

## EVENING SITTING

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

**Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure  
Tourism, Small Business and Co-operatives  
Ordinary Expenditure — Vote 45**

**Item 1 (continued)**

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other evening we spent a few moments going through the estimates on this department. We dealt mainly with small business. Tonight it's my intention to move into the tourism area and what your government's departments are in terms of the announcements you've made pertinent to tourism.

But I want to repeat what I had said the other night, Mr. Minister, there are many people in this province who are very sceptical of your plans, and I think what we're going to try and do tonight is establish whether or not you in fact have some concrete plans and if those plans, that were announced about a year ago, have been put on the old wheel, and if in fact they're moving on.

We've — just to do a quick overview of your government's performance since 1982 — we've seen a litany of slogans. We've seen Open For Business which was a flop. We've seen Saskatchewan Builds that didn't work. We've heard Partnership for Progress that didn't happen, and I haven't heard a new slogan for tourism yet but I'm assuming we will, in the next few months and few weeks, hear some kind of a slogan. But we're hoping, Mr. Minister, and Mr. Chairman, that it be more than slogan than an actual fact, it will create some real economic development in this province — something that's been sadly lacking since 1982.

We have some concerns on this side of the House, I must say, in terms of the change to the department. It's been lumped together, a number of different departments — Tourism and Small Business and Co-operatives have been lumped into one larger size department. And what we've been hearing, Mr. Ministers, and I guess what we've been seeing is that this department is in chaos. It's my feeling and the feeling of a lot of others in this province that the people employed within your department haven't had direction from Executive Council or from yourself as the minister, and they're not really sure where you're going.

I said before, we want to look at your plans and your announced plans, and we want to see if there is a plan for economic development through tourism. I said before, we want to see if there has been anything accomplished so far or if it's just wind and feathers in a blizzard.

Last evening you indicated to me that you were concerned about positive proposals from this side of the House. And, Mr. Minister, that's how we see our role. But the proposals and the changes, the amendments to your plans, can't be enacted until we know what your plans are. Mr. Minister, the Executive Council, you as part of that Executive Council and the Premier, set the direction

for this province in every department.

And as I said, you've made announcements, but we want to know if you've carried through on those announcements. And I want to go back to one particular area that was announced about a year ago during the election campaign by the Premier, the tourism and hospitality institute, and we'll be questioning as to what's happened since. I believe it was October 10 of last year. It's been almost a year, and frankly, there's nothing that we can see that's tangible, and we're going to be asking you about that.

But I want to get on to what we plan to do this evening, and I would like to ask you some questions, if I might, regarding the tourism and hospitality institute. The Premier, during the election campaign in 1986 — I have a clipping here from the Star-Phoenix, and I guess this was on October 4, right during the campaign — the Premier announces 7,500 jobs that he's going to create in tourism, and one of the vehicles that they're going to be using in order to create all of these would be a hospitality institute. Now, Mr. Minister, I'd like to ask you if you could update us on your government's immediate plans for the establishment of the tourism and hospitality institute.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I think at the beginning it would only be fair if I outline — you asked some of the initiatives that we were having in tourism and what the impact was in the province. I think before going right into your direct questions of the hospitality institute, I would outline a few of the facts that would be, I think, of interest to you.

I think you realize, and I hope you do, the great potential of tourism in the whole economic development of Saskatchewan — not only Saskatchewan but I think every province and every state across this nation. I said this the other night so I won't repeat it in any detail, but if you ask any of the economists, and especially people involved in tourism, they will tell you that tourism has probably one of the greatest growth potentials within the not too distant time frame that tourism could become almost our number two industry.

You know, times have changed, and I think you realize this certainly from whence I was a boy where those who went on holidays were few and far between . . .

**An Hon. Members:** A long time ago.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — And the member from Quill Lakes said it's a while ago, and he's correct on that. But I think he knows the same thing — where we grew up and so on, that you didn't get a holiday. And those who went to the East, you kind of wondered if they'd come back again. And anybody that ever went overseas, you were really wondered if you'd ever see them. But that's changed. And it's commonplace now for people in all walks of life to go on a holiday. That's part and parcel of what life in North America and Canada and Saskatchewan's all about.

So I think anyone can realize that the potential for tourism within our own province, within our own country, within this continent and across the globe is growing yearly and

yearly. So when I say it could become the number two industry in the province of Saskatchewan, I think you could find many people that would say that that is a distinct possibility.

I see the member from Athabasca sitting across from me, and I think he well understands too the latent potential, still some to be developed, of the tourism industry in the part of the country that he represents. I mean, we in Saskatchewan sit here with a fantastic potential to develop and market many of the things that are here in this wonderful province and country in which we live.

Approximately 4,650 tourism-related businesses, or 13 per cent of all non-agricultural businesses, exist in our province. We have direct and indirect employment of somewhere around 30,000 people. Our Saskatchewan convention and meeting business is in excess of 56,000 people; and we have an annual growth trend between 9 to 10 per cent per year from '84-87. And of course with the opening of the new convention centre in Regina, we will see that that can greatly be increased as we will have here in Regina a state of the art convention centre and hotel.

Motor coaches and tours through the province is a big part of life. As we know, our population and the population of many areas in this country — the senior population is increasing. Seniors today, thank goodness to the times that we have lived in and the progress that we have made as a society, have better pension plans; they have an opportunity to go and visit other parts of the country which they didn't in their years of being productive citizens of this province. So many of them take motor coach tours, and we presently have 537 motor coach tours through Saskatchewan. These tours registered 9,214 rooms during the summer season and the direct economic import to the province of \$2.5 million with an average stay of one night.

And I'm sure, Mr. Critic, you would join with me in hoping that we could develop attractions within Saskatchewan in which we could entice those people to stay more than one night in our province. Because we know, you and I, that there's more than one night of good entertainment and things to see in Saskatchewan.

On that note, I was talking to the new executive director of TISASK (Tourism Industry Association of Saskatchewan) and we talked about TISASK the other night — that's the private side of the tourism industry — and he was indicating to me that his research indicates that a lot of people coming in at the border of North Portal, the Americans, that are bound to Alaska. It seems to be to an American that the big thing to do is to go to Alaska. I've been to Alaska and I can see why they want to there; it's a lovely place to see.

The CEO of TISASK, the chief executive officer, was indicating to me that he was looking at some routes through Saskatchewan that would indicate to the people when they came to the border and came into the port of entry how they could go and see some of our first class golf courses, stay at some of our very interesting resorts, and not pass through Saskatchewan in one night or two days, but to spend . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . That's

right, to spend it in two or three areas.

I see the member From Quill Lake tripping again, and he knows very well that at this time of the year, there is a fine potential that we could develop for tourism for the hunters in your part of the country. I mean, that is something that we can market, and from my investigations in the mid-western United States, there's many people who would like to go there and take part in the fine goose hunting and upland game that you have in your part of the province. But I think it's incumbent upon all of us to do these sorts of things.

Restaurant — this is a good indicator too — restaurant receipts during January to May of 1987 are up 20.5 per cent over 1986. We have a number of new products in tourism development in our province. In the current year since March 31, we have eight product development projects, both capitals and studies, representing approximately \$7 million in new investments. One that I have been at, and I think many of you have been at and I think the city of Regina and southern Saskatchewan are very proud of, is the new Queensbury Downs where we having a racing facility that people tell me is second to none across this country, and I think we should congratulate all of those on the exhibition board and the people involved in putting this together. It's first-class, world-class. And the member from Rosemont is nodding in agreement that any Regina member should be proud of that facility. He says he supported it. I want to tell him that our government has supported the exhibition association with the expansion to the AgriDome and to the expansion there of the barns, and now the racing facility, which I understand from talking to people in the mid-western United States, is perhaps the best in the Dominion of Canada.

We have a number of four-season resorts that have opened. Duck Mountain has a new four-season resort. We have one down at the Cypress Hills and another one in Moose Mountain Park.

