Chairman, I won't be tabling that particular piece of information for the hon. member. He can add it up as is provided.

Mr. Lyons: Well, Mr. Minister, can you provide me the title for that document you're referring to?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, there is no formalized title on a study that would be nice and simple for the members to sit down and examine. What we have is a cost-benefit analysis, to use his term, for all of the things we operate as a department. That's what we have.

Mr. Lyons: So, Mr. Minister, I'm to presume then, from your statement, that you have not done a cost-benefit analysis or any other type of study which would project that, in fact, it is more efficient and it is more cost-effective to privatize parks. Is that what you're saying when you say that there is no such document?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Well, Mr. Chairman, I suppose we could go around in circles on this for ever. I've pointed out already: we know what we would lose on operating each camp ground; we know what we lose on operating accommodations in various other facilities within parks or, indeed, ski hills or golf courses or anything else; we know what they lose; we know what they're costing the taxpayers of this province.

Ideologically, the member opposite feels that the government should control and run and own everything. I don't happen to feel that way. We will own the parks, yes. There's no park for sale - ever - completely excluded by the Parks Act that that could ever happen. Yes, we're prepared to lease various operations within the parks to members of the public, provided they can run it efficiently, provided they make improvements to it.

Mr. Lyons: Mr. Chairman, here we have the kind of example of government efficiency, so-called, practised by the government of the Conservatives opposite.

The minister stands here, one minute saying that they've done a cost-benefit analysis of the parks; the next minute admits that no such cost-benefit analysis exists in documented form, and tries to convince people in Saskatchewan that he's made a decision to privatize the parks on the basis of efficiency and cost-effectiveness when he hasn't done any work to prove it; when he, in fact, himself stands here in this House and says that his department or himself does not have the documentation and the figures to back it up. Because their . . .

The point is, Mr. Chairman, that the minister is admitting to this House now, contrary to what he just said five

minutes ago, that they didn't do a cost-benefit analysis for each of the camp grounds and for the leasing of the park, and that he doesn't have anything in black and white which will prove that it's more effective in the short term, medium term, or long term to privatize the parks which belong to the people of this Saskatchewan, and to privatize the camp grounds utilized by the people of this province and tourists; that he doesn't have that kind of cost-benefit analysis.

Now which side does he take in this, Mr. Chairman? Do you have, Mr. Minister, do you have a cost-benefit analysis of each of the camp grounds that you are selling off? And do you have a cost-benefit analysis that made you make the decision to lease out operations in the provincial parks? Did you, or any of your department, or did any consulting firm, or did anybody provide you with that kind of information? Or do you do . . . did you do exactly what your Minister of Finance do - pull figures out of the top of your head and say that this is reality, when in fact you didn't do your homework?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member's playing fast and loose with words here. And I didn't say we'd privatize parks. And I already indicated to him, and I know he has difficulty understanding it, coming from where he does as an ideological stance, and as a loose cannon within his own party and out of control. I know that he would get up and rant and rave on this particular subject; uninhibited by fact, unencumbered by knowledge. So I'm glad he got into the debate. I have already explained to him: we have studied project by project, cost by cost, where we lose money, where we can stop losing money, where we can allow someone from the private sector to operate a facility. And if they can operate it, break even, or make money, good luck to them.

Mr. Lyons: Well, Mr. Chairman, may I just say that this is one loose cannon that seems to have struck a broadside in terms of the kind of operations of the department of the minister, when in fact - when in fact the minister one minute stands here and makes a statement that he has done some work in this area, and then . . . and five minutes later has to admit before the House that he didn't do the work, and that they didn't do the homework on that basis.

And we want to talk ideology; we want to talk ideology, Mr. Chairman. Here we have a minister . . . here we have a minister following in the footsteps of, following in the footsteps of the political hero, Margaret Thatcher, out to sell off - as the minister, as the member from Athabasca has proved in his line of questioning - out to sell off the resources of the Saskatchewan people, and he's out to sell it off under the basis of privatization without having done the economic homework which would justify that. And that's a statement that he himself has made. That is a statement that he himself has made.

Earlier on, Mr. Chairman, the minister made a statement that rates in the provincial parks and camp grounds in Saskatchewan were comparable to those of anywhere else in Canada. I wonder if the minister would be prepared to tell us the rate charged to senior citizens here in Saskatchewan versus the rates charged to

citizens in Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: The rates on what?

