

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Tusa: — I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce two guests who are in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon. They are Mr. Hubert and Milda Weigers from Berlin. They are here visiting with their relative, Mrs. Jackie Bart, and they are visiting parts of Saskatchewan and parts of Canada. And I ask hon. members to please welcome them to this Assembly.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Saxinger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to welcome our guests from Germany in German.

(The member spoke for a time in German.)

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Hardy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to this Legislative Assembly, four very special people who have joined with me here this afternoon. They're my son-in-law and my daughter, Doug and Linda Parkman. And with them is my two grandchildren, Allyse and Jason Parkman. Jason Parkman was the boy who, three years ago, was severely burned in an accident at Hudson Bay, who was attended by the University Hospital in Saskatoon, and they did just such an excellent job on him that you wouldn't . . . you just have to say thank you to them for their care and their dedication for the fine job they've done. He's come along extremely well. He still has a lot of medical attention needed yet, but we're very proud to have him here and very proud to have him with us. And I'd like all members to join with me in welcoming him to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

Disturbance at Pine Grove Correctional Centre

Mr. Mitchell: — A question for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. On Monday of this week, the day before yesterday, during Justice estimates we asked you a number of questions concerning the Pine Grove Correctional Centre, which is the facility for women inmates in the province. And at that time we asked you questions concerning training and other facilities that were available for women, and you tabled material showing the extent of overcrowding at that facility.

It now appears, according to information we have, that the night before your estimates were considered, namely on Sunday evening, there was a disturbance at Pine Grove, and that you must have been aware of that fact during your estimates when Pine Grove was being discussed as it was for some 20 or 30 minutes.

My question to the minister is: can you now confirm that in fact there was a disturbance at the Pine Grove Correctional Centre on Sunday night; and can you tell the House how that disturbance began, how many people were involved, and can you confirm that the riot squad was in fact called, and had to use tear gas in order to quell the disturbance? Can you give us a full report on that incident, Mr. Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Mr. Speaker, I can indicate to the hon. member that there in fact was a disturbance at the Pine Grove Correctional Centre. I believe it was Sunday night — I stand to be corrected — Sunday night or Monday that there was a disturbance. The exact details I do not have with me today. I will undertake to report back to the House the exact details of what was involved and how it was quelled. While one never likes to see disturbances at correction centres, those types of things do happen off and on and are dealt with by the staff in a normal way.

Mr. Mitchell: — Supplementary, Mr. Minister. Are you able to confirm today, or can you make inquiries concerning the following information, Mr. Minister: that the disturbance resulted from the fact that one of the inmates at Pine Grove was the mother of two young children who were killed in the house fire at Vibank last Saturday night, and that she had not been informed of this fact until she overheard it from a . . . she overheard prison guards talking about it. Can you confirm that fact, and can you also confirm that, if this is true, can you confirm why the woman had not been properly notified of the deaths of her two young children?

Hon. Mr. Andrew: — Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of that information. I will undertake to find out if that was in fact the cause of it, and report back to the House. But I was not aware that was the cause of the riot.

Collection Agents for Sask Power

Ms. Simard: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Power Corporation and it deals with his totally inadequate explanation yesterday that he so arrogantly gave to this House as to why the Saskatchewan Power Corporation has dumped Saskatchewan drug stores and other small businesses as locations where SPC customers can pay their monthly bills. This arrangement, Mr. Speaker, was very convenient for SPC customers, and seniors, especially, and it meant extra businesses for those businesses that acted as collection agents. So my question to the minister, Mr. Speaker, is: why did he dump those Saskatchewan drug stores and small businesses in favour of giving the business to trust companies and banks?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, as I explained yesterday, Saskatchewan Power does have a significant debt, something over \$2 billion — I think 2.3 to be exact. The only way that that debt can be covered off, Mr. Speaker, is through the efficient management of the

corporation, rate increases. And every time we talk about rate increases, we get the members opposite and the people of Saskatchewan — and rightly so — squawking about rate increases.

There is a savings of something over \$200,000 per year by eliminating . . . This savings comes from eliminating the use of commissioned depots, if you like, for the payment of power bills. There is an additional efficiency achieved through the automatic banking, through cash flow managements, by having the . . . electronically the deposits made immediately into the account of Sask Power.

Now I know that \$200,00 doesn't mean much to members opposite, but to the people at Sask Power, Mr. Speaker, it means a whole lot, and we have an obligation to run that corporation, to deliver the electricity to the people of Saskatchewan for the best possible rate, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Simard: — Mr. Speaker, I understand that these Saskatchewan small businesses were given less than a month's notice that this would be done, and there was no prior consultation with them.

I would like the minister to explain why it was done on such short notice; why there was no prior consultation; why he has over 100 million for a political boondoggle in the Premier and the Deputy Premier's riding; and why he doesn't have \$200,000 that he's claimed he's going to save for small businesses. And will he reconsider this anti-small-business decision?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I think history will show, I think history will show as we march down the road of Rafferty and Shand, that the boondoggle that she talks of, Mr. Speaker, will in fact be a very popular and positive economic development strategy for the — not only for the south-east of Saskatchewan, but for all of Saskatchewan.

The same kinds of shouting and jeering was going on back in the days of Diefenbaker and Gardiner and the Squaw Rapids and all of that, and so governments, I think, have come to expect the kind of thing that we're hearing here today, relative to that development.

As it relates to the question of notice, I don't know how much notice they had, and I don't know how much consultation went on. I will undertake to find . . .

Mr. Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. The minister is taking a little long in his answer, but having said that, I would like to draw to the attention of the House that the member for Lakeview did in fact have five questions in her supplementary. Now the record will show that there are five different questions, with the final question.

Now I bring that . . . Order. Order, please. Order. Order. Order, please. I only bring that to the attention of the House so that we can have a more orderly question period and so that we don't have a supplementary

consisting of three, four, or five questions, and then a minister taking five minutes to answer. I don't think you did in this case, but this is what happens.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — To answer question number three, the one dealing with what are we doing for small business, I think I'll turn that over to the small-business minister.

To answer question number four, why do we turn it over to the banks and trust companies, I will simply add there that in addition to banks and trust companies, there's the category of credit unions. All banks, trust companies, and credit unions, will be fact be able to receive payments on behalf of Sask Power for those bills. In addition, there are in every case the opportunity to send through the post office, however unreliable it may be, the . . .

Mr. Speaker: — Order. Order. I think that's sufficient, more than sufficient time for that.

Ms. Simard: — Mr. Speaker, I would like the minister to tell us whether or not he's aware that drug stores and small businesses were charging approximately 35 to 50 cents to collect Sask Power bills, and that banks and trust companies are charging approximately 75 cents to a dollar. I'm wondering if he's aware of that. And if he's aware of that, I want him to explain to this House why SPC customers and small businesses in Saskatchewan should suffer in order to you to transfer business to trust companies and banks.

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — There were two questions here, I think, maybe three. But let me deal with the first one. Was I aware, was I aware that the drug stores and insurance offices and so on charge 35 cents? Some of them did charge 35 cents; some of them charged \$1. There were different rates and different situations. Some of them charged nothing, Mr. Speaker. Some of them charged nothing.

But the second question: why are we doing this dastardly thing to the small business of Saskatchewan? Mr. Speaker, she can't have it both ways. She beats on us to get the control on the debt situation in power — well not only her, I don't want to personalize this; all the folks opposite do that, Mr. Speaker. We have an obligation, Mr. Speaker, to manage this company, to deliver the electricity at the most best rate that we possibly can, the best rate that we possibly can. We intend to do that, and 200,000-plus is significant in my view. It may not mean much to members opposite, but to Sask Power it means a whole lot.

Mr. Lautermilch: — New question, Mr. Speaker, to the same minister. And, Mr. Minister, you want to down-play the loss to the small business of the commissions from SPC. I want to put this in perspective for you. A small business which now has maybe 100 people in to pay their bills in a month will have to retail about \$45,000 worth of taxable items in order to compensate for the loss. And I say \$45,000 worth of taxable items in order to gain the kind of revenue through the paltry little system you've got for the EH tax, he's got to sell \$45,000 worth of goods. My question is this, Mr. Minister, is this your commitment

to small business, and do you think that's fair?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — I know, Mr. Speaker, that members opposite won't want to hear this, but I know lots of small businesses that are very, very happy with the fact that we took the sales tax off things like clothing and have targeted several areas of tax relief for small business. Members opposite don't like to hear that. Members opposite don't like to hear the fact that we took a 5 per cent sales tax off power bills, Mr. Speaker, about four or five years ago. I don't remember just when that happened, but 5 per cent off power bills. Now that's significant, and that's something that small business appreciates, Mr. Speaker. Small business appreciates the kinds of things we've done in the area of safety nets relative to interest rates. While those guys were in office, Mr. Speaker, small business was hooked with 20 and 21 per cent interest rates. They didn't care.

Mr. Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. That also goes for the member for Regina North . . . or Moose Jaw North rather.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Clearly, Mr. Speaker, the minister refuses to answer. I have a new question for him, and I have a positive suggestion as well. You claim that the decision to dump small business as the SPC (Saskatchewan Power Corporation) collection agencies will save you about 200,000. Well I say to you, Mr. Minister, that's less than what you're paying the former president of the PC Party, George Hill, to mismanage this power corporation.

I want to know: will you agree today to dump George Hill and to keep the Saskatchewan drug stores and small businesses as the collection agents. It sounds like a good swap to most Saskatchewan people. Will you do it today?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — We know how sincere they are when they talk about the NDP being the protector of small business. We've heard the member for North Battleford and his tirades against small business in that town, and we've heard the member for Riversdale talking about their views of small business relative to privatization and how even the New Democratic Party may be for sale, and we've heard now the views of . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well, let's go back to the Regina Manifesto, Mr. Speaker . . .

Mr. Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. Order! Order. Order. I think it's a good time to go to another question.

Increases to Driver's Licence and Registration Fees

Mr. Anguish: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture, and it deals with an announcement by the Minister of Highways, last Friday, that there'd be a 100 per cent jump in the cost of Saskatchewan drivers' licenses and a significant increase in most registration fees. And it came on the heels of an announcement, or a release, that Saskatchewan already

has the highest and most rapidly growing inflation rate in Canada.

The minister has instituted these increases under the guise of instilling more equity in paying for our road system, but we don't find equity. The statement shows that a private vehicle, 1983 Chev half-ton, zero per cent increase. If it's a farm plate on the vehicle, exactly the same vehicle, 1983 Chev half-ton, it goes up by 25 per cent for already hard-strapped farmers. And I think it would be more equitable, if you want to put equity into the system, to have the 7 cent per litre tax on gasoline go directly into our road system instead of using it to pay off the massive deficit.

And I want to know from the minister, the Premier, what the criteria is for setting these great increases and the increased rates on registration. There seems to be no equity there at all. What is the criteria?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member put his finger on a couple of the important issues. First of all, that Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada where individuals receive a refund on their provincial fuel tax, and it's a significant amount of money. Now when you look at our taxes compared to other jurisdictions and then you subtract the fuel tax, that the hon. member will know that it is a significant reduction. And the application for farmers is right off the top in terms of a fuel tax rebate, a royalty rebate that goes to farmers, plus they don't have to pay the fuel tax because we deduct it right at source.

Secondly, I could point out that even with some revenue increases as a result of these taxes, only 66 per cent of the total cost of our highways is covered through any kind of user fees or any direct taxation. So obviously we're looking at 35 or more percentage that has to come out of general revenue anyway.

So the combination, Mr. Speaker, protecting our people here, on one hand, that aren't protected any place else in Canada like this; and secondly, making sure that some of the people that use the roads and highways do make a contribution, I believe is a reasonable criteria.

Mr. Anguish: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, the issue here is not one of gas tax in this particular question. The issue is, by the minister's own figures, that the government is going to raise \$18.6 million in these new registration fee increases and increases to driver's licence. But he only says that \$10 million is going into the road system in Saskatchewan. I suppose the other 8.6 million is going to paying off the debt.

Can you assure us that these increases — and we're not talking about the gasoline tax; we're talking about these increased taxes on the people of Saskatchewan — will every penny collected go into the road system in the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Devine: — Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member

knows from looking at the budget, and certainly he can find out with respect to estimates, that our contributions towards highways are up and increasing and have been extremely large in terms of their growth. And the impact of this, obviously, is much smaller than the total budget in Highways. I mean, the additional amount of money — \$18 million — is significant;; looking at over a \$100 million budget with respect to Highways obviously will take this and everything else that we might be able to find to make sure that we can have continued growth in expenditures with respect to roads and highways.