So just as a little introduction to the critic to show what we have been doing in the way of developing this fine potential in tourism, I hope those opening remarks give him a little bit of indication of some of the things that have been done. And I can say that I look with great optimism to what we can do and I believe there is a lot of development there. And as we discussed the other night, there's a lot of things at the community level, there's a lot of things on the regional level that we can do as Saskatchewan people to make us a real show-place for tourism, a place where people want to come and a place where people want to stay.

But getting to your question, you can build facilities, you can have natural attractions, and you can have these things in abundance, but I guess the thing that is brought back to me as I travel and as I talked to other people who travel is how you are treated as an individual and a human being when you go to another part of this country. And certainly I can tell you that one of the most impressing things is that if when you come into an area and somebody says to you, I'm glad to see you, and where do you come from, and how long are you here for, and if you are here for a while, would you like to see this and

this and this. And that's where we as Saskatchewan people can shine.

I know from my friends in my constituency and in my many travels through this province — and I think all of you in political life would agree — that the people of Saskatchewan are a hospitable people, they're a kind people, and they're a sharing people. And I believe that we should be taking that natural instinct, that natural part of the Saskatchewan that I grew up in and I believe so much in, and we should be using that to help us market these fine resources that we have. And to that end, my friend, is where we're bringing in a hospitality institute.

(1915)

You mentioned that it has been a period of time since it was announced, and I will grant you that. But if you know me, and your older members in the opposition know me well, know that if I'm going to do something, I will do it right. They know that entirely, and the member from Quill Lakes knows from five years of health, he knows that's exactly correct. So I am not the kind of man to rush in and headstart and say, hey, we've got to get this going, we've got to build a hospitality institute, because I'm only going to have one opportunity to do it. If we only have one opportunity, as myself as a minister, and my government and as this province, it's only incumbent that is done best for the interest of the people of Saskatchewan.

So to that extent, I have gone out and discussed, as I've told you the other night in my consultation workshops this spring in Weyburn . . . 400 people talking about a hospitality institute, hearing from the grassroots of the people of Saskatchewan, how they feel it should be put together. A couple of weeks ago up in Yorkton, my officials were with me and we had a great dialogue on the same thing. We're looking to go to Swift Current in the very near future to hear what those people in that part of the province have to say. And before this is over, I'll have touched all areas of the province of Saskatchewan to hear how they feel we should deliver this hospitality institute.

And I think it's important that we talk to all walks of life. In Yorkton, I remember talking to some of the students who were there from the collegiate, because they are the people, they are the people that are going to take part in this type of institute, they are the people that are going to build the tourism industry of the future, and I think it's only right that we listen to them.

So getting down to your question, because I know you have many more and I don't want to belabour this, certainly we're going to build a hospitality institute. You have my word that it will be a world-class hospitality institute. It will be something that you're proud of. It will be something that your people from Duck Lake and Prince Albert will be able to access. They will be able to have that training to best put forth the face of Duck Lake and Prince Albert and of Maple Creek and of Hudson Bay and of Moosomin and of Estevan and of Bengough. Every part of Saskatchewan will be able to benefit from this. And we're putting together at this point in time a board from a cross-section of people in the hospitality industry to direct the way that this should be developed.

So in short answer to your question, we're on with the building of it. Again, as I told you the other night, if you have suggestions, I welcome them. If you want to give them to me publicly here in the forum, fine. If you don't feel you want to do it that way, come to my office, sit down with me, let's discuss about what you think should be part of the hospitality institute, because I can tell you the Devine government is building a hospitality institute and it will be a good one.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — I think, Mr. Minister, if I can take you back to my question which you haven't answered . . . Perhaps you didn't understand my question, and the question was shortly put. I got an awfully long answer. You were all around the province but you were nowhere near my question. And what I want to know is what your immediate plans are for the establishment of the tourism and hospitality institute. Let me be a little more specific: where might it be built? How large might it be? What will it house?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I think if you recall, when I stood up to answer your question, I said I want to give you a little background in what we're doing and I would lead to what we're doing in the institute. And I think I did that. But if you missed it, that's fine. We are in the throes of putting together a hospitality institute. I am, right at this time and through the consultation with people out there, putting together a board of people from a cross-section of tourism-related industries to be an advisory board to me on what they feel should be in the institute.

Also as I said, I have gone to two consultative workshops of about 600 people, and I plan to have about another six more that will bring in approximately another 3,000 people. Out of that, I feel that we will get the mix of what Saskatchewan thinks should be in an institute.

Now you say to me, where is it, how big it will be; and I don't want to be critical of you, but I think that shows a very strong difference between what you believe and what I believe because I am not going to create, I am not going to create a bricks-and-mortar institute. I believe that would be regressive. I believe, in talking to people, that is not what they want.

I believe that an institute that is going to train people in the hospitality trade should be itinerant. As I said, your people in Duck Lake and in P.A. need to have the best training possible to put forth the best face forward. The people in Oxbow do and the people in Hudson Bay do. So it may well be one component of it is an itinerant type of training session that goes around to those people.

And some of those people are in what we call the lower-paying jobs, unfortunately. They are working in restaurants in some cases; they are working in hotels, and they do not have the money to uproot and go to Saskatoon or Regina to take a course. So therefore we can take the course to them. So that is one significant part of it.

The second part of an institute is that they can work in conjunction with the Department of Education to write courses and indicate, through guidance counsellors and so on, the opportunities, because let's go back to what I

said earlier. If tourism can become the number two industry in the province of Saskatchewan, then it's incumbent upon those who see this to put together courses and kits for guidance counsellors to indicate to young people in our schools the possibility and the potential that can be developed in tourism.

The other thing, as I said earlier that I believe in very strongly, if this has this great economic potential for this province, if this has the opportunity to be the number two economic generator, then I believe that we should raise the status of the people in these jobs, that we shouldn't look on these jobs as somehow secondary, because I don't believe that. Some of these people are the front door to the province of Saskatchewan. Why shouldn't we have the young girl who works in the hotel in Estevan as our best ambassador so that when an American comes up and he drops in for lunch . . .

**An Hon. Member:** Yes, at minimum wage.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I'm saying we should raise that status. I believe in that. And we should have these people trained so that they are there and they can say, welcome to Saskatchewan, welcome to Estevan, here are all the benefits. And to my friend from Rosemont, one of the benefits may be the Rafferty dam in a few years, and here are all the things you can do there, and welcome to Saskatchewan.

If you get that warm feeling, you get that kind of greeting and hospitality, they average thing that most people do is give a gratuity or a tip to that person, where they feel better about what they've been doing. I'm telling you that is the way we will sell Saskatchewan. That is the way we'll develop tourism, and we have to do that through a hospitality institute so these people are trained in being able to put forward the best face of this fine province and the fine people we have here.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, you should have taped one of your campaign speeches or one of the Premier's in October of last year, because we've spent 12 months waiting. You've got up and you've given the same speech you would have given a year ago or six months ago, and that you'll probably give next year in this House when we question you as to what's the make-up of the hospitality institute.

I want to, as well, tell you that you've got your share of gall — sitting in the Executive Council and you can talk about the people who you've frozen on minimum wage for years? You've got the courage to get up and stand and talk to those people about how you care about them? Be real.

Let's get what we've established so far. The possibility of a hospitality and tourism institute being housed somewhere seems very vague, and I don't believe it's going to be, just by what you're saying. You want it in little areas throughout the province and you say you're consulting. Right? And this from a government that believes in building. You've had 12 months, Mr. Minister, to build this. I want to know at what point in time can we

expect this program to be working and these people to be trained in the industry?

As I said, 12 months you've had, you've sat on your hands. We ask you tonight when? No answer. We ask you where? No answer. Just the same kind of hype that you were thrusting upon the people last October during the election campaign. So I'm going to leave that question because it's pretty clear you've got nothing in place, and you're not giving me any indication as to when you'll have something in place.

So you alluded to a board. Let's go on to the board, and let's talk about this board. Can you tell me who is on the board? Can you tell me when the board was established. And can you tell me how often and when that board has met?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I'll go a little slower for you. First of all, I told you previously there will not be an institute of bricks and mortar. I don't believe that's the way we should go. There will be probably something of an itinerant nature that will move around the province so that people in those industries can get the training right where they are. There also will be a component that will move into the schools that will show the young people of this province the opportunities in the tourism industry. That may well, that may well evolve into training in the technical institutes and even to the universities, where we can come out with certificate courses in hospitality training. The Minister of Advanced Education and I have been working closely on this.