Mr. Lyons: Would you tell us, Mr. Minister, the rates of - the rates of camp grounds?

(1615)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: We'll have to look for that information and bring it back to you. Be happy to do so.

Mr. Solomon: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. The minister has indicated that the department has undertaken some study of some nature, whether it's a cost-benefit analysis, or whether it's a cash flow projection, or whether it's a study by another name. Could the minister at least tell us who was contracted, or who was asked to undertake the study on your behalf?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I can say that was done in-house. It was done by staff of the department.

Mr. Anguish: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the minister, then, since he's studied all these so very closely, as to how many greens fees payers there were at The Battlefords Park provincial golf course last year; and how many memberships were sold at The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course last year?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I don't have that information right at hand, but we can find it and undertake to send it to the member.

Mr. Anguish: Well, why don't you have your studies here? If you've studied all these things so intricately, why don't you have that information here? We don't believe that you've studied anything. We believe you've sat down with some people and drawn up plans on the back of a cigarette package and divvied up the pie to your Tory friends. That's what you've done. You haven't done any cost-benefit analysis. If you had that cost-benefit analysis done . . . you said you had the information for every camp ground, and every golf course, and every facility, but where are they?

You got here with you this afternoon: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten officials from the department, and you can't tell us this intricate information that we ask that you say you've studied so much in detail? You can't tell us how many greens fee payers there were at The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course last year. Is that what you're saying, you can't tell us that today?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess we can pull some of that information together that the heated member is looking for. We'd have to upgrade the number of accountants in the department if we're going to have to do all of the things he suggests.

And if I may say, Mr. Chairman, I do take exception - and I've noticed it happened once or twice before in estimates - I do take exception when members opposite do criticize individual, loyal public servants who also worked for the previous government of this province.

Mr. Anguish: We want to say that no one is criticizing your public employees. All I'm trying to point out . . .

Mr. Chairman: Order. Order, please.

Mr. Anguish: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly don't want to have you misconstrue what's being said from this side of the House. No one's criticizing your employees. What we're saying is that you said you had all this information. You got ten people from the department here, and you can't provide a simple piece of information that you just told us you have studied very intricately. If you've got the information so intricately, and you've studied all these plans for privatization of the parks, get somebody on the telephone. Your assistants are in the gallery. And get that information before we adjourn for supper here this evening. You've got 40 minutes to do that. Get the information here.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Anguish: Maybe a little broader question, so we can get to see how much information that you've brought with us . . . or with you to the estimates. Tell us how much money the provincial golf course at The Battlefords' provincial park lost last year. Did it lose money? Or did it make a profit on the golf course?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: We'd be pleased to look up the information relative to The Battlefords' provincial golf course and get it over a ten-year period, or longer if you prefer, and we'll send that information over to you.

Mr. Anguish: We don't want you to send the information. Just get the information here today. Get your assistant who's sitting up there in the gallery to get on the phone, or else go to your office and look through these intricate studies that you've done for cost-benefit analysis, and get the information here. Otherwise, get out of estimates, get out of estimates . . . and why are you screwing your head like that over there? What does that mean? Is that a secret sign to your staff up in the gallery? You don't have the information, so why don't you clear out and get out of estimates until you can answer the question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Anguish: You don't have the information. You don't have the information. Just so we stick on something you'd be familiar with, the closest provincial park to your own home constituency. We'll stick with The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course for a while. Could you tell us: last year, who had the contract to lease golf carts out in The Battlefords Provincial Park and what the agreement was between the provincial government and whoever leased the golf carts at the golf course?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, hon. member, last year it was held by Valley West Sales Ltd., and they gave 25 per cent of total gross revenue to the department, for the information of the hon. member who isn't aware apparently that in debate heat is inversely proportional to knowledge.

Mr. Anguish: Well thank you very much for your wisdom. I don't want you to instil any of your wisdom in me because we expect to put a good government into place in the province of Saskatchewan, and we don't need your off-lip criticism on this side of the House.

Could you tell us then, at 25 per cent of gross revenue, how much did Valley West Yamaha pay to the provincial government last year on the lease of golf carts in The Battlefords Provincial Park?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, we don't have the dollar figure in this document, but we could fine it, probably before 5 o'clock.

Mr. Anguish: Well you're certainly going to have to provide a lot of information before 5 o'clock because you don't seem to have much.