Mr. Anguish: — Supplementary to the Deputy Premier, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the registration of vehicles within the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, can the minister confirm for us that previously Sask Power used to register the vehicles directly and have now been instructed to register their vehicles with a private firm in the city of Regina, therefore costing the taxpayers even more dollars than the \$18.6 million increase in taxation?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know that . . . I don't know that to be a fact, Mr. Speaker, but I will check into it and inform the hon. member.

Water Levels at Cumberland House

Mr. Goulet: — Mr. Speaker, my question is the minister responsible for Saskatchewan Power Corporation. As the minister knows, the people of Cumberland House have been building a weir in the past week to help up their water levels so that there is better transportation and also to provide more clear drinking water for their children. This issue has been going on for some time. The people of Cumberland have been negotiating with your staff for the past four years, and they're becoming very, very, very frustrated. They want to see some action from you; they want to know what you're going to do. What are you going to do, Mr. Minister, to rectify a situation of compensation for the people of Cumberland House and also to resolve their lower water levels? Why are you not moving on this? What is the reason?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member of course is right. The people of Cumberland House have become very frustrated and, I think, justifiably so. This issue has been laying around for about 20 to 25 years, Mr. Speaker. It's not a new issue.

The details, of course, I don't have in front of me, but in a general way, what has happened is that there was a lawsuit launched against power and the government and the water corporation several years ago to the tune of about \$200 million for damages relative to the development of, I believe, the Squaw Rapids power generating plant.

It has been, as I say, going on and on for about 20 years without any resolution through the courts. Last summer all parties to the dispute agreed to seek a mediated settlement. A mediator was agreed to in the name of Val Longworth of Prince Albert, and that process has been

going on, I think, since last summer. And if I recall correctly, Mr. Speaker, the next meeting of that mediating group, if you like, is set for early in October.

So that, I think, is the process as it's unfolded to date. And certainly since last summer, Mr. Speaker, there have been some positive steps. And I hope, I sincerely hope, that this mediation process does in fact bear fruit because they, at Cumberland House, do have a water problem — no doubt about that. And it deserves the immediate attention of those who are responsible for those kinds of things.

But it's very difficult when all of these matters are hung up in court. And following that, the mediation process is supposed to be used to resolve these problems. And we hope that the mediation process does in fact work, and work quickly.

Mr. Goulet: — A supplement to the question. Mr. Minister, at the last mediation meeting, the people from Cumberland reported that the government representative, the lawyer, seemed unprepared and had not been, you know, following up on issues that were presented before, and they deeply were concerned.

They said, it seems to me that the government is deliberately dragging their feet, that they are just not willing to seriously deal with the question. They said, we've had this specific legal case now for four years with this government. What are they going to do about it? When are you going to provide specific direction to your staff so that the meeting in the near future . . .

Mr. Speaker: — Order. Order, please. I know that the hon. member obviously has a great deal to say on this topic; however, I do remind him that it is a supplementary, so I would ask you to please get to your question.

Mr. Goulet: — Will you make sure that in this fall meeting that you will direct your staff to make sure that they will come out with some of the solutions that the people have been asking for?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — Mr. Speaker, obviously, for a mediated solution, the solution is going to have to be one that all parties agree to. And I hope that that can and will be the case.

I have . . . Obviously I don't fit in on the meetings that are taking place with the mediator. And I have a lot of difficulty in believing that the government lawyer would in any way be dragging his feet because we were very sincere in our desire to have this matter resolved when we agreed to the mediation process.

And we do hope it works, and as far as we're concerned, the sooner the better. This is in no way designed to do anything but come to a resolution of the problem. And I point out, Mr. Speaker, that this has been going on for 20 to 25 years, and we were the people, Mr. Speaker, that brought this thing to the point where there is a chance to resolve it.

Cumberland House Weir

Mr. Goulet: — A new question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Environment. The people, of course, have been very concerned about the environmental damage that has been done in their area, and they recognize the implications of the weir.

What they're asking, Mr. Minister, is this: will the minister look into their situation and support them in making sure that the controls on the weir are up to satisfactory levels in regards to the environment? Will the minister go ahead and do that?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Swan: — Mr. Speaker, and to the hon. member, I appreciate your question. And you say, will I make sure that the controls on the weir meet specifications. Let's put things in perspective here. There has been no weir approved for construction. A community has taken it upon itself to proceed to build a weir or a dam or whatever you want to call it across the Tearing River. The department has advised that the project has not received legal approval because no one has asked to go ahead and build it.

So you can't, on one hand, have a community take things into its own hands and proceed on an illegal project and then come back to the department and say, are you going to make sure that what we do is right? I believe that's an unrealistic approach, and one that we cannot deal with. What we really must do is have some co-operation from that community to seek to proceed with the legal project first; then perhaps we could give them advice. Under these circumstances we cannot.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 33 — An Act respecting Veterinarians

Hon. Mr. Berntson: — On behalf of the hon. member, I move first reading of a Bill respecting Veterinarians.

Motion agreed to and the Bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Andrew that Bill No. 30 — **An Act to amend The Land Titles Act** be now read a second time.

Mr. Mitchell: — Mr. Speaker, I adjourned debate on this Bill when it was last before this Assembly on the basis that we required some time to consider the Bill in light of the minister's explanation. And I'm pleased to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that we've done that.

We've consulted with persons directly involved in the point of the whole Bill, and I'm pleased to say that we're prepared to support the legislation, and will be doing so at the appropriate time.

Motion agreed to and the Bill ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

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

Item 1 (continued)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Perhaps for the benefit of some of the members of the opposition who may not have been here the last time the officials were introduced, perhaps I could take the occasion now to do so once again. This is Bill Clarke, deputy minister of the department; Keith Rogers, acting deputy minister who handles details on the Culture and Recreation side; Doug Cressman, seated immediately behind me, assistant deputy minister who handles affairs on the resources side. This is Ross MacLennan, executive director of operations; and Brian Woodcock, acting assistant deputy minister, administration. Thank you.

Mr. Thompson: — Mr. Minister, I have a few questions that I want to clean up from the last time we were in here, and then I want to move into the fisheries portion of your department.

I guess the first thing that I will do, Mr. Minister, and I want to get you to confirm this, and it's regarding the Blackstrap ski resort. You indicated that there was \$48,000 spent last year on the Blackstrap resort. Could you indicate how much of that \$48,000 went into the chair-lift repairs?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, hon. member, I'm advised that in '86-87 the actual amount spent on chair-lift repairs was \$5,703.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I now want to turn to another item that we were discussing and that was Rowan's Ravine on Last Mountain Lake, and I was questioning you on the fact that you were charging individuals to park their boats at the boat . . . overnight at the marina. Mr. Minister, you indicated at that time that it's the first time that you have charged for that marina because it was brand-new. I wonder if you could indicate how much the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture spent building that marina — the capital costs involved in the complete new marina.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, hon. member, I'm advised that since 1985 we have spent \$1.4 million in Rowan's Ravine, on the marina.

Mr. Thompson: — And could you indicate, Mr. Minister, for the committee, what was the length of the contract that the individual received to operate that marina?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that it's just for this current season.

Mr. Thompson: — And what is he paying to rent that for this season?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — That figure, Mr. Chairman, is 5 per cent of gross revenue.

Mr. Thompson: — Well, Mr. Minister, you indicate that the individual is paying 5 per cent of his gross revenue. I would suggest to you, sir, that that is a pretty good deal. The taxpayers of this province have put up a million and a half dollars to build a new marina, and then you lease it out to an individual.

I'm just wondering, if we checked into it like I did . . . If I have an opportunity to check into the Besnard Lake camp grounds and the Little Amyot Lake, I might find the same individual who is a president of a local Conservative riding, because I say to you, Mr. Minister, that when the taxpayers build a marina for the public at a cost of \$1.5 million, and then lease it out, and all he has to pay is 5 per cent of the gross earnings, that's a pretty good deal. There's absolutely no way he can lose on that. And I say to you, Mr. Minister, and to the rest of this committee, that the only losers are the taxpayers of this province.

I want to now turn to Besnard Lake. And could you indicate to me, Mr. Minister, what is involved in the Besnard Lake camp ground? Is it an electrified camp ground? And if not, could you indicate if there's a fish filleting shed there, and how many tables that are involved in the Besnard Lake operation.

(1445)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could clear up some reference to Rowan's Ravine prior to giving an answer on Besnard Lake. Indeed Rowan's Ravine was constructed through the New Careers Corporation, whereby we took people who otherwise would have been on welfare and we gave them on-the-job training, we gave them class-room experience, job search skills, and then they built the marina out there.

So I think it would be a wee bit unfair to say it cost the taxpayers of Saskatchewan \$1.5 million. What we did in fact do was to have a job creation program which is ongoing and has been well accepted in Saskatchewan and benefited people who otherwise would not have had employment, who would not have had training, and who would not have received any necessary on-the-job training skills to further their careers and make themselves employable. So I just wanted to point that out to the hon. member.

On Besnard Lake, Besnard Lake camp ground, which you brought up, there was only one bid and that was received from Red's Camps. The hon. member made reference to some political affiliation the owner-operator of Red's Camps may have. I don't know if the president of a local constituency. I am aware that they may have a political affiliation, certainly. You've brought that to my attention before. I don't know that the people in question, one or other, is in fact a constituency president. I do know there was only one bid received, and it was received from Red's Camps, and that bid we discussed once before.

I should point out that the Besnard Lake camp ground in 1985-86 suffered a net loss of \$32,000; '86-87 suffered a net loss in excess of \$34,000. What we have by way of inventory at Besnard Lake for campsite, day use: 39 non-electrical sites, 2 playgrounds, 30 non-designated overflow sites, a one-kilometre beach, and one boat launch. There are sundry tables, barbecues, bins, faucets, docks, and a fish-cleaning shelter.

Mr. Thompson: — Mr. Minister, is there a power plant involved there?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — No, Mr. Chairman, I believe there's no permanent power plant there. I'm just looking through to see what there is: non-modern toilets; there are five flush toilets. Any power that would have been brought in would be brought in on a temporary basis, I'm advised, from the region.

Mr. Thompson: — Well, Mr. Minister, it is a very large site, and if there's flushing toilets, then I would assume that there is power available to operate them.

And I was not going to go any farther on this and was not going to bring any names out, but you indicate that you are not aware of who the individuals are that you leased the facilities out to. And I say to you, that is a very large campsite; you leased it out for \$110 a year. You say that that's the only bid that you received.

But I want to — just for your own information, seeing that you do not have this, I have an updated list as of July 3, 1987 of the presidents — of the constituency presidents for the Conservative Party. So I just want to . . . for your own information, Mr. Minister, the individual that leased the campsite for \$110, a Mr. Ron MacKay of Box 67, La Ronge, is also the president of the Conservative association riding, and I have that here, and it's updated July 3, as I said, 1987. That's for your own information.

And I also have one for the Little Amyot Lake, and that also has been leased out to a Conservative president of the Athabasca riding, one Jeannie Lavoie of Beauval. She is also the president of a Conservative riding. That is as far as I have gone to check into that, Mr. Minister, but that was for your own information.

And I say to you, Mr. Minister, that the type of privatization that is being carried out by your government has to come to a stop. The taxpayers of Saskatchewan have put up millions of dollars for public campsites to serve the public, and they are now being turned over to individuals like I have indicated to you. And when we can take the type of money that we are spending, and I talk about the million and a half dollars that you pour out at the campsite to build the boat marina . . . And you indicate there was a job training program, and I think that's good. And I sincerely hope, Mr. Minister, that the individuals who were trained in constructing that site were kept on and are still working this summer. I most certainly hope that they are still working, that it was not just a short-term job.

But when we spend this type of the taxpayers' money, I think that that is wrong to privatize and lease it out to

individuals, like you are doing. I'm sure that the department, had they have continued to operate, and it was the department who built that marina at that cost, hired the individuals . . . and I'm sure that the department could continue to operate it just as efficiently and make sure that the individuals that were trained continue to work.

But I just say to you, Mr. Minister, that I think that you have to take a serious look at privatization and slow down on it. You're going too fast and it's something that . . . it's an asset that we have in this province, and you should not be selling it off or leasing it off to private enterprise. I believe that it can be operated, in the best interest of the public, by the department. You have the individuals that know how to do this and should be doing it.