So getting back to where it is and where it will be located, let me tell you once again, if you're waiting to see a bricks and mortar school built in Saskatoon, in Regina, Prince Albert, in Wynyard or in Morse, you're not going to see it because that's not what we're going to be doing.

Secondly, I told you a few minutes ago, and again I will go over this, and I will go over it slowly — that I went out and have consulted with the people of Saskatchewan, and I will . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, I listen, and I will continue to do that. At the same time, and I said a few minutes ago, I am putting together a board, a board that is a cross-section, a cross-section of people in the hospitality and the educational fields in the province of Saskatchewan. That board will soon be in place, and they will have a great deal of input into how they feel the institute should develop.

Now you may wish that I would have rushed out in November, January of last year, threw something together, rented some building, put up some edifice, and said there's the hospitality institute. I don't operate that way. I don't think that's the way we should operate. I believe that when you build something of this importance for the people of the province of Saskatchewan, the first rule, and probably the first rule of all politics, is to listen to what they're telling you.

You know, there's an old saying that fools rush in where wise men fear to tread. So I think going slow is not a fallacy. I think going slow and carefully, and building, and building on the wishes and the desires and the advice of those people that want to talk to us is exactly what we

should do and is exactly what we will do. And there will be a hospitality institute and there will be a board in place very, very soon that I think will service the tourism needs of this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — All right, I guess we've got that established. There's after 365 days, after the Premier's grandiose announcement during the campaign, there's been no board established. The only thing that we've got established is that you got the same hype and the same rhetoric you had a year ago and that you've been out consulting. And that's what we've got established to this point.

Now, Mr. Minister, maybe you're satisfied with that, but I'm going to tell you that we on this House aren't satisfied with that. We, as I said, will probably come back into estimates next year and we're going to hear the same story because you're not going to rush into anything. Oh no, you're going to move cautiously forward, cautiously forward the same way that you cautiously build a \$3.5 billion deficit.

I want to know, Mr. Minister when you plan to have this itinerant hospital institute in place. Can we expect it in the year '88, '89, '90, '91, or when? Or just prior to the next election again? Because this would make a nice, big headline; this would be a dandy — "Tourism will create 7,500 jobs." That'll look . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** — Order. I would ask the member from Prince Albert-Duck Lake not to use exhibits in the House.

(1930)

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Pardon me, Mr. Chairman. I certainly will refrain from using exhibits. That's enough of an exhibit to the people of the province.

Let me quote from a headline. Let me quote from a headline then without reading the headline, and I'm just going from memory — 7,500 jobs to be created through tourism. And that will make good memory for the folks of this province when the next election comes.

I want to ask you, Mr. Minister, when we can expect this program to be in place. I would like to know when you expect that this board will be in place and operating. And I would like to know, as well, where are the funds budgeted for this institute in this year?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I'll give you a little more information as to what's been going on in regard to this. One thing, in the host program — and I'm not sure you're aware of the host program, but TISASK has had a host program in place which will be going on this fall and this winter.

It's interesting to know, and I think you are from Prince Albert — I believe that's where you live — and I don't imagine you read the paper, but there was an industry workshop held in Prince Albert a while ago, exactly on the establishment of the hospitality institute, right in your home town. One of the ladies that came out there as the

guest lecturer, or the person who addressed the group, I had met in Vancouver earlier.

My then deputy of tourism, Mr. Folstad and I happened to be in Vancouver and we met this lady, Anne Pollock was her name. And she happened to be, just for your information, was the lady that has been directing and building the hospitality institute in British Columbia. So we invited her out. She is a great . . . probably across Canada one of the leaders in how you would put an institute together. And it would be interesting to know that that meeting with the industry took place right in your backyard in Prince Albert some time ago.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well, Mr. Minister, we're all pleased that you've had another conference, just like your open for business conference perhaps — another expenditure of \$300,000 that didn't work. But I mean we're glad to hear you've had that conference, and I'm glad to see that you've gone to Vancouver, and I'm glad you made reference of your former deputy. And I wonder where he was. Did he leave because of your government's reorganization and perhaps he can't find work in that environment? But that's another question.

Mr. Minister, clearly you've done nothing so far. We're hoping for better things in the year to come, so I think we'll move off of the hospitality institute. Pretty clear where you are.

Can I ask you, Mr. Minister, about the Canada-Saskatchewan tourism agreement? And I want to know how much of the \$30 million available to Saskatchewan under that agreement has been spent. And I would like to know, has the province made available its portion of these funds, some \$15 million, I believe. Where have you made these available from 1984 to '89. Could you answer me that?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well before I answer that, I'm not going to let you off the hook to say we haven't done anything in the tourism industry, because obviously you don't listen to what we're telling you . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well listen again — last time to explain it to you, please.

We've had consultation workshops. Okay? Two, two . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . You fail to listen — two. The member from Quill Lakes again fails to listen — 650 people at the two of them . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . No, no, at the two. You fail to listen also. And we have another one planned for . . . Usually at my workshops, I get out somewhere from 3 to 400 people, and that's not bad. So we've had those workshops. We are putting together a board. We had the industry come to Prince Albert. We brought in the best authority we could in western Canada that I know of to address that workshop. You asked me, when will it be in place? I expect the board will be in place within approximately a month.

You asked me when the institute would be up and going; you asked me this. I believe that the institute should be up and going within the next year and probably early in the spring, summer of next year, it'll be functioning. I believe it'll be touching your area and all areas of the province.

So I just want to say to you before I go into the question on the Saskatchewan tourism agreement that for you to try and say that nothing has been taking place is absolutely wrong. A great deal has been taking place. We will be building an institute that will be something that you and I and everyone here can be proud of, and I believe it will be able to enhance and develop the tourism industry in this province.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Yes, Mr. Minister, a great deal has taken place. You've consulted, you've spent money on a conference, and you've almost set up a board — almost. Mr. Minister, I'm almost afraid to ask, but I would like to — I think the people have a right to know why during your consultations you didn't get a board together so that they could give you some direction. But I'm not talking this October, I'm talking perhaps after last October, why you didn't have that board together and have this program on go.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I think that comment certainly illustrates your lack of understanding of how one goes about building something of this nature, and I'll leave it at that.

Your question was on the Canada- Saskatchewan Subsidiary Agreement on Tourism. The total commitment is \$12,318,000 and the provincial share is, of committed money is \$6,248,000.

Excuse me. Just so we have clarification, my officials tells me that is of the . . . I'm quoting from about September of this year, and that's from when the agreement started, which was in November '84. So take that from November '84 to September 21, '87.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, what was the term of the agreement?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — It was a five-year agreement.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, can you tell if a project has ever been refused in this province because there wasn't provincial funding available under the shared-cost agreement?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — I'm informed that not because of the lack of fund but because some applications have not met the necessary criteria, there have been 32 projects that applications have been rejected and withdrawn.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, it appears that under that shared formula you, in any one of those years, haven't spent the full allotment. If you were to divide the 30 over five years, and your share, it appears to me, would be \$3 a year, it appears that you haven't met your target in any one of those years. I'm wondering, and I ask again: are there any projects that weren't allowed to go ahead because the funding, the provincial funding wasn't there?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Sometimes where you'll see that there's an overlap from year to year because a program is announced and then to get the criteria and everything in place. That takes some time so there is a spill-over into the next year. My officials indicate to me that there were none