Could one of your officials or you, Mr. Minister, remember whether or not the figure that Valley West Yamaha provided last year was over \$10,000, or was it under \$10,000?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: We'll find that figure for you and give it to you.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Minister, in terms of leasing out golf carts at other provincial parks around the province, and I would first ask you: is in fact the golf cart rentals at the one, two, three, four, five, six provincial park golf courses that you mention - are they all . . . all the rentals leased out to private operators?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I can tell the hon. member that all six are leased privately.

Mr. Anguish: Could you tell us at this point in time, Mr. Minister, if the share on the agreement for leasing golf carts at all those provincial park golf-courses is not, in fact, 25 per cent of gross revenue to the provincial government?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: No, Mr. Chairman, it is tendered, and the proponents put in whatever bid they want to put in.

Mr. Anguish: Well could you tell us, then, the fact by each of those provincial golf-courses. You seem to have the one for last year at The Battleford's Provincial Park. Could you also tell us for the other golf-courses, the other five golf-courses, what is the share that comes from the golf cart rentals to the provincial government?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that we don't have every individual lease with us. But we'll certainly undertake to bring in all the individual leases and give the details to the member on all of the other ones.

Mr. Anguish: Would you give us . . . Did you just say to us that you would give us the details on all the golf cart rentals in the province . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . On the six. Well I appreciate that you would have that here for us before 5 o'clock today as well. It's certainly information that's pertinent to these estimates.

How long is the lease for golf cart rentals made? Is it one year at each of the provincial golf-courses with an option for renewal, or is it one a one-year lease? Is it tendered, in fact, every year at each of the provincial park golf-courses?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that leases granted at different golf courses vary because, in some instances, golf courses themselves have been leased. So the rental is different. Normally it would be leased every year, in other cases.

Mr. Anguish: Well, if I could be more specific, Mr. Minister. We'll go through them one by one.

Could you tell me, in terms of The Battlefords provincial park golf course, how long Valley West Yamaha had the contract to lease golf carts - the rental golf carts? And was that a long-term lease, or did they have to bid on the contract each year? Could you give me the particulars of Valley West Yamaha's tenure as having the golf cart rental concession?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that in the past, when the department itself was operating the golf course and took responsibility for that, they would, at that time, give a five-year lease on the rental operation. When the decision was made to explore the possibility of leasing the entire golf course operation as the five-year leases expired, thereafter we entered only one-year leases, tendering each year.

Mr. Anguish: So then I would have to assume, by what you've told me, that Valley West Yamaha were successful in their bid in 1981, starting effective the 1981 golf season, and they had the rental carts at The Battlefords park provincial golf course for a period of five years which expired at the end of the 1986 golf season. Is that correct?

(1630)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Yes.

Mr. Anguish: And further, that you have told me that their contract was to pay 25 per cent of gross rental revenues to the provincial government. Is that correct, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: You said Valley View's bid was 25 per cent this past tender, the immediate past tender?

Mr. Anguish: My question, Mr. Minister, is that during the term that Valley West Yamaha had the contract to rent golf carts at The Battlefords provincial golf course, from 1981 until 1986 at the end of the golfing season, did they pay 25 per cent of gross rentals to the provincial government?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Yes, I'm advised that in that five-year period the bid was 25 per cent for the five years.

Mr. Anguish: Do you yet, Mr. Minister, know how much then in the 1986 golfing season was paid by Valley West Yamaha to the provincial government on the basis of 25 per cent of gross rental revenue?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that in a dollar figure yet, but we're going to have it for you.

Mr. Anguish: I thank you very much. Now, Mr. Minister, these contracts . . . have at any time access to the public . . . the public has access to these contracts?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, these things are tendered publicly. They come in and then they're open tenders.

Mr. Anguish: So the tender is put in . . . I would assume then there's a contract signed between the successful bidder and the province of Saskatchewan or your department. Is the contract that's signed open information to the public?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, hon. member, on the bidding process they come in, opened publicly; everybody present knows exactly what the bids were. When a contract is drawn up between the operations division of the department and the successful proponent, they sign the contract. The contract has not normally been published any place or made available to the public.

Mr. Anguish: Who would have access to knowledge of those contracts that are actually signed between the province of Saskatchewan and the successful bidders on a tender such as rental of golf carts at golf courses?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, in answer: I imagine anybody who is present when the tenders are opened knows exactly what the bids were and who the successful bidder is.

And I'll answer the other question you asked me. Last year, remitted to the department by the company who had the golf carts was \$8,878.