I have one more item before I turn to the fisheries, Mr. Minister, and it regards wood permits at Green Lake. And there has been a lot of land cleared in the last number of years by the government farm at Green Lake, and there has been literally hundreds of thousands of cords of solid poplar wood that has been piled up by brush cutters. Individuals at Green Lake have asked to go in and take that wood out of the piles and use it in their stoves — and there are many individuals in Green Lake who burn firewood. And there is literally hundreds of thousands of cords that were piled up, large stands of good poplar trees or aspen, and they were told that they could not harvest that stuff, and it was all burned.

And I say to you, Mr. Minister, that it's a fact. I drive by there every time I go home, so I know that it's been burned. And I ask you, Mr. Minister, why your department would not issue wood permits for the individuals in Green Lake so that they could harvest the wood for themselves, and also could use it commercially to sell it to other communities surrounding Green Lake?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, if I may revert to some comments the hon. member made earlier with respect to the direction we're taking with privatization. And I want to say, Mr. Chairman, at the outset, with all sincerity, that I have nothing but the utmost respect for the member opposite. And as he knows, I've demonstrated that, in previous estimates in the last five years. I know that he is not, and I want to say this sincerely, I know that he is not trying to play a petty political game when he criticizes the two particular camp grounds, Amyot and Besnard.

So what I have to say to the hon. member is the Bernard lease, when it was put out, was given to the only person who bid. Now that person . . . and I accept if you say he's the president or his wife's the president — Ron and Ev; I don't know who's the president . . . Ev . . . he is. Ron is a PC president of a local constituency association. I don't think, Mr. Chairman, that should disqualify that individual from putting a bid in. It was the only bid received, therefore, we went with the bid. And the fact is, it was losing about \$35,000 a year of taxpayers' money which we're saving this year. And by all accounts, the reports we're getting, it is being well run and well administered.

So with that I'll leave that point and move on to Green

Lake, which is operated under Central Farms. I don't know if the hon. member's aware or not, but we don't administer policy on that particular organization — on Central Farms — and we don't control what happens to that wood under The Forests Act. But I would tell the hon. member, the officials and I would be delighted if we were administering that poplar under The Forest Act. And I think that would go a long way to improving a situation and to bring about the kind of suggestions you have made which I think are good suggestions.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I wonder if I could get a commitment from you today to get in touch with the department centre involved, and make sure that there is no more clearing of that land, of the government farms, until the wood that can be used for firewood is taken out of there prior to.

Not only does it help the individuals who use that wood, it also creates many jobs where they can go in, cut it, and take it out. Then you can move your equipment in there and your brush pilers and your brush cutters, and do the job — and I say to you, it would be a lot better if it wasn't brush cut and piled. Then they have to go in there and take it out of the piles. It would be better if they could go in and cut the timber that's out of there, either the spruce for the mills or the aspen for firewood.

And I also indicate to you now, Mr. Minister, that aspen is going to become a sellable item at Prince Albert now. So there is just hundreds of thousands of cords that have been literally knocked down and burnt up, and this should come to a stop. And I ask you, Mr. Minister, for your commitment to go in there and see that this is looked after properly.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm willing to make that commitment to the hon. member. We will in fact communicate with the Department of Agriculture. We will endeavour to make sure that the wood that is cut is put to the best possible use.

The hon. member is absolutely correct; there is a much increased value placed on aspen now than in previous years because of advanced technology coming into the wood industry. and we'd be more than pleased to try and help you with that particular problem. It makes sense to you and your constituents, and it makes sense to us, so I think we can do something.

Something I should mention to the hon. member. When we spoke about those career corporation trainees, one-third of those people who worked at Rowan's Ravine now have permanent jobs. The others are either working with the career corporation or they are in training at this particular moment.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. I'm pleased to hear that they're continuing to work. And I'm assuming that your officials will get in touch with the officials in Green Lake and try to resolve that problem.

I now want to turn to the commercial fishery and tourism fisheries in northern Saskatchewan. That pretty well will be my final item. Some of my other colleagues will have some items before we turn on to Culture. I have one item

on Culture that I will discuss with you before I sit down and take my place, Mr. Minister, and I forewarn you that that will be regarding a letter that I sent to you regarding the hockey arenas.

I now want to turn to the commercial fishery in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Minister. And one of the questions I would like to have answered: is there a royalty on commercial fish caught in Saskatchewan and taken out of the province? Is the department collecting a royalty on any of that fish?

I now want to continue. And I have written letters, Mr. Minister, to the freshwater fish marketing corporation indicating my displeasure with the way they operate in this province, and I've sent you copies of the letters. And as of to date, I haven't had any response from yourself.

But I think it's time for your department to take a serious look at how we are operating the commercial fishery in northern Saskatchewan. Maybe I'll just let you answer that one, and then I can continue with this, Mr. Minister.

(1500)

Mr. Thompson: — Mr. Chairman, a two-fold question. The first part — is there a royalty charge in the province on fish? Yes, there is — one-half cent per pound on white fish, one cent per pound on trout, one cent per pound on wall-eye.

And the letter to which the hon. member referred was addressed to the freshwater fish marketing corporation, and I was c.c'd.

We haven't seen a reply to the hon. member from FFMC (freshwater fish marketing corporation) yet, I'm advised by officials. We were waiting for that, to see what the response was, so I could react to their response to you. And I'll be more than pleased to do so whenever I receive their response. I share some of your concerns with FFMC, by the way.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And I would ask you to follow up on that letter, because I have not received an answer. And the corporation is playing games with Saskatchewan as far as their terms of the agreement in the freshwater fish marketing corporation. And I would ask your help. I have continually tried to get answers from the corporation as to how many mullets the corporation are processing every year, and they just will not answer that question. And I think you, as the Minister of the Department of Parks and Recreation, should take that up. That's why I sent you a carbon copy. I did not really expect to get an answer from him, because this is the way they're operating. They continually refuse to indicate to the fishermen, who are producing the fish, just how many pounds of mullets they're selling each year.

And I want to give you some reasons why they're doing this. And we just have to take a look at how they operate in this province. The commercial fishermen in northern Saskatchewan are allowed to bring mullets in once a week. And this is a hardship on the commercial fishery and the fishermen who are fishing that species.

They have to set their nets on the weekend because it's only on Monday that they accept — and I believe it's 200 boxes, and the boxes contain 60 pounds to the box — 200 on Monday. So commercial fishermen have to put their nets in, into the sucker grounds, pull their nets in on Monday, because they really don't know who's going to be bringing in and what amount of fish is coming in.

On many occasions, I've seen fisherman come in with 30-40 boxes of mullet and have to throw them overboard out into the lake because the quota had already been filled by fishermen who had got in there ahead of them. And this is a big industry in Saskatchewan. We produce literally millions of pounds of mullets, and most of it is thrown overboard or into the bush and, literally, destroyed.

And there are countries who are asking for this product. Africa has been asking for it and has been asking for credit. But the corporation refuses to give credit to Africa. And this is where I think you have to also step in.

I'll just sit down there. The minister is busy with his officials.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, hon. member, I've just been advised that the Buffalo Narrows area — and it's the only area the FFMC use for this particular species — amounts to about 250,000 pounds per year.

If you are having some difficulties with responses to questions from the FFMC, and if you feel my office could be of some service to you, be more than pleased to do that for you.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. That's not what I'm concerned about, Mr. Minister, is how much is being purchased at the Buffalo Narrows plant. What I want to find out is how many pounds of mullets that the corporation in Winnipeg is accepting for a full year. They take 250,000 pounds from the Buffalo Narrows area, but they may be taking another million or two million pounds from Manitoba, from Lake Winnipegosis or Lake Manitoba or Lake Winnipeg.

This is what I want to find out, and this is where we get into the secrecy with the corporation. They will not indicate . . . if you look at my letter, I specifically asked that question: how many pounds of mullets is the corporation purchasing and selling in one year? And I feel the way that they are operating . . . I feel that the way the corporation is operating that they're playing games with the commercial fishermen in northern Saskatchewan.

I have given you examples . . . Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be continuing to talk if the minister is not going to listen to the question.

What I'm saying to you, Mr. Minister, is that the corporation, they're saying to the commercial fishermen in Saskatchewan, we'll take your mullets in a certain region and we'll take them one day out of the week. Then all of a sudden they come along in July — the hottest month of the year — and August, and they'll say, well, we can take all the mullets you can produce for three weeks. And that means that some of the other fishermen who are

producing in other provinces are on holidays. It's the toughest part of the year for any commercial fisherman to operate. He has to ice that fish; he has to fish his nets twice a day because of the warm water.

Not only that, we're taking that sucker, or mullet, which it's referred to, and holding it for 48 hours at the fish camps. Then we're putting it in a truck and we're transporting it 800 miles to Winnipeg to be processed. And I say to you, Mr. Minister, you have to put a stop to this because there's no way you can take fish and transport them 800 miles for processing after they've been kept for 12, 24 and up to 48 hours at the fish camps. It just stands to reason.

Then they'll come back and say: well, we're throwing away fish that's coming out of that area. And I say to you, Mr. Minister, that what we have to do is indicate to the corporation how much of these mullets are you selling, and why are you taking them in July? Why are you not taking them throughout the year? Why do you come up with this here three weeks in July? And we have to get some answers to that.

I say to you, Mr. Minister, that we have to take a look at processing this product right in this province. There's no way that we can continue to fish our commercial fish in this province and take it 800 and 900 miles by truck for processing to Winnipeg. And we lose all the processing jobs, and these are important.

I say, Mr. Minister, that what has to take place is you have to negotiate with the corporation and say, look, that's fine, you be the central selling agency. There's no problem with that. They can be the central selling agency, but we're going to process our own fish here in Saskatchewan, and you can sell the processed fish.

I want to leave it at that and let you comment on that, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, there's no question that if we were handling our own processing in Saskatchewan there would be some jobs attached to that. We do have processing in La Ronge, and it's of a somewhat limited nature.

In the last couple of years, as the hon. member is aware, we've had some negotiations with FPMC (freshwater fish marketing corporation) so that we can directly market fish within the province for internal consumption. At one time everything went out of the province, and then it had to be brought back in for use within our own restaurants, which was kind of an absurd situation. We've managed to at least change that one.

There are other concerns we have with the FPMC, and some negotiations are ongoing. What I will undertake to do for the member is write a letter to the FPMC, which will be done this week, and you'll receive a copy of my letter to them. I will ask the specific questions which you have asked me, and obviously when the reply comes back I'll furnish you with a copy of the reply, too.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. I just to close off on that and indicate to you that I

think that the commercial fishing industry in this province can be a lot bigger than it is right now. We have a product up there; we have millions and millions of pounds that we are throwing away each year. We have fish that I see on sale in the supermarkets here in Regina that we literally throw away and never have an opportunity to sell.

I specifically talk about the ling cod or the maria, and we literally throw millions of pounds of those away. And I go into a super store here, a super outlet, and I see where they have ling cod tails and ling cod steaks and trout heads, which is a delicacy, and they're selling them right here in Regina. Then when I check it out and see where it's coming from, it's sure not coming from the fisherman in northern Saskatchewan, it's coming from some other place.

And I think we have to have control of the fishery, and you, Mr. Minister, as minister in charge, can play a major role in that. Well what I'm saying to you is that when you write your letter and you ask for the information, that you have your department work towards processing in this province. I think if we can process our product, the corporation most certainly can do the selling. And we can do our selling too. As you've indicated, you have changed the laws where we can now sell within the province, and that's a start; but it's only a beginning.

Mr. Minister, before I move to the other item, I want to indicate to you that, as I said before, the commercial fishing in this province is a very important industry, and there has always been a conflict. And I've seen more of a conflict now between the commercial fisherman and the tourist operators, and I think this is something that we have to work through.

The resource is used by the commercial fisherman, by the tourist, and it's also used for domestic uses. And I think that we have to make sure that they all work together and that they all realize that there is lots of room for all three industries.