refused because of a lack of funding.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — So you're suggesting, Mr. Minister, then, you're going to be picking up the \$3 million in the next two years, that that \$3 million of provincial funding will be available in this province for tourism development, but that it was stalled not because of lack of provincial funding, but because there weren't enough applications for that money. Is that what you're saying to me?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — I'm advised that, as I said earlier, that when a program commences, then the criteria is established and then people decide, well, maybe we'll try and access this, that there is a spill-over from year to year, and that basically it isn't, you know, chopped into five equal blocks, that the requirement increases. It's rather a curve which would I suppose peak more towards the end of the agreement.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Can you tell me how much money was spent in each of the three years?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — My officials are working on that, so if you want to go on with other questions, we'll have it. But we don't just have it at our fingertips, so let's keep questioning and we'll get it to you.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Sure, Mr. Minister, if you'll send those figures along that would be much appreciated. I'd also like to have a list of the individuals, the groups, and the projects that have received funding under this program since 1984. I'd like to know in terms, and the amounts as well, Mr. Minister. Can you provide that information as well, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — And I presume you would want to see the federal and provincial commitment on those. So yes, we're pulling that together and as fast as we can get it, we'll provide it to you.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, can I ask you if TISASK is funded under the Canada-Saskatchewan tourism agreement?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Yes, they received some money under that. They tell me this year it's \$57,000.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, can you tell me how much money was spent by your government for the visitor information centres in '86-87? I would like to know as well how many centres there were in '86-87. I would like to know how many employees there were in the visitor reception centres in '86-87, and I would like to know how many are employed by TISASK in 1987-88. I would like to know, as well how many people who were employed by your department in those centres are now employed by TISASK.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — That'll be forthcoming.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Can you tell me when that's be forthcoming, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Just as soon as my boys get it pulled together here; we're working on it.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — I'm hoping, Mr. Minister, that that'll be this evening.

I'd like to know exactly how much money it's costing to operate the information centres this year? I'd like to know how much the cost is, including the \$116,530 paid to TISASK? And I would like to know . . . Under the agreement you're responsible for some other expenditures, your department is. I'd like to know the rental payment, the heating, the telephone, the electrical charges, any renovations and maintenance done by your department, stationery, office supplies, postage, cleaning, janitorial supplies, and all other charges that your government may be responsible for.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — You're right on the figure. I think 116,530 or something to TISASK. And then you ask about the rent and the electricity; we will provide you with that in complete detail. It's not available right now. We didn't know this question would come in that amount of detail, but I can assure you, you will get an accounting of every cent of it. I don't know if they can get that all ready tonight — they're working on a couple of the other questions — but you have my assurance you will get it.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Could you tell me approximately what time frame I might be looking at in terms of getting that information, Mr. Minister?

(1945)

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — If you wanted to go back over your question so my director of administration could get down everything you asked, we could have it for you in the morning. If you wish to allow him to get the *Hansard* and get the statements from there, it will probably be tomorrow afternoon, but it'll be tomorrow.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — We're more than willing to let him get the information through *Hansard*.

One of the services that TISASK is to provide under this agreement with the province is a training program for counsellors, Mr. Minister. I would like to know if the provincial government employees that have had previous experience in these facilities have been hired by the TISASK organization or if they've had an opportunity to participate, perhaps, even in the training of some new employees. Certainly there are a number of employees who have many years of experience in this field under your department, and I'm wondering just what their opportunities have been, Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — The people who work for us in the tourism offices, or the border offices where you come into the province, the reception centres, were trained by us. Of the people that had worked for the government, 11 of those people put their names forward to be considered by TISASK. Of the 11 that were put forward, seven were hired by TISASK, and I'm under the understanding that all of those were trained by TISASK. So everybody that they hired went through their training program.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — So how many employees in total were there employed in your department, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — There were 21 employed by us in visitor reception centres.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Can you give me, Mr. Minister, any indication if there has been any increase in fees or charges that the public are paying for from services provided by TISASK now, and can you give me, as well, what range of increases those might be, if there are any?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — TISASK do not have any charge for fees for services, if that's what you're asking.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, I'm not sure if I hear you, but what I'm asking for are the fees for any services that they might provide, and if there are any increases over fees that we charged or that the government charged when they were operating those facilities.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — No, we didn't have any fees for those services, nor do they.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Can you tell me, Mr. Minister, what the additional \$266,000 that TISASK received in July was for? Could you give me some indication as to what that was for?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — The \$266,000 was for the visitor reception centres, and the remainder would be for the administration and the operation of the TISASK operation.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, I want to go back to the employees that you have. I had some correspondence with a young lady who was attending university who had worked in tour centres for 13 years in this province. She wrote to me indicating that she was very disappointed that her job application had been refused. I'm wondering, Mr. Minister, why this may have happened. A young lady who had 13 years of experience certainly must have been found capable by your department and was unacceptable, for whatever other reason. I'm wondering if you might want to comment on that.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I wouldn't know the reasons because I believe this is an individual hired by TISASK and they did all the interviewing and all the screening. So I wouldn't know what their . . . if it was a person that they had rejected on what basis that would be.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well I would just want to say to you, Mr. Minister, that when you're making this kind of a decision and when you're making these kinds of changes, that you should have some feeling or should feel some responsibility for the employees that you once had. And I'll put this in straight business terms. There are many business people in this province, if they were selling to another entrepreneur, another business person would ask for some kind of a job guarantee for the people that they employed, and in this particular case, one for 13 years.

And I wonder and I ask you, did you have any kind of dialogue with TISASK in terms of trying to give some stability to the jobs of the people that you had employed, this one in particular for some 13 years? I ask you, did you have any conversations with TISASK in terms of your

employees?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — No, I'm informed that of the employees that were there before, except for where some were closed, we asked them to put their names in. Some chose to and some chose not to. But then as I said previously, on the selection of these individuals and the interviewing, that was TISASK that was completely responsible for that.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, I think you're wrong. TISASK is completely responsible for who they chose, but there was no guide-lines given by your department as to whether or not those people were transferred when you transferred the operation of those facilities to TISASK.

And I say to you, Mr. Minister, I said before, you've got a lot of gall standing up and talking about minimum wage earners in this province, and this is another indication of why I would make that kind of a statement.

Mr. Minister, you sit around a cabinet table that has been irresponsible and callous to employees from one department to another, to working people from southern Saskatchewan to northern Saskatchewan, from the Manitoba border to the Alberta border. You've chased thousands of young people out of this province because of your employment practices and because of the kind of a situation you've set up in this province, and I say it's disgusting and it's not really acceptable at all.

I'd like to ask, Mr. Minister, in terms of your commitment to tourism, the La Ronge tourist information booth, I'd like to know how cutting the funds to that particular booth fit in with your government's commitment to tourism in the North?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Back to your previous question regarding the employees in TISASK. As I said, we had turned the visitor reception centres over to TISASK. We had encouraged the people who had been in those to put their name in, if they so wished, and then TISASK made the selections. And I think that's only right. You may think we should still keep our finger in there, and say, do this, and do that, and so on. I believe if you turn something over to the private sector, to the TISASK, that it is up to them to hire the people who they want to have working for them.

Now you speak about the La Ronge visitor reception centre. What we did in the last year was to finance and fund the visitor reception centres on the borders where they would have contact with people first entering the province of Saskatchewan. In the case of two of these centres, La Ronge and Kindersley, they did not fit that criteria, so for this year we did give them a \$5,000 grant in each case and provided a building, but they did not fit the criteria of what we felt a visitor reception centre of the province of Saskatchewan should be, and that is someone on the border such as at Fleming and at Maple Creek.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, I'm wondering if you could give me some figures in terms of the number of tourists that have been in this province for '84, '85, '86. And if you have any for the year '87, I'd appreciate those as well.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — I have some survey results here, and I will dig up some more for you. I think you understand it's pretty hard to tell how many came in because, you know, they don't all come through visitor reception centres, they come in from all directions and all places. But I do have some statistics that may help you in what you're wanting to know.

The one thing I have here, and these are . . . Every second year they have done this survey and it is: total non-Saskatchewan Canadian trips to Saskatchewan — now this is just Canadians, non-Saskatchewan people — there were 1,000,048 in '82; 1,006,000 in '84; and 1,063,000 in '86. So you can see it runs just somewhere above 1 million to 1,063,000 — those are Canadians.