Mr. Anguish: Well, what was the actual date then . . . Let's stick with . . . I want to go on to these other golf courses, but we'll stick with The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course for a while.

What was the date that the contract with Valley West Yamaha expired, and what was the date when the tenders were called for for a new contract to rent golf carts at The Battlefords provincial golf course?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Now Mr. Chairman, the least agreement for the provision of motorized golf carts at Battlefords Provincial Park and Moose Mountain and Duck Mountain expired October 31, 1986. March 4 to April 6 the department tendered publicly for the provision of motorized golf carts at Battlefords and Duck Mountain provincial parks. Lessee at Moose Mountain Provincial Park made its own provision for the '87 operations. April 16, '87, tenders awarded to The Battlefords, Upshot Enterprises Ltd.; at Duck Mountain, Allow Me Enterprises, the winner.

Mr. Anguish: So on April 16, then, Upshot Enterprises were the successful bidders. Then was there a contract

drawn up, Mr. Minister, between Upshot Enterprises and the province of Saskatchewan? That's what I want to get at the contract.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Yes, subsequent to that the contract was drawn up.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Minister, are you going to . . . If I understood you correctly, you're going to table those contracts in this legislature so that we have access to those contracts. Is that correct, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: No, Mr. Chairman, not the contracts, which are not public knowledge. The tenders.

Mr. Anguish: The contracts aren't public knowledge. Now could you tell me, Mr. Minister, would a cabinet minister have access to that information? The public doesn't. But those contracts . . . Would a member of the Executive Council not have information or access to information about the contracts drawn up between the province of Saskatchewan and a private entrepreneur?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I never saw the contracts, and I don't sign them. Nor have I asked to see them.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Minister, would a member of the Executive Council of the province of Saskatchewan have access to such contracts?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, I have access to contracts if I want to see them.

Mr. Anguish: Well, it seems very strange to me, Mr. Minister, the whole process by which you let some of these contracts out. Could you tell me who the principals are of Upshot Enterprises, the successful bidders on the golf carts at The Battlefords Provincial Park? Could you tell me who the principals are, please?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: I'll certainly say who the principals are. But first I'd like to say that the process hasn't changed one iota since the party opposite had formed government previously. So there's nothing untoward in this whatsoever.

Now, let me tell you who the principals are: Upshot Enterprises Ltd., Myles Morin and Regan Hamilton.

Mr. Anguish: Well, my goodness! Well, I would take it this is the same Myles Morin that was a member of the Executive Council in the province of Saskatchewan, former minister of Supply and Services. And you told me in this House under question period, Mr. Minister, that the reason that that bid was successful for the rental carts at The Battlefords provincial park was because Upshot Enterprises bid 27.5 per cent. It's interesting it would be two and one-half per cent higher - just higher - and to guarantee just a little bit more than what the revenue that was came in last year. It was a \$10,000 guarantee. Is that the only basis on which you awarded Upshot Enterprises the contract for rental carts in The Battlefords Provincial Park? The 27.5 per cent and the \$10,000 guarantee - are those the only reasons?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, not only was it a superior bid in terms of economics, but the details were better as well - newer equipment, and the maintenance schedule that Upshot offered was daily. The other proponent offered it weekly. All in all, it was a superior bid. The department advised to go with the best bid. We did.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Minister, who does the servicing of the carts that Upshot Enterprises currently has at The Battlefords park provincial golf course? Is it park employees that do the servicing, or is it someone from Upshot Enterprises that does the servicing? Could you tell us that please.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, Upshot is responsible for the maintenance. They can hire whomever they please.

Mr. Anguish: Can you tell us, Mr. Minister, if an employee of the park does the servicing on the golf carts at The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I don't know who does it. Upshot's responsible for it. Certainly I can direct officials to contact Upshot and find out who's doing their maintenance on their golf carts.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Minister, I would appreciate if you would tell us that information because my information is, it's a park employee. And if it's a park employee that's doing the servicing on a private entrepreneur's golf carts at the golf course, I would hope that they're paying the province of Saskatchewan something for that service.

The other thing that I'd like to go back on, on this particular contract, Mr. Minister, is the fact that when Valley West Yamaha - if you could listen to this because it might go over your head - Valley West Yamaha tendered in their contract that they would provide 30 new golf carts to The Battlefords Provincial Park.