But most certainly what we can't have, and we have to take a serious look at this, is the type of tolerances and split limits and those items that are being imposed upon the commercial fishing industry. More and more you see lakes are being set out with a split limit or a set limit — a species limit. This is a hardship on the commercial fishing industry. It's not a hardship on the tourist operator because you don't separate those. I think that what we have to do is get the commercial fishing industry and the tourism industry working closer together. And I've talked to many tourist operators and commercial fishermen and I try to bring them together and say lookit, there's room for both and we have to work together. There's no reason why . . . and we've had this happen on Dore Lake, and you can take a look at Canoe Lake where we have good strong commercial industries and we also have tourism. And you can go to Stony Lake or Delaronde Lake or any of the other ones in the southern part, and they've always operated together.

But now we're getting some of our smaller lakes up north, and I give you an example of Porter Lake, which was a large limit in the Patuanak area, and now the tolerances were put on. And now last year they completely closed

that lake off to the local fishermen because a tourist operator has put a couple of cabins on that lake. And I think that's unfair. And that individual came up to me and he said, you know I'm even afraid to go back in there and trap in the spring and the fall. And that's been his trap line and his father and his grandfather's trap lines for 100 years. And this is a situation that we have in northern Saskatchewan. These tolerances, lakes are being shut off and they're being catered to an individual who goes in there and sets up a cabin. I think that when somebody goes in there and sets up a cabin or a tourist industry, they have to be told and they should realize that that resource has always been available to the native people in northern Saskatchewan. They've always used it, not just for commercial uses, but they've used it domestically. And we're getting farther and farther apart and there's animosity building up. And I see it all over, and I think that we have to take a serious look at this.

I would ask you and your department officials to use good judgement when you're dealing with operators that are coming in. Get the commercial fishermen together, the tourist operator together, and let's get them working together rather than fighting each other and causing the type of problems that we have.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman the hon. member makes a good point — the last point in, more or less, his summation, that what has happened is some animosity has crept into northern Saskatchewan and the ongoing arguments between commercial fishing versus tourism fishing. He's right; the tourist operator is not going to lose anyway because he has the people within the camp and they've already paid to be there. And some of the commercial fishermen are hurting. The hon. member, himself, is a commercial fisherman; he speaks with some authority on the subject, and I accept that.

What I can tell him is that we do intend to put the white paper out, that has been in the process for some time, for public discussion. We intend to address the allocation issue. And as the hon. member, and I'm sure all members can appreciate, it is not going to be an easy issue to address because there are just so many diverse concerns in the North — the operator, not all the operators — some operators versus some of the commercial fishermen.

He's right about the tolerances, and we have some real serious concerns about tolerances on some of the smaller lakes that are inadequately supervised, with lack of personnel to be there, and we just don't know very often what is being taken out of those lakes. So we do have those problems; we're well aware of them. We take your advice and we will be tackling the allocation problem this fall.

(1515)

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you, Mr. Minister, and I appreciate that. I have one more item that I want to close on, and then I will go to the item I have on Culture and Recreation.

The last item I have is the transportation subsidy that we had in northern Saskatchewan for the commercial fishermen for the last 10, 12 years. This year, in your

wisdom, you decided to reduce that subsidy to 60 per cent of the fly-in costs. You also completely eliminated the transportation on pickerel.

And I say, Mr. Minister, that when we talk about the commercial fishing industry being an important economical activity in northern Saskatchewan, and you agree with that, and then your department will cut off the subsidy that we've had in place for all these years.

And commercial fishermen are no different than farmers in the South. As a matter of fact, they're caught in the price squeeze, too. Their gasoline is, in some cases, 100 per cent higher to operate their motors and their equipment than it is to operate a tractor on the farm. And repairs and everything — everything costs a lot more up in northern Saskatchewan. And that subsidy was put on originally for a fly-in transportation subsidy, and that was the key to it.

And I would ask you, Mr. Minister, if you would reconsider the fish transportation subsidy. I think that it was an important subsidy that the commercial fishermen in northern Saskatchewan looked forward to, and it's the only way that they can survive.

When we talk about tourist operators coming in and operating and causing friction . . . And the commercial fishermen are having a hard time to keep their boats going and the motors, to buy new nets and equipment. And I say to you, Mr. Minister, it's a tough business to be in, tough at any time when you're up in northern Saskatchewan.

And many of these fishermen spend many months out of the year living in tents out in the lake fishing, fishing fish, and that's their living. And I would ask you, Mr. Minister, if you would reconsider that transportation subsidy, take a serious look at what you've done. You've reduced it 40 per cent. You now pay 60 per cent.

And you also have taken the complete subsidy off of pickerel, because the pickerel is a fish that the fishermen receive the most money for. And I say, when you look at other subsidies that you have in the province, you don't look at one type of grain or what kind of land the farmer has. And I say you . . . And I'm asking you, Mr. Minister, to reconsider that and put that subsidy back in place and also put it back on the pickerel.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Yes, Mr. Chairman, two or three points I'd like to make. A subsidy is price sensitive, and the program hadn't been looked at for 10 years. And the fact is right now the wall-eye is fetching the highest price it's every fetched. So we took a look at this and said, well maybe it's time to take subsidy down there. We also did drop the subsidy from 90 to 50 per cent on certain other species.

But I'd like to point out to the hon. member that the program right now is definitely directed to the North. Prior to this year and the new guide-lines that came in, we were paying a subsidy below the 54th parallel. We're not any more. So it is directed to the North. It is ongoing and yes, we're looking at it.

And if the prices do fluctuate on fish, then we'd be duty bound to reconsider the subsidy for future years.

Mr. Thompson: — Mr. Minister, are you saying that you're not paying the subsidy to anything other than fly-in lakes?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — It's anything above 54 degrees a subsidy would be paid to.

Mr. Thompson: — Well my concern is the flying subsidy, and you know, I'm not concerned about the 54th parallel or anything like that. My concern is, and it's the big problem to the commercial fisherman who has to fly his fish out. I believe that you have taken off the flying subsidy in the Patuanak area, and Dipper Lake and areas like that. Most certainly if you haven't taken it off, you have reduced . . . You've eliminated pickerel, and that is one of the big pickerel areas. So that goes right against the fishermen of Patuanak, and that's the places where you have to come out with that fish transportation subsidy, especially for flying. That's the most important part.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, the program applies to all lakes, fly-in or otherwise, north of the 54th parallel, other than, as you correctly pointed out, for wall-eye. But they are getting a good price for wall-eye right now, notwithstanding that they do have high costs in the North. As I said, it hadn't been looked at for ten years, but once again these things are ongoing.

The hon. member mentioned agriculture. He's absolutely right. We've seen fluctuation, and right now we are at a low ebb in agriculture. The fish seem to be coming up; I hope it continues; I hope they get double the money for their fish. If not, and the fish prices dip again, then we will have to look at the program.

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. If you can get the processing into this province, I think you'll see a great improvement, and there will be larger returns to the commercial fishing industry.

Mr. Minister, that's really all I have with Parks and Recreation. I now want to turn to a letter that I wrote you on June 24. At that time I was asking you if you would consider a new capital grants program for Saskatchewan, and that was to increase the size of the skating rinks in Saskatchewan. You have not responded to me, as of yet, but I want to . . . if you have I haven't seen that, Mr. Minister.

An Hon. Member: — I've got the response here if you'd like it.

Mr. Thompson: — Okay, I haven't seen the response. But I still want to bring this item up, and I indicated to you that in Saskatchewan — and it was brought to light when we had the serious accident down at the Agridome — and I think, and research that I have done indicates clearly that the type of accidents that happen in Saskatchewan and in Canada with our regulation size rinks does not happen in Europe where you have Olympic-sized arenas. Now the difference between the rinks in Saskatchewan and the European rinks, or the Olympic-size rink, is the fact that our rinks — and the Agridome falls into this category — is 200 feet long and 85 feet wide, whereas the European and Olympic-size rinks are 210 feet long, and some of them

are 215 feet long, and 100 feet wide, so you have that extra 15 feet in width and you have the extra 10 to 15 feet in length. And in the European rinks and Olympic rinks the goals are moved out farther from the boards, and it gives the individuals more manoeuvrability behind the rinks and causes less accidents.

And if you'll take a look at the European style of skaters that we're getting into Canada and who are playing in the NHL, you'll see that they're skaters — they're individuals that come over here as skaters because they have the room, and they've been brought up to play hockey in an arena that gives them the skating room that they have.

You have put out many millions of dollars in the last four years to build a couple of skating rinks. One is the Saskatoon arena where you have put \$25 million into. The other one is out at Notre Dame College where you have put \$10 million into that arena, and I think this is where you really have to take a look at the difference. If you go out to the Notre Dame rink, you'll find that when they built that rink they built it to the Olympic size. It is a bigger rink than the Agridome in Regina.

And I say to you, Mr. Minister, that you're putting \$25 million into the arena in Saskatoon, then I think you should negotiate with Saskatoon and say, lookit, we feel that if we had an Olympic-size rink in here it would be a lot safer for our hockey players and provide a better quality of hockey. And you can negotiate with them because you're putting that kind of money in. You didn't have to negotiate with Notre Dame; they built an Olympic-size rink and it's pretty nice to see these hockey players out there where they've got some room to move around.

I say, Mr. Minister, that you have to take a look at a program where you take the initiative, and your department and yourself can be a leader in this, and say to the individual communities, lookit, we'll put up X number of dollars in a grant if you will expand your rinks, if you will lengthen them out a bit and widen them out.

And then we can take a look at different rules, and we can be a leader in that. You take a look in European hockey, and I say to you, Mr. Minister, they don't . . . when the puck goes over a red line in European Olympic hockey, the whistle is blown. But if you take a look at our junior hockey leagues and our minor leagues and the NHL, they just race down to the end, crash into the boards, and that's where we get our serious injuries and a lot of violence — a lot of fighting takes place.

So there's many changes that can take place in hockey. We might think that we've come as far as we can go and that everything is perfect because we are a leader. But more and more we're seeing the European style of hockey that's coming into Canada because of the Europeans and the Czechoslovakians coming over here, and I think that, Mr. Minister, your department can take a leadership role here and provide grants to communities.

I know some of the arguments will be: well, we need the seating capacity. And I don't think that we can take a look at the economics when we should be taking a look at the safety of our hockey players — both young and old — and

providing better entertainment and less violence by building Olympic-size arenas. So I guess my request to you, Mr. Minister, is to take a serious look at that and to go to your cabinet colleagues and bring out a program, a capital program, that will allow our communities — and would create many jobs — to expand the arenas. Expand in length and expand in width, and we will come up with a lot safer sport and a more entertaining sport.

And I ask you, Mr. Minister, to take that proposal that I have brought forward in my letter, and what I have said here today, very seriously, and hopefully that Saskatchewan once again can become a leader in another area.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, I did have a response to the hon. member. I believe it went to The Northerner newspaper August 7. I'm not sure if it did go direct to you or not. I'll check with my office. You'd written one to me in The Northerner and I replied, saying that I agreed with you on the subject. And it'd certainly allow more room to manoeuvre if our rinks were indeed bigger. I agree 100 per cent with you.

You talked about rules. Yes, we've got some discussion ongoing with SAHA (Saskatchewan Amateur Hockey Association). We're also in touch with SaskSport, and the officials are discussing this with them. The whole area of violence, and violence in hockey, and violence in sport in general, is on the agenda to be discussed at the next meeting of provincial and federal sport ministers which is to be held in September. I won't be attending that meeting because of commitments in the legislature, but my deputy minister will be there, and he will be taking a strong line on rule changes that we're in mutual agreement upon right now.

As it relates to the rinks themselves, there are some 460 rinks in the province in varying states of repair or disrepair as the case may be, with different types of structures. To undertake a capital program would be extremely costly. Firstly, I think, it would take very careful inspection of what is there, because to start restructuring those rinks would be a very expensive venture. It would almost be cheaper to rebuild them in some cases. But it is not out of the question that when — and it will — the economy improves and we can put more money to that type of capital program, it should be a priority.

We have had a recreational capital facilities program, a five-year program we put in place in 1982, whereby municipalities and other groups could apply and receive fairly sizeable sums of money towards recreational facilities under their jurisdiction. How they choose to spend it is up to them. Some of them have used it for skating rinks and made improvements to them.

I can't disagree with you. If the money were there, I think it would be an excellent project. Given the current financial economic fiscal outlook, it isn't there this year and I rather doubt it will be there next year. But it's something that certainly we should be working towards. I think the accidents that have taken place in the past, to some degree, may have been prevented with the changes you've suggested. Also bringing the lines forward a few feet so there's more space behind the goal in the end line,

I think that makes eminent good sense. The suggestions you've made as to high sticking from behind, I agree. Those kind of things are rule changes that we can discuss with the various amateur sports bodies, and discuss fairly forcefully.