Now I will try and dig up what I have on Americans, but I think you must understand that . . . and I think your question was, how many total tourists came in here. I don't think we have the figure for the total number that came in, unless they came through visitor reception centres, and my officials are looking for more information on that for you now.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well surely, Mr. Minister, those figures must be indicative of the number of tourists, I would suggest. I see a nil increase between '84 and '86. And I'm wondering what you attribute a non-increase in the number of people who have visited those centres, and I would suggest to you, the number of people who have come from out-of-province as well.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — The officials indicate to me those were people coming to Saskatchewan, and the dip could be with people coming through for Expo, they indicate.

(2000)

I have another statistic that may help you in what you're wanting to find out. This one says, how many parties registered at the government information centres in 1986, and how does this compare to previous years. And I'll give you these figures, these are the government information centers. In 1984 there were 27,409; in 1985 there were 25,225; in 1986 there were 42,929; up till now in 1987, we have 40,000; so we have another three months to go in this year. As you realize the majority of the tourist traffic, other than the Agribition and things of this nature, is probably over for this year. However those people who are coming into Agribition, I'm not sure they would be registering at our government information centres because I imagine they're closed down. So you could go with 40,000 as your figure for this year.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, I'm not sure if I understand. I didn't hear you; it was hard to hear. Could you explain which visitors those were?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — I'll speak a little louder, I'm sorry. Those visitors could be Americans or Canadians that stop at our government information centres. So depending on which way they come into Saskatchewan, those are the figures of people that stop there for information.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Can you tell me what the number of



information centres were in '85, how many were there in '86, and how many were there in '87?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — The number of centres would be seven in '85, seven in '86, and five in '87.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, I'd like to ask you, perhaps you can tell me how the increases in park fees are going to enhance tourism in this province. I'm not sure if you might have the figures, but I'm wondering if you could enlighten us as to the enhancement of tourism through those rate increases, and I might add, massive rate increases.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Yes, and this is on vehicle entries. And comparing 1986 to 1987, in 1986 the vehicle entries into a list of provincial parks here. I could read them off for you if you wanted, but I believe you know it's, you know, Cypress Hills and Duck Mountain and Greenwater and Moose Mountain and Echo Valley and Katepwa and Meadow Lake and so on, the major parks of the province. In 1986, vehicle entries, there was 536,466. And in 1987, there was 562,897 vehicles, an increase of 4.9 per cent, '87 over '86. So I guess that is evidence that there are more people this year visiting our parks than there were a year ago.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well I'll tell you, Mr. Minister, the parks that I'm familiar with, and I'll cite one right close to the area that I'm very familiar with — Murray Point isn't experiencing that. And if those rates in Murray Point are up, I would like to know. I can cite you an experience in the national park in Waskesiu where in 1986 they were down 20-some per cent. And they at that time had experienced some very massive entry fee increases. And I would like you to explain to me why it might be any different in terms of provincial parks than the national park. I met with some of the business people in that particular community, in Waskesiu, who indicated that those rate increases had damaged their businesses severely. And I would like you to tell me if you feel these rate increases are healthy for the tourism industry.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — My official indicate to me that Murray Point — and I'm not familiar with the locale myself — is not a provincial park, it's a recreational centre or a regional park. And for the national parks, of course, we do not have any statistics. I have here before me the ones for the provincial parks, and they are, as I quoted to your previously, 4.9 per cent increase.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, any figures for the years in terms of vehicle entries — '85, '84, '83?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I believe the question was whether the national park was down in '86. And I think Expo had a profound impact upon some of the visitations to some of the areas in our province. We discussed this last year, or the other evening, when we talked about the registrations at the Fleming point of entry being up a considerable amount, and it seems to me that probably Prince Albert National Park was down somewhat. And I would say that a good portion of that could be that a lot of people took the opportunity to go to Expo.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — How much money, Mr. Minister, did

you spend in advertising to get those people to go to Expo and spend their money in Vancouver?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — We didn't spend any money in advertising that anybody should go to Expo and spend their money there.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — How much money did you spend advertising Expo, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — We spent no money encouraging people from Saskatchewan to go to Expo from this department. We did have a program, though, to people to encourage their relatives who would be going to Expo to stop in Saskatchewan and visit our province on their way through. We did spend some money on that type of program, and I think justifiably so, because if you'll recall from my discussions the other night, I told you that a good portion . . . and this goes back to what I was saying earlier, about that Saskatchewan warmth and that Saskatchewan feeling and that Saskatchewan hospitality.

If you will look at the . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . You may laugh about this, but this is very, very much part of this province that I am proud of, and I hope you would be. You may not be proud of it, but I am very proud of it. I am very, very proud of this province. I'm proud to represent it, and I'm proud to try to get as many people as I can to come here. You may laugh at that and make light of it. And for the member from Quill Lakes, you have every right to do that, but I'll tell you, my friend, we differ a long way on that. I'm here to promote Saskatchewan, and you will never see me stand up in this legislature and laugh about the pride and the spirit of the province I'm proud of.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Anyways, back to Expo, and I support you support the NDP idea in Manitoba — don't put a pavilion in Expo; don't be proud of Canada; don't be proud of your province. That's what you represent. I'm not of that bent.

However, getting back to my critic friend. The member from Quill Lakes and I differ on some very substantial parts of the roots of this province. From time to time I feel it incumbent upon myself to illustrate that vast difference between two fellows who grew up in rural Saskatchewan, but because of political ideology and the hope of this province, are completely different. And I am proud of the attitude that we have on this side of the House.

However getting back to Expo. Certainly we spent some money, and we asked people to . . . for them to come here and visit their friends in here. And as I started out to say before the member from Quill Lakes thought he should make light of it from his seat, that a big part of tourism, travel, and visit to this province is exactly that, of people coming back to see their kinfolk, to see those people who they love so much, who they grew up with, and a lot of them in rural Saskatchewan.

We talk here, and my officials have given me some information on what we call our 1986 — this was Expo year — residential summer travel campaign entitled, "Homegrown Holidays." And 20,286 requests from

Saskatchewan residents for a copy of *The Great Saskatchewan Vacation Book*, 11,033 referrals by residents to send a vacation book to their friends and relatives, along with a personal note inviting them to visit, and the largest numbers of inquiries ever received in response to a Saskatchewan campaign.

I think that rests my case, that part of what Saskatchewan tourism is today, has been in the past, and will be in the future, is that home-grown Saskatchewan holiday, that feeling of wanting to come and see one's loved ones and friends in places such as Canora, Saskatchewan, where that kind of bond means so much to the people. I believe that's what we should be developing and fostering, and I think our program in '86 was a very resounding success and a good example of that true Saskatchewan spirit.

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well, Mr. Minister, I see you got excited a little bit, and you started talking about vast differences. I'd like to sum up now, Mr. Minister, and I'd like to tell you about the vast differences between you and the member from Quill Lake because I'll tell you he was part of a government that knew how to deliver a program to small business, knew how to deliver a tourism policy, and knew how to run a balanced budget. And he was part, as I recall, of 11 of them in a row.

You, Mr. Minister, unfortunately have been part of a government under the stewardship of a Premier that couldn't manage a Crown corporation. You couldn't balance a budget. The only thing you're big on is rhetoric and hype, and that, Mr. Minister, is the vast difference.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — You know as well as I know and the rest of the people in this province know, the difference between your statistics of unemployment in this province. You know the difference in terms of the number of small business that have gone bankrupt since 1982 under your administration; and the businesses that were experiencing real growth in their businesses prior to your administration of 1982.

You bet, Mr. Minister, there are some vast differences, and I say to you that the people of this province know it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — There are some vast differences in the way that the people who are unfortunate enough to be on social assistance are treated — very vast differences. They don't want to be on there, and I've talked to a number of them who because of your government and your Premier's decisions, has made it impossible for them to find employment in this province. Mr. Minister, there's a vast difference.

A year ago we hear, tourism and hospitality institute. You wouldn't have seen an announcement under the New Democratic years that would announce a program and not deliver on it. People in this province . . . you talk about the people of this province. They were used to a government that they could trust. When they told them they were going to deliver something, they brought it to them. They were used to a government, when they brought a budget

in, that they would know what to expect for that next year. But not your government. They were used to an election campaign where the government of that day would deliver what they were campaigning on. Not your government.