Now it's a great difference in terms of providing used golf carts which require more maintenance, which I believe your park employee is doing, or if you're tendering on new golf carts and the golf carts at Valley West Yamaha tendered on were new golf carts. Can you tell us if the bid that came in from Upshot Enterprises was for new golf carts at The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, hon. member, I have the number you asked for earlier on golfers. I'll give them to you after I answer your question on the tender document. Fair enough . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . You'll never read the writing on this one.

An Hon. Member: Read it into the record, then.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Okay. This is the Upshot Enterprises' tender document. it says:

25 new four-wheel, four-cycle gas powered golf carts, as well as a complete line of parts to service the vehicles - minor and major repairs.

In addition, provide 26 golf carts to ensure that a

full fleet of 25 will always be in operation while servicing is being performed, subject to availability and time for implementation either Melex, Club car, or Yamaha brand names; a full fleet of 25 for the term of May 1, '87, October 31, '87.

You asked for that information? And did you ask for the comparison?

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell:

Service shop, trailer to transport cars, if major work needed; 15 new 1986 Yamaha four-stroke cars; 10 new '87 four-strokes or good used two-stroke Yamaha; 300-gallon fuel tank on stand; 15 new Yamaha four-stroke cars, plus 10 1987 four-stroke cars or good used two-stroke (Yamaha) . . .

Service technicians to perform servicing weekly on cars.

Mr. Anguish: You're reading from the bid that was placed by Upshot Enterprises. Is that correct, Mr. Minister? You indicate, yes . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . The second one was Valley West Yamaha. They indicated then, from what you read, that they would provide a fleet of new Yamahas, is that correct?

Well, Mr. Minister, could you send those documents across here? Would you table those documents so we can have a look at those bids that came in on the tender? You said that they're public information. I'd appreciate that you send a copy across to us on this side of the House.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, these are my briefing notes with my scrawls and notes on them. These are not a public document.

Mr. Anguish: You've referred to them. You should table those documents here. I would like to see the tender documents - the bids that were placed from Valley West Yamaha and Upshot Enterprises. Will you, in fact, provide us with those bids?

You said they're public information. They're open in public. Will you provide us with a copy of the bids that came in from those two companies that bid on the golf cart rentals at The Battlefords Provincial Park.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: We will provide all of the information that's in the bids to the hon. member.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Minister, what I asked you is if you would give us a copy of the original bids that came in from Valley West Yamaha and Upshot Enterprises for the rental of carts at The Battlefords park provincial gold course.

(1645)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I think I've given all of that information already. I gave it in question period. I gave it again today, and it's completely accurate.

Mr. Anguish: You have not given the information. You said the documents were public documents. Why do you refuse . . . What have you got to cover up that you won't even place, in this House, the bid documents that came from Valley West Yamaha and Upshot Enterprises? What are you trying to cover up on that you won't give us those public documents?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I have absolutely nothing to cover up. I have given the details of the two bids. Really, one bid was totally superior to the other; that's the one that was awarded the contract.

Mr. Anguish: You've given us, Mr. Minister, your version. I think that you owe this province and the people on this side of the House those documents so we can make our own assessment as to whether or not there was fairness in the tendering process at The Battlefords park provincial golf course.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, all of the information given has been completely accurate.

Mr. Anguish: Not complete, prove it. Lay the documents before us in this House. I would like to - I just have a couple of other brief questions here. Could you tell us the share to the provincial government from golf cart rentals at the Duck Mountain golf course?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, the Duck Mountain provincial park motorized golf cart operation, we expect to realize \$9,600.

Mr. Anguish: What I asked you, Mr. Minister, was: on the contract that you have with the person who has the concession to rent golf carts, what's the percentage that that operator pays the Government of Saskatchewan? Is it 27.5 per cent? Or is it 25 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, we don't have the percentage on that particular briefing note, but we'll find it and give it to the member.

Mr. Anguish: What did you bring with you? Well, bring it with you when you get all the information on all the concessions that are rented out in the provincial park golf courses? And I'd suggest to you that next time you come back here, unless you pull estimates for your department this evening at 7 o'clock, come back with some information. Come back with some information. You don't want to give us any of the information that we're asking, or if you do want to give it to us, you certainly aren't prepared for it.

We have a responsibility to the people of Saskatchewan to make sure that tendering practices in this province are fair and without favouritism. We want to make that determination. Why would we want to take your word for it? Table the documents. Will you table the bids that came in on tenders for provincial park government concessions over the past year? Will you table those in this legislature?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, all of the information that has been given is completely accurate. I won't be tendering to that member the documents to which he's referring.