(1530)

Mr. Thompson: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. In closing off, I would just indicate to you that yes, maybe times are tough, but I think this is a time when we should move on this.

What we're talking about here is safety. We're talking about a better sport, and we're talking about creating jobs. You talk about the 400-and-some arenas that need repair; this is the time for your government to bring out a special grant program specifically to lengthen and widen our arenas, to bring them up to Olympic-size levels.

And I think that we should not look at how serious the problem is here — financial problem — because that should not be considered when we're looking at the safety of our young hockey players and old alike. I think that is the key. And we will be setting the example for the rest of Canada.

And I say to you, Mr. Minister, that we've always been leaders, and we can continue to be leaders. We can borrow money for other things; I think we can borrow money for another capital grant to specifically zero in on the safety and the betterment of hockey in this province.

Mr. Minister, that's all the questioning I have right now. My other colleagues will have a few questions to ask, so I will turn it over to them.

Mr. Anguish: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mr. Minister, the last time we got together was July 23, and I had a number of questions at that time, mainly concerning privatization that's taking place within the Saskatchewan parks.

And I'd like to start off by asking a few questions in relationship to our exchange on July 23. At one point on that day you mentioned that the proposals . . . or the advertisements that appeared in papers had called for proposals for the development of say, The Battlefords Provincial Park.

And when I asked you what the status was, you said that they had been deferred. Could you tell me what you mean by that, Mr. Minister? What does "deferred" mean?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would. But first of all I'd like to correct something that appears in the record on July 23 on page 1340 in response to a question from the hon. member from The Battlefords. He asked, who had the contract to lease out golf carts, Battlefords park, and what was the agreement?

The information that was passed over to me was that Valley West Sales had the contract last year. In fact, Valley West Sales Ltd. was one of the companies who bid on the contract for '87. The company who held the contract for golf carts at Battleford golf course in '86 was

H.D. Golf Carts Ltd., and they held the contract from 1982 to 1986.

The other information I gave you regarding that was accurate. I'm sorry, that piece was just handed; it was just a slip. I don't think it will make any difference to the information you requested.

I have some information you requested that day that I agreed to provide to you, and I'll send it over to you now.

And in response to "deferred", yes. Several projects were put on hold and they were being re-examined. And we're looking at projects which would involve capital infrastructure during this fiscal year. We've made a decision, as of Friday last week, to proceed with certain projects, so they're no longer being re-examined.

Mr. Anguish: — Could the minister tell me then the current status of The Battlefords Provincial Park in terms of whether there's being development proposals called for again?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, that is the plan.

Mr. Anguish: — Could the minister tell us as to the number of responses that were generated by the advertisement the first time development plans were called for, and who the individuals or companies were that contacted the department in response to the advertisement?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — I can advise the hon. member that the proposals are in the hands of Tourism and Small Business, not with us. And off the top of my head, I believe there were five proponents who were interested, who expressed interest, five, either individually or groups. But Tourism and Small Business is handling that, so you'll have to ask that particular minister in his estimates.

Mr. Anguish: — Has there been a change? I understood that your department had been handling the development proposals. Since you deferred it, now have you changed it to another department, so that now Tourism and Small Business are responsible for privatization within the parks and Parks department no longer is responsible for that?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Tourism and Small Business has always done the tendering and the handling of the proposals. If it's a venture within a park, we would set out the specs that we would require.

Mr. Anguish: — Yes, I understand. The minister indicates to me that they are advertised that way. I understand that.

Can you then tell me what the situation is with the rental of golf carts, the contracts for rental of golf carts in the provincial parks? Is that handled by Tourism and Small Business as well, or is that handled by your department?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — No, the development projects are the ones that go out, tendered in the newspaper, both departments' names on them. Tourism and Small Business handle those aspects. The ongoing, day-to-day affairs within the park, we would handle ourselves.

Mr. Anguish: — Well then will Tourism and Small Business all of a sudden have a heightened role in terms of our provincial park system, once the developments are proceeded with, or development proposals start to come in?

If a development is put into place, such as a hotel and a swimming pool and a privatization of a golf course, then in fact your department will no longer have responsibilities; that that'll then be the responsibility of the Department of Tourism and Small Business.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Now, Mr. Chairman, I think I can clarify that to the hon. member. The proposals, when they come in, are examined by Tourism and Small Business because they have the expertise on the business side. So they use their people to examine the proposals, examine the viability; they check financial details and various things like that.

Once a project is approved and it's off and running, when it's inside the park, it would be subject to The Parks Act, the regulations, and enforcement by people in our department.

Mr. Anguish: — Well I would hope that your department, Mr. Minister, has close consultation with Tourism and Small Business. And with your close consultation that you have with the other department, could you tell me when you expect to make a decision on the development proposals for the provincial parks that have been advertised in newspapers across the province?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, with specific reference to Battlefords — I believe that's the one you're probably most interested in right now — there will be a bidders' conference on August 27, and the closing is on September 14. And we expect the award would be made about four weeks after that closing on September 14.

Mr. Anguish: — Is that bidders' conference open to the public?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Yes, it is.

Mr. Anguish: — Could the minister tell me the location of that conference on August 27.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, I can advise the hon. member that the intention is to hold that in the clubhouse in the park . . . in the golf course.

Mr. Anguish: — Does the minister also, if you've been in that close consultation with the Department of Tourism and Small Business . . . as to who the respondents were on the first call for development proposals to The Battlefords Provincial Park and other parks?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — I can advise the hon. member the bids hadn't closed at that point. It was still open, so we really don't know how many people were interested.

I had heard verbally there were five proposals, groups or individuals. But we don't know how many there would have been because it was stopped and the bids never

were closed, so we don't know how many would have been received.

Mr. Anguish: — Well, Mr. Minister, there are some other questions that I had back on July 23 that are not involved in your information here. One of them that you gave your undertaking was that you would tell us how much money the provincial park golf course at The Battlefords Provincial Park lost last year. Did it lose money, or did it make a profit on the golf course? That's the question. Your answer was:

We'd be pleased to look up the information relative to The Battlefords provincial park golf course and get it over a 10-year period, or longer if you prefer, and we'll send that information over to you.

That's on page 1340 of *Hansard* on July 23. And I do not see that information. It's almost three weeks late. You haven't sent it to me previously. It's not in the information you provided for me here today, and I'd like to know from the minister when you're going to provide that information.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, if one of the pages would be kind enough to photocopy this for me right now, I've got it for the hon. member from 1977-78 year — that's one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight — that's nine years. I don't have this current year yet, obviously. Fair enough?

Mr. Anguish: — I appreciate that. The other question that I had asked you, and it's on page 1342 of July 23's *Hansard*, and I asked:

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

Your response to me was:

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 for their golf carts.

And I notice, Mr. Minister, that that information is not in the package that you provided for me. If you do in fact have that information here today, I would also appreciate in knowing what the arrangement is for maintenance and what is meant by maintenance on golf carts.

Again on July 23 you told me that Upshot's bid was superior to the bid of Valley West Yamaha Sales Ltd. in the fact that they did maintenance daily. I find it hard to believe, Mr. Minister, that maintenance is required daily on golf carts, unless you call filling with gas and checking oil, maintenance. And I'm sure that anyone could perform that service.

It seems to me, Mr. Minister, that when you say that the Upshot Enterprises had the best bid, and maintenance was one of the reasons you used, it seems to me rather strange that Valley West Yamaha Sales Ltd., who are in the business and have been for some time . . . they have a

service shop, they have technicians that are trained in the type of equipment that's at the park in terms of the golf carts that are out there, whereas Upshot Enterprises have no previous maintenance experience whatsoever in providing maintenance on the golf carts at that location. And it would seem to me that they would have to especially hire someone to do the maintenance on the golf carts because I know that neither of the two principals involved — Mr. Morin or Mr. Hamilton — are able to do any extensive maintenance on the type of golf carts that are there at The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course.

(1545)

So I'd appreciate if you could tell us a little bit about the maintenance schedule — who's doing it at the current time, and who's paying for it?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — In the lease document, I can tell the hon. member, daily maintenance of gas and oil is done by the lessees. And that's not new; that's been in previous lease agreements. The owner, however, agrees to be responsible for all repairs and overhaul costs for all of the golf carts covered by the agreement. That is the responsibility of the owner. The responsibility of the lessee, as has been the case in previous lease agreements, is the lessee just for gas and oil, that type of thing.

And if you'd care for a copy of that particular agreement, I can have this one copied and sent to you.

An Hon. Member: — What agreement are you referring to?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — This is the lease agreement for golf cart operation.

Mr. Anguish: — Well I would appreciate that you would send that over to me.

Now, from what I understand you saying, that a park employee . . . It has always been a sort of standard practice that a park — I'll just wait for a minute until you're done there, Mr. Minister — that it's always been standard fare that a park employee would put the gas in and check the oil daily on the golf carts. Is that accurate?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Yes, I'm advised that's accurate and has been the case in the past.

Mr. Anguish: — Well then what is the daily maintenance schedule that Upshot performs that you found their bid so superior, in terms of maintenance, to that of Valley West Yamaha Sales Ltd.?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Upshot has assumed responsibility — and I don't check them on a daily basis — but they have assumed the responsibility to do checks themselves on anything major, and they are doing that. And I'm also advised that the maintenance this year has been better than ever before, with fewer problems on the carts.

Mr. Anguish: — Who is doing those checks for Upshot Enterprises? Upshot Enterprises themselves are doing those checks daily, or do they have someone at the park

doing the checks on a daily basis?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — As in previous years, if a cart breaks down or any problem is detected, Upshot is informed and it's their responsibility to get it done as soon as possible.

Mr. Anguish: — So then there is no daily maintenance schedule as you outlined in *Hansard* on July 23? In fact we should find the page here so we can be a little more accurate.

Mr. Speaker, on page 1342 of *Hansard* on July 23, I asked you if the only reasons were monetary reasons, as to why the contract was awarded to Upshot, and you said, and I quote, Mr. Chairman:

Mr. Chairman, not only was it a superior bid in terms of economics, but the details were better as well — newer equipment, (which isn't true), 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.

What is the daily maintenance schedule of two individuals who've had no previous track record in this type of business? What was the daily maintenance schedule that was better than someone who said they would do the maintenance weekly, and has been in the business for some period of time — are a sales agent for that particular type of equipment? Can you tell me what the daily maintenance schedule is, that you said was one of the reasons on which you awarded this contract?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, (1) the maintenance is better this year than it's ever been before; (2) there are fewer breakdowns this year than ever before; (3) they did supply newer equipment; (4) if they personally do the inspection every day, I'm not standing there in the park looking at them. All I know is, they are fulfilling their contract to the very letter of the contract. We have better service, a better agreement than we ever had before. That's the bottom line.

Mr. Anguish: — I suppose the . . . I'm not questioning whether or not the service, and the repair rate, and the performance of the carts is better than ever before, because the person who had the golf carts there before, the company, is no longer there. There were two companies that bid to put the golf carts in place for this golfing season, and I maintain to you that either one of them could have had as good a maintenance schedule and as good a record in terms of having the carts up and operating. So it's not a question as to Upshot being better than the year before. It's a question of fairness in the tendering practice whereby you say, Mr. Minister, that the maintenance schedule is one of the reasons for awarding the contract to Upshot. And you can't tell me what the daily maintenance is.

I maintain to you again, Mr. Minister, two individuals from Upshot Enterprises, who said that they could do the maintenance daily, have no previous record. They do not have the expertise to do the maintenance and major repair themselves, as opposed to Valley West Yamaha

Sales Limited, who, in fact, are in the business, do the work on a regular basis in a dealership that they have in the city of North Battleford. And it's not a question of whether it's better this year than last year, it's a question of fairness in the tendering process.

Mr. Minister, what I would like from you is to go back to the whole bidding procedure, and fairness in tenders that are submitted to the province of Saskatchewan, in particular, in this case, to your department. I asked you on July 23 if you would table in this legislature the bid proposals that were put forward to the department by Upshot Enterprises and by Valley West Yamaha Sales Ltd. And at that time you said you would not do that.

You maintained to me, Mr. Minister, on page 1342 of *Hansard* on July 23, that the department was going to go with the best bid. I'd first off like to know who in the department advised you to go with that bid. Secondly, Mr. Chairman, you say on page 1343 of *Hansard* on July 23:

Mr. Chairman, all the information given has been completely accurate.