(2015)

Go back to your operation, your tourism and hospitality institute — a big announcement in October, 1986. Where is it? Smoke and mirrors. You were talking about the gas tax that would never be in the province. Where is it? It's on the backs of every small-business man in this province, and you know it as well. Income tax cuts, 10 per cent. What did you deliver? You gave them a flat tax. The property improvement grant gone.

I tell you, everything, every commitment that you made to the people of this province, you've broken. You promised them balanced budgets, and you haven't delivered one. Not one balanced budget since 1982 have you been able to deliver to the people of this province.

The total provincial debt in this province has raised a staggering amount. Did you promise that? No, you didn't. I tell you, Mr. Minister, your promise of enhanced tourist industry in this province isn't going to happen either, and the people of this province don't believe it.

Mr. Minister, I think you know better and I can't understand a man of your experience and of your years to be able to follow blindly the leadership of a Premier who delivers deficit budgets, record unemployment, record taxes, and who is the leader of a cabinet who has to go out and sell broken promises.

I tell you, Mr. Minister, you ought to be ashamed of yourself.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — You talk about your love of Saskatchewan and your love of the people of this province. Well I'm saying to you, Mr. Minister, if you are sincere about your love of the people of this province, what you'll do when you sit around that cabinet table is tell your Premier that he's wrong and that he can't treat the people of this province and in your riding and in other ridings of this province the way he's treating them.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — I'm not holding you personally responsible, Mr. Minister. I'm holding the Premier of this province personally responsible for the number of bankruptcies in small business, and the number of homes that have broken up because of the economic conditions that you have thrust upon them. I don't hold you personally responsible. But I'm telling you, Mr. Minister, you're part of the group that doesn't put a control on the Premier of this province — a Premier who has betrayed, a Premier who doesn't deserve to be in office.

I say to you, Mr. Minister, what you want to do is you want to go in there, carry the message on behalf of the people of the province, that the kind of government that he is

delivering is not acceptable.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Minister, my colleague has some questions to ask you regarding northern affairs. But before I take my place, I would like to thank your officials for their time and for the information that they will provide, and I'm hoping that the information that we've asked for will be forthcoming shortly.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — You have my assurance, on behalf of my officials, that they will do their utmost to get you the information as quickly as they can.

I just want to point out to you, we went over this the other night, and there's no sense ploughing through ground time and time again. I mean, we waste enough of the taxpayers' money in here with rhetoric questions. I mean, I don't know how much this place costs a day, and I hear the same repetitive questions and the same line of attack. I mean, at some time the people of Saskatchewan are going to stand up and say, just what's going on in there, and how much is this costing us? And that may well be coming.

However, you know, you mentioned about small business and any programs. I would challenge you to list the programs that your government had, and you aren't part and parcel of that because you were, I guess, an avid supporter in those days, but not a member. And I congratulate you for attaining office, but you know, I never heard of an interest reduction program under the NDP for small business. And I don't think there ever was one. I don't think you know of one either.

I know the NDP never, ever thought of a venture capital corporation and the potential that that could have to enhance small business in Saskatchewan. And certainly, as some of your members last night said — and I think that is a sincere congratulation — the member for North Battleford indicated this, that he felt that the business resource centres were an added feature, a good feature to business development in Saskatchewan. And you didn't have those. So, I mean, I'm not going to go ploughing over the same ground again.

But I wanted you . . . you congratulated my officials, and I thank you whole-heartedly for that because in government one can only do so much, and most of that, you plant the seeds and you give the directions, but the spade work and the development of the policies of any government in this country is only as good as the officials and the dedication of the officials that work with you.

And I just want to cite an example here. I wasn't the minister at this time, but it was the same officials that are working with me today, came up . . . and this was the "Homegrown Holidays" that I mentioned last year, where we invited people who were going through to Expo, who had friends, to come and visit them. And just look at this brochure. Here we have the paddle-wheeler on Waskesiu, or the happy bunch of people on board inside the houseboats. Big Valley Jamboree that we're all so proud of, Buffalo Days, rodeos and a nice little memo or note here.

And I'm going to take a minute, Mr. Chairman, to read this because I'm leading up to something that I think we'll all be proud of. It says in this, and this is called "Homegrown Holidays":

Invite your friends and relatives to visit Saskatchewan this summer. Know anyone travelling through to Expo? Be a good host and invite them to spend some extra time in Saskatchewan en route. With your *Great Saskatchewan Vacation Book*, you can show them a great time? Increased travel and tourism means good times for all of us.

In fact, send us their names and their address and we'll pass on your personal invitation — along with their very own copy of *The Great Saskatchewan Vacation Book*.

Now, I just want to say, and I'm proud to say this and announce this to you, Mr. Chairman, to the members of the opposition, to my colleagues here, and to the people of Saskatchewan, because of that brochure — on the back it says, discover our Saskatchewan parks — because of that brochure, some of the officials that you have congratulated from my department will be going down to Toronto next week in a competition as finalists for a marketing award from the National Marketing Association. This is the kind of thing they did, a thank you for that acknowledgement. I believe they deserve credit, and I say to them publicly here tonight, thank you for good work that you have done.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're going through the northern affairs secretariat, Mr. Chairman. I don't think it should take a long time as long as we can . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Never did get that park.

Mr. Chairman, as I was indicating, it shouldn't take a long time to go through the northern affairs secretariat. I just wanted to make a short comment on the periodic outbursts that we hear from the minister. He does that quite often, and he talks about the home-grown holidays. And I want to say to him that he is also the master-mind of what has taken place in Saskatchewan this summer, and that is, taking holidays away from the members of the legislature and the staff and the civil servants and all the citizens out there who are waiting for their budgets to be passed. So, Mr. Minister, I think you can take credit for what has taken place here and what I consider is a summer that really never was.

Mr. Minister, I want to start off by the make-up of the northern affairs secretariat. Could you indicate if there's been any change in the make-up of the secretariat. Was there anyone dropped or anybody added to that secretariat?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Yes, there's a one person deletion. One individual in the secretariat took early retirement.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Could you indicate who is not on the

secretariat now then?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — The gentleman was Alex Ostiforof.

**Mr. Thompson:** — I'm sorry, Mr. Minister. I don't seem to see him as a member of the northern affairs secretariat. He's not in this here. Could you tell me when he was appointed to the northern affairs secretariat.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — My officials tell me he was associated with northern affairs and I assume the previous department of DNS (department of northern affairs) for many years — longest serving member of the secretariat. And he took his retirement in May, May 31 of this year.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Mr. Minister, the northern secretariat was only formed in November of 1985. You say then there is no turnover. Could you indicate then if Wanda Catarat or Turnor Lake is still a member of the northern secretariat?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Mr. Member, I think we are a little confused in this. They're not members of the northern secretariat. I think what you're talking about are members of the northern advisory council.

So what I told you was correct on the secretariat. The lady that you are referring to would have been on the northern advisory council.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Mr. Minister, I will rephrase my question then. Could you indicate if there has been any additions to the advisory council of the secretariat and if anybody has been dropped?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — There have been no additions to the advisory council. Mrs. Catarat resigned because of health reasons. There have been two members that have been dropped from the advisory council.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Could you indicate who the two members are, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Yes, the two members were Rev. Bishop Short and Ron Scrimshaw.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. When I go through here, I see what the mandate is and I consider it to be a pretty important mandate, and I'm sure that you would consider it a very important mandate too. The mandate of the secretariat and the advisory board seems to be a mandate that covers just about every department in northern Saskatchewan. In fact it . . . and I just want to quote here, and it's from your document:

Faced with these challenges and charged with a broad mandate for co-ordination, communications, and policy development, secretariat activities sought to achieve multiple objectives.