Mr. Anguish: The Government of Saskatchewan has every . . . The people of the province of Saskatchewan have every right to the access to that information.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Anguish: Every right to it! What are you trying to cover up?

Public documents, you said earlier that you would table those in this legislature, and if you check the record that comes up from *Hansard*, you said you'd table them. Now you say you won't table them. What do you have to cover up that you will not give that information to this Assembly?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, I, and the members over here, have absolutely nothing to cover up.

And all of the details contained in those documents, which the hon. member has said, public documents. If he was so concerned, he could have been present at the opening of the bids, as were many other people. When they were public documents, he could have seen them with his own two eyes. And then he wouldn't have to rise in here and do this lead-up, with these scurrilous allegations to which he will ultimately get, and with all the innuendo.

And all I'm going to say to him is, when he wants to cast aspersions on the character of a former member of this House who was awarded a contract, all fair, square, and above-board; when he want to make allegations; when he wants to do it, I invite him to do it outside of the Chamber, not in here where he enjoys immunity from prosecution for the type of allegations he will make on the floor of this House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Anguish: I don't know whether "snivelling rat" is unparliamentary or not, but there are no aspersions made. You table the documents in this House. We'll the make the assessment of them. And if there are statements to be made outside of this Assembly, we'll make them. But show us the documents. I wasn't at all of the opening of bids. How could you reasonably expect any member of this Assembly to travel around from bid to bid and watch the opening of the bids?

They're public documents, the public has the right to know, and you table those documents in this House. How can you not release those to the people of the province of Saskatchewan? Release those documents.

If there is information in there, we'll do our assessment of them, and then there will be allegations made outside this House if they're warranted. But you have to give the information, you've got to be accountable, and you're not accountable!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Mr. Chairman, we've heard the member from Battlefords rant and rave at some length in here. And he says that he wasn't capable physically to get around the province and visit every tender opening.

I thought he was a member for Battlefords. I thought he had a vested interested in what was happening in Battlefords park. And he knew the bids were being opened. He knew the date they'd be open, but he wasn't . . .

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Order, please. The minister is trying to answer the question. Would you please accommodate him. The minister has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: Thank you. Now, Mr. Chairman, it strikes me that the MLA for The Battlefords, if there's something worrying him, if there's something worrying him about this bid or this tender, it went public. And it was available to anybody to go in and look and examine and see what was being done.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. Could we have order, please. I would ask the House's indulgence to let the minister complete answering his question, which he has not done so far.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Chairman, I move, seconded by the hon. member from Regina Rosemont:

That the minister table copies of all original tender bids with respect to the awarding of contracts in provincial park golf courses.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Chairman: The member from The Battlefords has moved a motion. Order, please. Order, please. The member from The Battlefords has moved the motion:

That the minister table copies of all original tender bids with respect to the awarding of contracts in provincial park golf courses.

And I find that this motion is out of order based on the fact that it is a substantive motion, and they are not allowed.

And I can refer you then to the *Rules and Procedures*, page 64.

Mr. Anguish: Mr. Chairman, the intent of the motion is to seek information; that's information that's absolutely accessible, or should be accessible, to the people of the province of Saskatchewan through this Assembly. The minister sits there in his seat and refuses, in fact, to release information to this Assembly that's public information.

We don't want to make any accusations towards anyone. What we want to know is . . . We want to have the information that we're supposed to have in this Assembly so we can make the assessment as to whether or not there is any hanky-panky going on in some of the government practices on that side of the House. We may have our suspicions but we certainly would not make any allegations until we see the bids and the contracts,

preferably, that are to be tabled in this Assembly.

But I do find it very strange, Mr. Minister, that a member of the Executive Council could have all the information concerning those contracts, and when that member is no longer a member of the Executive Council, then they can penny-ante themselves into a bid situation where they can get a contract. That seems very strange. If you don't have anything to hide, Mr. Minister, why don't you bring into this Assembly those documents and table them here before us so we can examine them?

And, Mr. Chairman, I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. member from Regina Rosemont:

That the minister's salary be reduced to \$1 until he, in fact, gives us the information that we require, that we have access to, Mr. Chairman.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Chairman: And I find that that motion is also out of order, based on the fact that we are now dealing with item 1 which is the executive administration. The motion deals with item number 33, which deals with a statutory ruling. So, therefore, I rule that motion out of order as well.

The Assembly recessed until 7 p.m.