And the first act you performed today, Mr. Minister, standing in this House, is to tell me that something you told me on July 23 was in fact wrong. Now how do you expect us to believe that everything else that you've told us is absolutely true. Will you give to us in this House, table in the legislature, the proposals that were put forward by Valley West Yamaha Sales Ltd. and Upshot Enterprises in regard to their bid to supply the rental golf carts at The Battleford Provincial Park golf course.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Obviously, Mr. Chairman, there is no stone which this member will leave unturned to try and take cheap political shots at a former member of this Legislative Assembly. And that's the bottom line. The bid was better; we're getting 27.5 per cent a gross instead of 25 per cent. We get a \$10,000 minimum guarantee.

And I should point out, when he says Valley West had a track record, what track record? They never had a contract with anybody to do golf carts. So that's absolute nonsense.

Mr. Anguish: — It's not nonsense. Valley West Yamaha Sales Ltd. are the dealer for Yamaha golf carts in the city of North Battleford. They have a track record in terms of knowledge of the equipment. They have knowledge of the servicing schedules and repair schedules of Yamaha golf carts and other golf carts. They have a physical shop.

It's not necessarily a political shot. What I ask you, Mr. Minister, is instead of getting coaching from the member from Weyburn, the Minister of Education, maybe you could listen to what I'm asking you. What I asked you was: will you table in this legislature the bid documents that I have asked for repeatedly in this legislature?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, once again, here we have a member standing up, saying that the only contracts that are ever done are done on the basis of politics. It's patently false. It's been shown that way before. We broke their precedent. We know how they

awarded contracts, and we know you had to be a friend of that party if you wanted to business with that particular government. It's not our fault if in some cases the only bid that comes in, comes from a well-known Conservative. We're supposed to discriminate against that Conservative and say, hey, you're a Conservative; you can't do business with the government. That's nonsense.

Mr. Chairman, all we have is a case of muck-raking for the sake of muck-raking. He has nothing upon which to base this. It's scurrilous. I just wish he'd make some of those kinds of remarks outside the Assembly to Mr. Morin and his solicitor.

Mr. Anguish: — I don't know how any one could interpret me asking for the tender documents the bid proposals were made, as being scandalous. I think that you have no credibility in this legislature, no credibility whatsoever. You misled this legislature on July 23, and you continued to mislead this legislature by giving a warped perspective of what's being asked of you.

Mr. Minister, will you table in this legislature the bid proposals put forward by Upshot Enterprises and Valley West Yamaha Sales Ltd. in response to the rental of the golf carts at The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course? What are you trying to hide? Those are public documents. Put them forward in this legislature; let the public make the assessment whether you're providing political favouritism to your friends.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, they are not public documents. I beg to advise the hon. member, and I've read the details into the record before. If he wants me to read them again, I'd be pleased to read them.

During the years when those members, or some of them — there's a few survivors from the former cabinet who sat on this side of the House — they consistently refused to table documents; they said it would create a precedent.

They had one minister who said it wasn't in the best interests of the public. I don't know what interpretation to put upon that particular remark. I would assume, I would assume he meant it could prejudice future bids, and he was just being upright, forthright, and honest.

And I'm going to say the same thing. I don't intend to create the precedent by being the first to table the documents in the House.

Mr. Anguish: — The documents are public documents. The minister has acknowledged previously that. In fact, the bid proposals were opened in public, therefore are public documents.

What I ask the minister is: where are these documents now? Where are they physically kept? And I'm not talking about the contract; I'm talking about the bid proposals. Where are they physically kept? And where can an individual get access to sit down and look at those documents, which are public documents?

And this legislature, and people in the province, have the

right to public documents. What are you trying to hide by now sheltering those documents and not revealing them to the public of Saskatchewan?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, the documents were opened in public; it was an open tender. He could have been there and take a look at them if he'd wanted to be there at the time. And given his enormous interest and his enormous dislike for the former member from North Battleford, I'm surprised he wasn't there at the opening when they were done in public.

Mr. Anguish: — Well I have no dislike for the former member from The Battlefords. What I have is a great dislike for the Progressive Conservative Party in the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Anguish: — Could you tell me the . . . Mr. Chairman, could you keep the hon. minister quiet while I'm asking a question? I think that decorum in this legislature is very important. And if he can't hear the questions I'm asking, of course he can't respond accurately, because he can't hear the question.

Mr. Chairman: — Order, please. Would you allow the member from Battlefords to ask his question.

Mr. Anguish: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that.

Could the minister tell me the legal procedure that a bid document would go through so that it's public up until the time that you examine it or your officials examine it, and all of a sudden it's no longer a public document. Would you describe that procedure to me, Mr. Minister?

(1600)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — I am advised that the documents are the property of the people who submit them. They're not our documents.

Mr. Anguish: — Is the minister saying that these documents are not public documents? You'll stand in this legislature today and say that bid documents are not public documents?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — I believe I've said that three times now, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Anguish: — Mr. Minister, can you tell me where these documents are located so a person can physically go there and examine these documents? Where are the bid documents stored?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Probably in the place of business of the proponents who put them in.

Mr. Anguish: — Are you saying now that you've destroyed the bid documents; you no longer have the bid documents? Is that what you're telling this legislature, Mr. Minister?

Did the minister hear the question?

An Hon. Member: — No.

Mr. Anguish: — Are you telling me then that you do not have a copy, your department does not have a copy of those documents; you've destroyed them? Is that what you're telling me?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — We retain copies, Mr. Chairman. They are not public documents. They are the property of the people who submit them.

Mr. Anguish: — Well I find that very, very strange, Mr. Minister, that you can't tell me then, where those documents are located. Tell us physically where they're located within your department, tell us the physical location, and which public employee in the province is responsible for the safekeeping of those documents.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, what we are doing, what I have been doing, is simply standard practice. There's no precedent to do what the hon. member is asking for. If he'd like to see the original document, go and see Myles Morin or go and see Valley West and ask to see their documents. I'm sure they'd let you look at them.

Mr. Anguish: — Valley West has in fact shown me their documents. What we want to do is be able to make a comparison, because you already, as I've said previously, misled the House on July 23 in this legislature. And then, granted a credit to you, you corrected yourself today.

But we no longer want to take your word or the word of any of the members opposite that what you say is factual and correct, because there are far too many examples of being misled. There are far too many examples of unfair tendering practices in the province of Saskatchewan, so that almost anyone who gets a contract with the government has to be a Progressive Conservative member.

The Premier was saying the other day in the legislature that the memberships are going up and up. Well of course the memberships of the Conservatives should be going up and up, because nobody can deal with the government unless they have a Conservative membership. But I maintain to you that they'll drop very rapidly as soon as the next election's over, because people don't want anything to do with the Progressive Conservative Party in the province of Saskatchewan any longer.

You've put great disregard for the public tendering process. You don't care about fairness of government any more in the treatment of Saskatchewan people. In fact, going back to the issue of Conservative memberships, there was a point in time where the undecided votes in the polls were much higher than the Conservative popularity in the polls in the province of Saskatchewan. And the definition of an undecided voter was a Tory without a contract.

An Hon. Member: — What's this got to do with the estimates?

Mr. Anguish: — Well, the member for Kelvington-Wadena asks what it has to do with the

estimates. I'm sure that he realizes that the minister got into the whole issue of muck-raking and slamming different people because of political partisanship. All we're asking for, Mr. Chairman, to the minister, is to show us the documents that were public documents, and I still want the answer from him as how those public documents all of a sudden become secret and confidential documents. Tell me, that process, how that happens.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — It's very simple, Mr. Chairman. It's a time honoured process. They followed it. I have been advised to follow the same process. Now I don't mind taking almost anything I have and saying, here, read it. I really don't care because I've got nothing to hide. What I'm told is that would be precedent. That is something that has never been done before in the House, and I don't intend to be the first minister to break with precedent. There's nothing here to hide. There's absolutely nothing that is not above board. Everything was done fairly.

The documents were opened in public. I don't even see those. Officials analyse them and they send it down, and they say, here's your recommendation, here's your best bid — fine. And as for being a Progressive Conservative member to do business with the government, we do all kinds of contracts for anything from sewage cleaning to beach cleaning. I couldn't tell you how these people vote. And frankly, Mr. Chairman, I don't care how they vote.

Mr. Anguish: — Well, you likely will soon care how they vote. I'd like to go on to a bit of a different topic, Mr. Chairman, but it has to do still with the whole issue of parks.

Could the . . . I'm sure the minister is very familiar — at least some of his staff will be — of the employees of The Battlefords Provincial Park. And can you confirm to me, Mr. Minister, that one spouse of Regan Hamilton, who is a principal in Upshot Enterprises, his spouse has just currently become an employee of The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course, in particular working in the clubhouse at the park? Could you confirm that for me?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — I believe this question relates to a Shelley Hamilton. The vacancy filled by Shelley Hamilton is a seasonal sales and service attendant 1 labour service position, which is not and never has been part of the summer student employment program. At present, the department employs 147 similar seasonal labour service positions in Parks and Recreation sites throughout the province.

Mr. Anguish: — Mr. Speaker, whether it has been a summer position or not, I think that people find it very strange. The employees who are working at the park all of a sudden see this individual drive up one day with a Porsche, a nice, new Porsche driving into the parking lot with "Mrs. H" on the licence plate. Well that's certainly out of character for most of the people that work there. And in times of very high unemployment, in times of very high unemployment in some areas of the province, when summer students are looking for seasonal jobs to go back to school, it certainly irks individuals seeing someone drive in, no one knows if they are coming to work there, wondering who has the new Porsche with "Mrs. H" on

the licence plate, in the staff parking lot. And all of a sudden this individual is working in there.

I maintain likely to keep an eye on the business so that Mr. Hamilton, who also has "Mr. H" on his licence plate and drives another almost equally elaborate vehicle around the golf course, so that they can look very closely at taking over the bid proposal, so that they could have closer information than other people have, and again, an unfair tendering practice in the province of Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe anybody checks out the type of car in which a potential employee drives up looking for a job. I could point out to the hon. member it certainly didn't irk the first three people who were offered the job, who turned it down, and subsequently it was offered to Shelley Hamilton.

Mr. Anguish: — Was the position advertised, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — These are posted internally. The people who turned it down, probationary employees who had first crack at the job, and they all said no.

Mr. Anguish: — Oh, so it was advertised internally. Well if it was advertised internally, how did Mrs. H find out about the job and then have it offered to her, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, posted within the park is what I meant — internally around the park. Anybody had the opportunity to apply. Some people have more initiative than others and they do go out and they hunt for jobs and they look around. You know, in this party we don't have that kind of jealousy at success that the people opposite have, and we don't think profit is a dirty word, and we don't mind if somebody drives a nice car. We like success. And work, hard work, are not dirty four-letter words in our vocabulary like they appear to be in yours.

Mr. Anguish: — But cheating and manipulation is, and it should be in your vocabulary as well.

Mr. Chairman: — Order, order. Order, please. I think we are degenerating this discussion into something that we could do without so I'm going to caution all members to please watch their language and let's try to keep it as parliamentary as possible.

Mr. Anguish: — As difficult as it may be, I do not believe what I said is unparliamentary. And I will, in fact, not do that again, but the temptation is very great, Mr. Chairman. But I'll try and stay from the temptation that's there.

Mr. Minister, how many people applied for the job that Mrs. Hamilton received in The Battlefords Provincial Park golf course? And were the three people it was offered to, did they apply, or were they asked because they were employees of the provincial park?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, this was posted completely in accordance with SGEU rules and run accordingly.

Mr. Anguish: — With SGEU rules means it's advertised, it's posted internally, not around the park. So I want to know, first, how many current government employees applied for the job?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — All I can tell the hon. member was the rules were all followed. The first three people who were offered the job said no.

Mr. Anguish: — How many people then . . . you said it was posted outside, around the park. Now I would have to assume that if you did offer it to any one that was an SGEU member, they didn't want the job. So I would then have to assume that you advertised it by posting it around the park, which is what you said, Mr. Minister.

What paper was it advertised in, if any paper? How many people applied for the job? And what was the interview process that these applicants went through, and who was the person who made the selection?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, we don't have a specific answer for the hon. member's last question on the numbers. I've asked officials to see what they can find out about that. In the meantime, they said they would send over to you the procedures, the hiring practice. We do it in accordance with SGEU rules. This particular instance, it seems to be of some importance to you, so we'll be pleased to check the details and send it to you. I don't have the specific answer for you right now.