And I would assume that by that you mean, Mr. Minister, the going out into the communities and finding out what really is the problems and bringing that back to different government agencies. Am I right in that?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Yes, you're correct on that. And I think you will know, and I hope you concur with, I believe, that the council have been doing a good job of going, as you say, to the communities, talking to those elected officials in the communities, and getting from them their grass roots viewpoints and opinions of what type of initiative could perhaps be developed to advance the economic viability and the way of life in northern Saskatchewan.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Would it be fair to say then, Mr. Minister, that you accept what the secretariat and the advisory board is doing by going around to the communities and providing you and other government agencies with the type of information, as you say, meeting with the grass roots people to bring forth ideas for economic development in northern Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Yes, I some time ago made a tour through there with the chairman of the northern advisory council and some of the staff members from my department in the North there, and I guess the reading that I got as I travelled through there was general support, support for the council, a feeling that the necessary dialogue was taking place. Of course it's only reasonable, I think you and I both know that that certain discussions will result in recommendations and that the recommendations would eventually become policy.

And I think that is one of the things northern people are looking to see, and I'm hopeful that some of the recommendations will soon be enacted as part and parcel of our delivery to people in northern Saskatchewan.

But I don't think, at least in my travels, that I've found any great dissatisfaction with the process that was going through. I think that people felt the members on the council were approachable people; they were people there to listen, rather than and try to dictate or to ramrod through any one specific idea or train of thought. That was the impressions I got, that I went through, that the process, the council and the secretariat were accepted by the northern people I talked to as being there in the hope of fulfilling some of their aspirations and their needs.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And it would be fair to say, Mr. Minister, that you and your government would accept their recommendations as they brought them forth from the grass roots, as you indicate, of northern Saskatchewan.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Certainly I would say that of the recommendations, some of them we will be accepting and considering, and I am hopeful that, to some degree, we may be able to be implementing some of these. I think they're basically reasonable. I think you realize that things don't happen always overnight. It takes some time, and I believe from my discussions, most people are willing to see what can develop out of these. But certainly I'm sure that some of them should be able to come to fulfilment.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Mr. Minister, I wonder if you could indicate the number of meetings that were held last year, and could you indicate how they're paid, the pay per meeting. And are there any individuals within the

northern secretariat or on the advisory board that are paid a full-time wage?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Okay, I'm going back from member. You asked the number of meetings; I believe there were either eight or nine meetings last year. You asked if the members of the advisory council were full time or part time; they are all . . . well not part time, they're paid on a per diem plus their travel. And I think you asked about the members of the secretariat, and they, of course, are all civil servants, and they're full-time employees.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Well I asked three questions and I got the answer to one, Mr. Minister. You said there were eight or nine meetings. I asked you how much the per diem was, and were there any members of the advisory board that were paid on a full-time basis?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Okay, I'm sorry. I gave you the number of meetings; I gave you the . . . that there was a per diem. I'll give you the amount of the per diem now; that's what you're wanting. For a member, it's \$90 a day; for the chairman, it's \$115 per day, plus they get their travel, and there are no full-time, paid members of the advisory council.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Now I want to turn to a couple of other issues. And I see that the northern affairs secretariat and the advisory council were involved in fishing and trapping and forestry and mining, and they've just covered the whole spectrum in northern Saskatchewan.

The first comment I want to make is on the advisory council. And if one takes a look at the advisory council and you take a look at just how one-sided that council is, Mr. Minister . . . You just have to take a look at the make-up of that advisory council to see just how one-sided it is. There is one person sitting on that council that covers the west side of Saskatchewan, the constituency of Athabasca — one person — and that individual is Tony Durocher out of Ile-a-la-Crosse and, I might add, a very good individual, and Wanda Catarat the same, but for health reasons, as you indicated, she stepped down. The only other individual that was on there that was from the west side was Ron Scrimshaw and he was from Calgary.

One has to take a look at the nominations that you have here for the advisory council, and you see that Bill Klassen is from Prince Albert, and you see that Walter Kupsch is from Saskatoon, and then you had Ron Scrimshaw from Calgary; you have Benny Siemens, you've put Stony Rapids, but he's from Saskatoon, he's living in Saskatoon; and you have Bishop Short who is from Prince Albert; and the rest of them are from the east side of the province. You have Louis Bear from Sandy Bay, John Carrier from Cumberland House, Anne Hyniuk from La Ronge, Joe Roberts from Stanley Mission.

And I ask you, Mr. Minister, where do you see the fairness in a body like this when the biggest population is on the west side. We have major problems on the west side, and I can go into them, if you want, a little later. But I ask you, how could you appoint a body like this and only have one

individual that represents the west side out of a body of 10 individuals — 10, 11 individuals?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well, there are eight on the board now, and you must be fair that Mrs. Catarat was from the west side and resigned because of illness. Dr. Ron Scrimshaw, as you know, grew up in Big River and lived in Dore Lake so was very familiar with the west side.

Ben Siemens, as you know, runs his business out of Stony Rapids, and he's in Stony Rapids a good portion of the time, and I've visited with him in Stony Rapids. And so I think you realize that there is representation from the west side, and I indicate to you, as I did to the member from Prince Albert-Duck Lake, if you feel that there's an imbalance, and, as I say, there have been some that have resigned because of illness and so on, I have no aversion to putting another person onto the board from the west side at all.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask that you take a look at this body and that you do start putting some people on the west side of the province and get some equal representation. When you talk about Ron Scrimshaw from Calgary, just because he was born and raised in Big River — and he most certainly wasn't born and raised in Dore Lake, and has been in Calgary for years — I don't know, other than maybe for political reasons, why you would want to put an individual from Calgary onto an advisory board to recommend the types of policies that have been carried out, and I intend to get to those policies that have been carried out by yourself and your advisory board.

I just think that it's highly unfair, and I would ask you, Mr. Minister, to take a serious look at the make-up of this board. And if you're going to continue to have an advisory board and you're going to take recommendations, as you say you have taken recommendations from them, and will continue that, I would ask that you seriously take a look at putting some other Northerners from the west side.

I now want to turn to other areas. You indicated that the northern advisory board and the secretariat have gone out and have held meetings and have brought back to you and to other government ministers recommendations that you are carrying out. I want to ask you, Mr. Minister, if it was the recommendation of the Northern Development Advisory Council and the northern secretariat, through you to the cabinet, to cut off the food transportation subsidy in the far North — the \$250,000 food transportation subsidy that I know that your advisory board and all your members of your secretariat have been told and have been requested by the citizens of Camsell Portage and Uranium City and Fond-du-Lac and Stony Rapids and Blake Lake and Wollaston to re-implement that food transportation subsidy. I ask you, Mr. Minister, was it the recommendation of the council to withdraw the \$250,000 a year food transportation subsidy?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I want to go back on Mr. Scrimshaw for a moment, and I don't know if you're aware of this or not, but Mr. Scrimshaw, Dr. Ron Scrimshaw, was with the Nova corporation which has been a leader in northern development, and my officials

indicate to me that Mr. Scrimshaw was a leader in affirmative action programs and so on, so I think is a valuable member to the board. But as I said to you previously, that I will take that under advisement what you have suggested, and as boards change, the make-up change of boards, I will take your recommendation into consideration, and I'm sure as we had the case of the lady from the west side, Mrs. Catarat, who had to resign, that I will be able to put another replacement on there from the west side. So I don't think you have any worry about that.

You talk about the northern food subsidy, and again I have to say to you, Mr. Chairman, here we are ploughing over ground that we ploughed with the same member. You and I have talked about this for the last four years because I remember when I was minister of Health, when the . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . maybe next year too because that's just typical of your type. And I tell you, the member from Saskatoon, you will learn in here that the people of Saskatchewan are going to start saying, what on earth is going on. Why is this place dragging on for some over 100 days with repetitive questions with exactly . . . I would imagine there is anywhere between 60 to \$90,000 a day to keep this place running. Those are the dollars that are being spent because of repetitive questions.

And here it comes again, the food subsidy. Well we'll talk about the food subsidy. Yes, the food subsidy was removed, and you recall that. And you stood in here and you supported increased medical coverage to the west side of the province that you represent, and that's exactly where the transfer of money went, to provide doctors up the west side that were so valuably needed. And that was done and you can't deny it.