Mr. Anguish: — It's not necessarily of great specific importance to me, it's of specific importance to the people of Saskatchewan, is the way you hire people and the way you award contracts in the province of Saskatchewan. And it seems — it seems, Mr. Minister, to be very unfair. That's why we want you to provide us with information such as positions advertised, how many people applied, whether or not the bid documents were comparable so that we can look at bid documents.

It seems to me, Mr. Minister, that we haven't asked anything unreasonable of you. You have accused us of many, many allegations, and I think that that's unfortunate. You degrade the level of debate here in this legislature, and all we're asking from you is very simple, basic information.

(1615)

Now, Mr. Minister, if you offered that job to three individuals — I'm sure your employees told you that, that are here with you this afternoon — they would also know who those three individuals are. Please tell us who the three individuals were who were offered the job and in fact turned it down?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, one of my officials has left the Assembly to phone back to the office to see if we can find that information today. We'll get all the details we can. As soon as we have details, I'll be pleased to furnish them for the members.

Mr. Petersen: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask a couple of questions of the minister and his staff, if possible, concerning bait stations with regards to

water-fowl on their migratory paths. I'd like to know how much was spent last year in the province of Saskatchewan on the bait station program, and whether or not a similar amount will be spent this year, or as required?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, I can advise the hon. member we spent \$300,000 on bait stations. We spend on an "as needed" basis. But we expect to probably spend about the same amount this year. We think it will be as big a program as it has been in the past.

Mr. Petersen: — Could the minister and his staff give me the procedure on how the grain for the bait station is purchased, and who it's purchased from, and who is in charge of the program?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, we buy the barley from local farmers when they have it available; if they don't have any available, we buy it from local elevators. And the program is administered by the wildlife branch within the department.

Mr. Petersen: — I'd like to ask one further question with regards to trapping areas and bear hunting and guiding. And a couple of people in my area have trapping areas, and they have been concerned that people who are arranging bear hunts supersede their trap line rights and can come in at any time and go into that area and arrange hunting trips for bear hunters. They, themselves, would like that opportunity. Could you explain to me the policy with regards to bear hunting and guiding?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, bear are regarded both as game and a fur-bearing animal, so they can be hunted within an area that is trapped, but only by the trapper who has access or rights to that area.

Mr. Petersen: — Mr. Minister, I've had a couple of reports from people who are on trap lines that, indeed, their areas have been invaded, if you would, by a couple of people who are setting up guiding expeditions. And if that's the case, am I to understand it's against policy?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — I'm advised no one can trap in that area, but an outfitter can organize a hunt in that area.

Mr. Rolfes: — Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister, just a couple of questions. Mr. Minister, I don't know how long you've been in this province but that's . . .

An Hon. Member: — Twenty-one years.

Mr. Rolfes: — Thank you. It's irrelevant to my question that I want to ask. Mr. Minister, this is the first year out of, I think, the last 20 or so, that I have not gone camping in our provincial parks due to some unforeseen circumstances over which I had no control.

Mr. Minister, in Saskatchewan over the last 20 years, I think people right across Canada, right across Canada and from the United States, have always been very proud about our provincial and some of our regional parks. And I say that, Mr. Minister, with no hesitation whatsoever. We have always been very proud over our provincial parks. And I think we can still be very proud over our provincial parks today.

But I am somewhat concerned, Mr. Minister, what has happened over the last four years or five years. And I hope you don't take that as a criticism, but I'm a little concerned of what's happening to the fees that we are charging, and the effects that this is having on our ordinary families who have maybe just an ordinary income and can simply not afford an extended vacation or a very expensive vacation and have stayed within the province and used our provincial parks for their vacations.

I know when I was first married and wasn't making very much money, we were tenting, and we always used the provincial parks and found them as a very enjoyable place in which to spend two or three weeks of our vacation.

I was listening to the open-line show on CFQC a few weeks ago. And you probably are familiar with the individual who hosts the open-line show, a guy by the name of Roy Norris. And Roy Norris was on the open-line show, thanking you, Mr. Minister, for an average increase of \$38 per week for his family for the use of Pike Lake Provincial Park.

He listed a number of things that he found had increased from last year. One of them was what I think he termed as a dramatic increase for the camping fees. And I think you must admit they were rather dramatic, from \$7 to \$12. Also he indicated that the park entrance fees had increased.

One point, Mr. Minister, I really do want you to look into, and that is: at Pike Lake, my understanding is that there is a closed-in swimming pool now. And some of the mothers were complaining that if they wanted to take their children into the swimming pool, inside the building, the mothers would have to pay, even though they didn't go swimming, but went in there to supervise their children. And if that is true, I would really ask you to look into that and see if maybe that is something that we should correct so that people will not receive undue hardship.

Could the minister first of all tell me: is it true that families will be experiencing about a \$38 increase per week because of park increases, camping increases and other inside park increases? Is that about correct, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, in response to the hon. member, Mr. Chairman, I didn't hear the Roy Norris show, but I heard he made a mistake and said \$138 instead of 38. But if his family were to be in an electrified site, they would be paying, as you'd correctly identified, \$12 a night instead of 7. So that's be \$5 a night difference times, if it was 7 nights — \$35.

I'd point out to the hon. member, it was the first increase in a number of years. And four years ago when it was increased, it was only increased by \$1. In that time, in the number of years that have gone by, we have increased the number of electrified sites around the province. We've made, I think, some significant improvements to the parks. And I certainly am not trying to stand here and take the credit for it, but we have done things like swimming pools in the parks, and we have generally, I think, done a

fairly good job of improving the services within the parks to folks.

So yes, they did go up. They're not out of line with what is happening in other provinces. We're within a dollar or two either way for camping in most of the provinces, I believe. There may be one or two in the Maritimes I don't have information on, but I can look it up.

The second part of your question related to swimming at Pike Lake. And yes, that was brought to me by one of our MLAs — a mother going in with three or four children and wanted to be there and supervise. We do provide qualified life-guards to supervise children within the pools, but I understand the emotional issue that some of the mothers presented, saying they would prefer to physically be with their kids, and they were not swimming.

What I've advised the officials — and this was within the last two weeks — was that if the mothers were going to accompany the kids, but were not actually going in for the purpose of swimming, I don't see why we should charge them to be there. If the mothers want to get into the water, splash around and go swimming, then I think it's incumbent upon them to pay the fee like every other user.

Mr. Rolfes: — Mr. Minister, I thank you very much for the answer. Mr. Minister, I want to very quickly turn to golf courses. Can you tell me where is the golf course at in Pike Lake Provincial Park? My understanding was that it was some private people were interested in building it. They had some meetings in Saskatoon. Is that still on . . . is there a possibility that that golf course may go ahead, or where are we at as far as that golf course is concerned?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Yes, Mr. Chairman, there was a group who were interested in doing something with the Pike Lake golf course. They were unable to come up with adequate financing, so it just didn't go ahead. And to this point in time, as far as we are aware, there is no private interest in the golf course.

Mr. Rolfes: — Mr. Minister, very quickly, is the government interested in putting up a golf course at Pike Lake? My understanding is that Saskatoon is very short of golf courses. A lot of people visit Pike Lake, not only on the weekends but during the week. I think it would be something that maybe the government wants to look at and see if it would be financially feasible for the government to put up a professional golf course.

Secondly, Mr. Minister, while I'm at it, I want to switch to Diefenbaker Lake and just ask you, while you're answering the other question, to also tell me what progress are you making on the golf course at Diefenbaker?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, if I may, I'll deal with the second half of the hon. member's question first because it's the one I've got on the top of my head. Eleven holes will be ready this year and playable this year. The other seven holes will be completed next year. We are currently in the business of looking for a proponent who will operate the golf course for us.

As regards Pike Lake, yes, there is a land mass there. I'm aware that there've been several proposals, certainly since I became minister of this department. There've been two proposals that I can remember, of people who were interested in building a golf course in and around Saskatoon, and inadequate financing — it just fell apart.

I suppose in the long run perhaps a government could look at doing something with Pike Lake. My own preference, I'll be honest with the hon. member, is if we were to do some development there, that we would lease it on a basis whereby we could recoup some of the cost. But it could lend itself readily to be a successful golf course if the money were available because there is a shortage of golfing space around Saskatoon.

Mr. Rolfes: — Mr. Minister, thank you again. Mr. Minister, would you mind telling me: over the years one of the things that I have regretted that we did not have in our provincial parks is tennis courts. They're not that expensive to build, and the upkeep isn't that great. Aren't we thinking at all of putting some tennis courts into, let's say, The Battleford Provincial Park (because that's the one I frequent the most), and it has a lovely golf course. And is there any possibility that you can, for the foreseeable future, put some tennis courts in our provincial parks and maybe upgrade the one that have at Greenwater?

(1630)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, the last upgrading of tennis courts were done in Moose Mountain within the last year. We have tennis courts at Buffalo Pound, Cypress Hills, Duck Mountain, Good Spirit Lake, Greenwater, Meadow Lake, Moose Mountain, and Pike Lake.

Mr. Rolfes: — Mr. Minister, the point that I wanted to make was that really the one at Greenwater leaves a lot to be desired. The quality of it is not very good unless it's been upgraded in the last year. It leaves a lot to be desired. And I just want to make a pitch for tennis courts. I just don't think that they're that expensive. They add a lot to a family with kids to have a way to entertain themselves in the parks. I will leave that, Mr. Minister.

I want to very quickly ask you a question. I think we discussed this the other day. Could you make available to me the attendance record of the parks over the number of years which you might have — it doesn't have to be done today, but if you can send them to me, that would be fine — and up to the last month that you have for this year.

Mr. Minister, could you tell me: Fisherman's Cove, at Greenwater Provincial Park — it's just outside the park — has your department had any discussion with Fisherman's Cove — that's the restaurant there — and/or have you had any investment in that restaurant?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, we have no investment in Fisherman's Cove.

And you asked me informally the other day if I could find these numbers. I've got them for you from 1977 through 1986, and what I'll give you is — somewhere we've got here, I'll get it over to you later — the numbers, and I think we've got them for July of this year, and we won't have

compiled the whole statistics until the middle of October, particularly for camping, and I'll certainly be prepared to send them to you as soon as I have those. In the meantime, if I send you over this, this will give you the last ten years.

Mr. Rolfes: — Mr. Minister, I appreciate that, and as soon as you have the figures for this year, I would very much appreciate if you could send those to me so that I can make some comparisons. Thank you very kindly.

Mr. Minister, I have one further question. Recently, as you know, there have been discussions going on in Waskesiu for further development. I know that this is federal; I certainly know that. Have you had any discussions at all with the chamber of commerce in Waskesiu who are pressing the federal government and the federal officials to try and make Waskesiu more inviting to the people of Saskatchewan and the rest of the Canadians?

Waskesiu used to be a place where you were lucky if you could get in by Thursday. Now I'm told that you can almost get in at any time of the week, and there's no difficulties because the attendance is way down. Have you made any representation? Have you had any requests from the chambers to give them some support for upgrading of facilities in Waskesiu, and in including other facilities for families?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, we haven't had formal requests from federal officials from Parks Canada and Environment Canada to assist them with upgrading within the park. I recognize some of the things you're saying, and I agree with you. There probably is room for some work to be done there, and some development that could be done.

Mr. Rolfes: — Mr. Minister, you misunderstood my question a little bit. I didn't expect that you would get representation from the federal officials. My question was did you get representation from the chamber of commerce? Because the federal officials don't want any development — that's the problem. Did you get representation from the chamber of commerce for you on their behalf to try and convince federal officials that something should be done?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, the chamber of commerce hasn't corresponded with me or with department officials. I believe they've had some contact with the Department of Urban Affairs, and they were looking to get out of the federal system, as I recall. But I wasn't advised of it formally by the Minister of Urban Affairs. I just read of it in the media.

Mr. Martin: — Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister . . . A number of cottage owners on Lac La Ronge — and there something in the neighbourhood of 210 cottage owners on Lac La Ronge — have expressed to me the concern of the beaver population which seems to be increasing at an alarming rate. And the beaver are chopping down all the spruce trees, and a lot of the spruce trees in front of the cottage area. And of course, they only take the leaves and they leave everything there, and as well as a lot of the poplar trees.

And I understand, because it's in a provincial park, they are unable to trap these animals or, you know, even to move them to another area. Could you give me an answer to that and how the problems might be handled in the future if there is a problem?

I meant birch trees rather than spruce. They don't eat spruce. They love birch.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that if there is a problem with nuisance beaver in that area, we can address it. We can, in fact, bring in licensed trappers to do the trapping. We do have a nuisance beaver trap program. And just as an aside, and I know my colleague from Athabasca's aware of this, there's more beaver now than there was at the height of the fur trade.

Ms. Smart: — Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I'd like to ask some questions to the minister regarding the archives. And I'd like you first of all, please, to give me your understanding of what the archives is. Can you describe it?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, in response to the hon. member, I was going to look for the specific mandate and just read it to her. Perhaps I can just give you a little bit of background here.

Some years ago I was minister of advanced education and manpower, and at that point responsibility for the archives fell under that department. Subsequent to the last election, we're looking at reorganizing and realigning departments, and we thought that the Archives Board themselves actually would feel more comfortable falling under Parks, Recreation and Culture, because we do have responsibilities for heritage, and naturally the Archives Board has a responsibility for heritage, and history, and collection of documents and other archival material, that do form part of a very impressive collection in Saskatchewan.

Ms. Smart: — Well, I'm glad that you were aware of the fact that it collects historical documents, Mr. Minister. The archives was established in 1945 under The Archives Act. And from its very beginning, the Archives Board was a joint undertaking of the government and the University of Saskatchewan, reflecting the importance of maintaining political neutrality by being partly controlled by the university, and academic respectability of the archives, which is a place for historical research. And as an integral research component of the university, it's very important that it was under the Department of Education, Department of Advanced Education.

It's now been moved, as you've mentioned, to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, a move which is not comfortable for the people in the archives community and people interested in historical research. In fact, they're very upset about the move out from the Department of Education.

I'd like to ask you questions about the Archives Board, per se. There are two positions vacant on the Archives Board and have been for some time. I would like to know how long those positions have been vacant, and when are they

going to be filled, and by whom?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, in the discussions I had with members of the Archives Board and people connected to that particular aspect of the cultural and heritage community, they told me they thought the realignment made more sense to be with this department than with the Department of Education or Advanced Education.

The representation on the board still consists of an appointee of the University of Saskatchewan; an appointee of the University of Regina; University of Regina's, Dr. Bernie Zagorin, who is the chairman of the board, Dr. Courtney from the U. of S. The other one appointment, by legislation, is the legislative librarian, Marian Powell. That's three of the positions. The fourth position is occupied by Ron Hewitt, clerk of the Executive Council, which was a position occupied at one time under the NDP administration, and that leaves one vacancy on the Archives Board, not two, as the hon. member suggested. The fifth position, at one time, was filled by the minister responsible for the Archives Board. And at one point I, myself, served on the Archives Board. Since assuming responsibility for the board under this particular portfolio, I have decided I don't want to be a member of the Archives Board.

The chairman of the board met with me two weeks ago, approximately, and he suggested that they would like to have an MLA appointed to the board, and I was in the process of doing that. In fact, the gentleman that I had asked to serve on the board happens to be yourself, Mr. Chairman, who has a background and a degree in history and a strong interest in archives.

I thought he'd make a very good representative. I found out that legislation would preclude him from taking that position for several reasons, so we are currently attempting to fill the position with a suitable candidate.

Ms. Smart: — Well it'll be interesting to hear if the people on the board really are happy with the move into Parks and Recreation and Culture.

Do you think they're also happy with the fact that for the last four years the budget for the archives has been frozen at \$852,910, and this year reduced by \$212,910, to a figure of \$640,000 — over a \$200,000 cut? Are they happy with that? Why have you done that to the archives?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, the funding to the Archives Board has been comparable with other provinces. This year they experienced the same type of cut-back in line with trying to tighten our belts and show some fiscal responsibility that other agencies and government departments experience.

In my discussion with the chairman of the board, he indicated that they recognize the difficult fiscal situation facing all of us within the province. And he also indicated to me the board would be determined to do their part.

Ms. Smart: — Mr. Chairperson, this government, this PC government, is continuing to drag us down to what other provinces have, instead of supporting the very creative

and innovative programs that we've established in Saskatchewan that are different and better than other provinces have.

Certainly the development of the archives since 1945 has been one of those programs. Let me quote the Dominion Archivist, Sir Arthur Doughty, from a long time ago, said:

Of all national assets, archives are the most precious. They are the gift of one generation to another, and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization.

It seems that we're going downhill. Mr. Minister, there are several positions vacant on the staff of the archives. There's been no Provincial Archivist appointed. There's an Acting Provincial Archivist. There's no associate Provincial Archivist. Those positions have been vacant for a full year and there's been no government action to fill these central leadership positions. Currently as I understand it, the staffing at the archives has dropped below the 1980 level. Can you tell me how many permanent positions you now have in the archives, and how many there were in 1980?

(1645)

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — I would point out to the hon. member, that's a decision for the board. They are an autonomous board to determine staffing levels. I don't have the staffing level for 1980. I can probably find it for 1987, and as soon as I do, I can provide it to the hon. member. I don't think I'll be providing the information today, however, because we don't have the staffing levels for 1980 here.

Ms. Smart: — I would like to be provided with those staffing levels — the number of permanent positions that now exist in the archives and the number of temporary or special employment positions that now exist, and what they were in 1980. And I would look forward to getting that information.

I don't know when you filled the vacancy on the Archives Board so that now there's just one position vacant. My understanding as of July 24, 1987 was that the Acting Provincial Archivist was on the board, the legislative librarian, the head of the history department at the University of Regina, and a member of the history department at the University of Saskatchewan, and that there were two vacant positions.

It means that the board has been operating with less staff, less board complement, and probably decisions have been more difficult by a \$200,000 cut in the budget. But definitely, they have to get the staffing of the archives up to a better level because they're very overworked right now and the archives are falling into great disrepair.

I want to ask you some questions now about the space that the archives ... that they fill. I would like to know under the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation how much money is available for the renting of a privately owned space now occupied by the archives? How much money of the \$11 million in this

payment represents rent for the archives?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, that would be a decision for the board to decide, how much money they want to spend on renting space.

Ms. Smart: — Mr. Chairperson, when this budget is drawn up by the government, surely they know — when they estimate \$11 million-plus, under the payments to the property management corporation — how much of that approximately is rent for the archives.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — I believe the hon. member is looking at a line in the blue book from property management Crown to our department to cover all of our space activities, and the rent that would accrue to us thereby. A decision by the Archives Board is theirs entirely — where they will rent and how much they will pay for it out of their grant.

Ms. Smart: — Are you telling me that the total amount of money that the archives rents for space is coming out of that \$640,000 that you have given them for the money for the Archives Board? That includes the rent of space?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — No.

Ms. Smart: — Then my question still remains. I would like to know the breakdown of this payment to the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation. How much of that is given to the Archives Board to pay their rent?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, it may show in our gross figures somewhere, but I believe the hon. member is going to have to address that question to the minister responsible for the property management corporation because they are paying rents, and they are assessing on buildings.

Ms. Smart: — Do you mean to say then that when we vote on subvote 21 under your department, payments ... subvote 57, excuse me — subvote 57, payments to the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, that we have no right to question you when it's under your department, as to the amounts of money that are under that item?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Now, Mr. Chairman, questions on rental charges to Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation by facility will come from them. It doesn't come from us. We've got a global figure for rent. I'd point out to the hon. member, if you take a look at that subvote, we have offices all over the province. We have conservation offices staged all across the North, across the South, we have regional offices, zone offices. We have a whole host of facilities.

Ms. Smart: — I'm aware that you have a whole host of facilities. I would have thought you would know how much you were paying for rent for some of them so that you could give us that information now. But it's your understanding then, it's your commitment that we will get that information when the property management corporation is discussed. Does that come up in the House or is that in the Crown Corporations Committee that we

discuss that?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — I do believe that's Crown corporations.

Ms. Smart: — So it won't come up here for public discussion. Can you tell me who owns the building? This is not a decision of the Crown management corporation. It should be information that you would have. Who owns the building that the archives is in at the moment?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the rent would be paid by us. It's managed by property management Crown corporation, and questions relative to space should be addressed to them.

Ms. Smart: — Mr. Minister, are you aware that Coopers & Lybrand report on the archives recommended increased efficiency of government management of records? Are you aware of that report? Are you aware of their emphasis on long-term planning that was badly needed for the archives?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, I'm aware of a Coopers & Lybrand report relative to my department and organization of the department. I'm certainly not aware of that particular suggestion that was just made.

Ms. Smart: — One of the suggestions they made was that there was great need for increased efficiency of government management of records. And there have been complaints from depositors, from people who've put their material into the archives, that the records they've given to the archives have not been processed properly.

It's my understanding that the archives, because they're so short-staffed, and now they're being cut back more and more with the money that they have, are getting further and further behind in processing our records. And if this happens, and the records are not able to be conserved properly, we're going to lose about a decade of history in this province. And it's your responsibility to see that this does not happen. These records are very valuable.

I would like to ask you if you're aware whether the PC cabinet ministers and other PC government people have been depositing their records in the archives. Have you been doing that?

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, I personally haven't yet, and I'm not aware of what other ministers or people within government have been doing. I haven't been requested to submit anything to archives. I'm aware of the rules. I discussed them with the chairman some time ago about why ministers would want to put records in and for how long they are not available to the public.

Having toured the archives a few times, I've seen boxes of documents from former premiers, some of which are not yet available to the public. There's a certain number of years where they lie in limbo before they're made accessible to the public. I don't know who has submitted anything so far.

Ms. Smart: — Mr. Minister, as part of The Archives Act, it's the responsibility of government departments to have the archivist come in and look at the documents so that they can be preserved. It's shocking for me to hear you say that you don't know what the government's been doing with their records since 1982. It's very important that the Provincial Archivist be involved in looking at those documents and making sure that they're preserved. That's in the Act, so that needs to be done.

One other thing that I would like to just comment on briefly is that the publication of the Saskatchewan History magazine has been stopped as a result of these cut-backs. It's no longer being published. So we have a cut-back in staff; we have a cut-back in budget; we have a board that's not been appointed properly; we have the Archives Board taken away from the university so the archives are not a research component of the university any more.

There's just a tremendous attack on these historical records by this government opposite, and it's a real shame. It's a loss of a decade of history. And I say the history of this province deserves a much higher priority from this government. You should fill those vacant staff positions as quickly as you can. The Archives Board should be receiving a budget of at least \$900,000 at this point in time. Freezing the budget for four years and cutting it back by \$200,000 is not good enough — not good enough at all. And I'm sure that the Archives Board are not happy about that.

And finally, the Archives Board should continue to be under the Department of Education, not put under Parks, Recreation and Culture. The archives are a resource for the university for academic research. They're very important for the future as well as the past.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Well, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has been reading from a prepared text and rattling on with some tirade about making stuff available and accessible. I'm advised departments do regularly ship stuff over. I personally haven't been requested. I didn't know I was supposed to be shipping things on a daily or on a weekly basis, or the archivists were supposed to be tripping through my office looking at things. If the archivists are interested in coming and looking at documents of mine, they can come and look at them.

The hon. member was going on about taking away the archives from the universities. I seem to remember the university thinking they could use the space themselves and saying they would like to see the archives moved out into another space. I don't know where you get your ideas from that this is somehow very unpopular with the universities, or that it is in fact some research arm for the University of Regina or the University of Saskatchewan. They do have representation on the board.

The representatives they have seem to be quite happy with the board. They seem to be quite happy with the operations. Certainly they would like more money; everybody would like more money, Mr. Chairman. The fact of the matter, there isn't an awful lot of money to put into their operation. They have assured me that they can operate within the budget they have and they can

continue to do a good job for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Anguish: — Mr. Chairman, and to the minister, it's almost the normal time of adjournment, and you gave me your undertaking a little earlier in this committee to gather some information concerning hiring procedures and individuals that were hired. And I'm wondering if you in fact have that information at this point in time, since you mentioned one of your officials was, I think, in your words, running to the telephone to determine whether or not you could get the information here today before 5. I'm wondering if you do have that information.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell: — Mr. Chairman, the official has returned. He called the department and he asked them to look up the information and put it together. We don't have it here yet.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 p.m.