But let me tell you furthermore, because we said, and I was right on that and so was our government, that a lot of this food subsidy was going to hunting camps, and you know that also. You may not admit it, but you know it. And you can duck if you want, from Saskatoon, because we haven't even honed in on you yet, but let me tell you that that was what was taking place.

And I want to tell you that we have substituted that because some of that money wasn't going to need people. That has been substituted by a payment of \$25 a month through the social assistance, and that has resulted in, my officials tell me, approximately \$400,000 going into the part of the province to the needy people, the people that needed it, and not to your friends that run hunting lodges.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister, we're going to be here for a long time tonight. We're in our 88th day here today, and you want to blame us. It was your government that decided in your wisdom that you weren't going to call the session until June 15. You could have called a session in February when you should have called it, but in your wisdom, because you didn't have a budget ready, because you didn't know what you were going to do, and when you did finally bring the budget out, the minister was \$800 million out. No wonder you didn't bring the budget in when you were supposed to because you were so confused.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(2045)

**Mr. Thompson:** — But when you talk about taking \$250,000 away from the citizens of northern Saskatchewan to provide fresh food and vegetables on their tables, and you use the crutch that it's going to the tourist operator, let me tell you that is totally wrong. And you know full well yourself that the tourist industry in northern Saskatchewan only operates for two, three months out of the year and there are very few of them. And you talk about \$400,000 a year going into northern Saskatchewan on social assistance on that \$25 per family. I say that is a wrong figure.

And you're trying to tell the citizens of Saskatchewan that everybody in northern Saskatchewan is on social assistance. That's what you're saying. You said \$25 a family. And you're paying out now, instead of \$250,000 for food and vegetables, you're paying out \$400,000. I tell you when you take a look at the amount of families you're covering, your figures are wrong, the same as the Minister of Finance's figures were wrong when they were out \$800 million in that budget.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** — And you want to talk about wasting time and spending the summer in this legislature. Well I think you're the individual that should answer for that, and it's about time that the private members on that side stood up and took this cabinet to task.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** — There was absolutely no reason for us sitting in here all summer and wasting our time. We never sat once in the mornings in Crown Corporations or Public Accounts until just last week. You refused to call them. And that's right. You refused to call the Crown Corporation and Public Accounts. There's the little minister for Regina South who says, three weeks ago. All right, three weeks ago, but we've been here for over three months. And every day we have wasted every morning. And you accuse us of wasting time. I say that you are a confused government and when the polls indicate that the Tories in Saskatchewan are down at 17 per cent, you're right.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** — And I think, Mr. Minister, it's time that some of your private members who occupy the back benches started to stand up and take a look at your policies. You don't mind, you don't mind cutting off . . . You don't mind cutting off fresh food and vegetables to Northerners who are living in northern Saskatchewan, but yet you'll turn around and give a single family over \$400,000 to start a drug store chain up on the west side of . . . one that has already closed down. Your government has put in over \$400,000 to that one family. That would have paid for the transportation subsidy for two years.

You don't mind paying Manalta Coal all the moneys that you paid them to take our drag-lines and our coal mines, and you don't mind giving Peter Pocklington a \$10

million grant to move into Battleford, but yet you can't provide a food subsidy for northern Saskatchewan.

And he says, Mr. Chairman, that we have been debating, debating the food transportation subsidy for the past four years and you indicated that it was providing food on the table for my friends, the tourist operator. And I say, Mr. Minister, that you should get up and apologize for that.

I have been fighting in this legislature ever since I've been in here for the citizens that live in northern Saskatchewan — not just the tourist operators and not just the trappers and the fishermen and not just the teachers, I fight for everybody. And most certainly . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** — And most certainly the food transportation subsidy that you cut off, Mr. Minister, was providing fresh food and vegetables for the families and their children in northern Saskatchewan. And I ask you, through your northern secretariat and your advisory council, to go out into the communities and see if I'm not right. And I would ask you to reconsider that and once again implement that food transportation subsidy.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well, Mr. Chairman, I would say we've heard the words of a hypocrite. I remember you, Mr. Member, when you supported . . . when I was the Health minister of this province and I remember asking you, do you support a drug store for Buffalo Narrows and the west side, and you said, that's the thing to do. Tonight you stand here and you bellyache because we've got one going.

I remember asking you: do you believe we need additional medical services at the west side of the province where you live; where your family is; where they were short of doctors; where you questioned me in this House for added medical service, and we put it there. Do you give any credit for that? No, you don't. You stand here and make wild whirlybirds about a food subsidy program.

I'll tell you what we're doing for food subsidy in northern Saskatchewan. Here it is — Grow North. And I don't know if you attended the conference or not, but a conference was put on between SIAP (Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program Inc.) and the northern secretariat to try and get the whole area of food production in the North going, and up and flourishing. And that's what should be done.

I don't know if you saw the centre-fold in the Leader-Post yesterday or not, where there was a full spread on northern foods, featuring wild rice, featuring smoked trout, featuring bannock, featuring wild cranberries, talking about the Kellers from La Ronge. That's the kind of development we want to see in the North, not a continual subsidy. Put the money into helping people develop their own food sources.

So I take exception when you stand up here . . . And if you're going to be a representative, it's only right to give

credit where credit is due. And I would like you to stand up and criticize that medical service that's been put in on the west side. And I've heard you pick holes in the drug store, but I tell you, those were services put in under the Conservative government that never existed when you were government in this province. So I take exception when you are the elected member up there, that you won't stand here. You say, I stand and I fight for all people, but you won't give credit to the things that are done good just because of your partisan political viewpoint, just because the Devine government addressed those needs. But you won't stand here and you won't give that kind of credit.

And the other thing I find most amazing about you is, it seems to make a difference to you how many days the House sat because of when it started. I don't think it makes any difference whether it starts in April, May, November or October — 120 days or 80 days; 80 days is 80 days no matter from where you count it.

And I'll tell you, and you well know that it's well-known . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Well maybe you will learn this if you'll be quite for a minute, the madam from Rosemont . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . I will tell you that . . .

**An Hon. Member:** From where?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Oh, no, Lakeview, just across the lake here. Well I'll tell you why I got mixed up. Usually the fellow from Rosemont is always talking, but this time it was the member from Lakeview.

But let me tell you this, and the member from Athabasca well knows, you well know this, that in politics you open the House and in the legislature, in government, the government comes in with the throne speech, and it opens the session, and there's a budget speech. And then following that, when the session shuts down is entirely up to the opposition. If the opposition insists, if they insist on asking rhetorical questions, if they believe that three and a half weeks or so in Environment is in the best interests of the province of Saskatchewan, then so well be it. So well be it. So well be it, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Koskie:** — Point of order, Mr. Chairman. We're in estimates and I think the comments and the wandering comments of the minister now is nowhere in line with the question that was asked, nor the details of the estimates that we're dealing with.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Speaking to the point of order — and you can check with *Hansard* — I remember just five minutes ago where the member from Athabasca stood and went moaning and groaning on about having started the House in the summer and sitting here all summer. So I think I have every right to reply to any comment that he makes. I take exception to the member from Quill Lakes' point of order.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Order. I believe . . . Order. I believe as we've been sitting here and listening, all members have actually wandered and used different claims and

wandered off the topic, and we've excused it. But if you'd like me to call everyone right to the point, then I think that would have to apply to both sides of the House. So I would like to ask members to take note, and address the question of Tourism and Small Business.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Mr. Chairman, I ask you for directions. I am now under the estimates of the northern affairs secretariat and the northern advisory council which covers every item that I have been discussing. It's not a department that handles specifically one department.

If I'm not going to be able to ask the questions regarding fishing and trapping, which clearly are outlined in the report, Mr. Chairman, then I wouldn't be able to really do proper justice to the estimates.

**Mr. Chairman:** — Well I think if I understand the proceedings, item 1 does allow for some variance and to cover the areas. So I will just ask all members to basically keep their questions and answers towards the points that are brought forward and we will proceed.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Yes, I will.

I just wanted to . . . and as the minister indicated, and he indicated that I brought up, regarding the sitting of the House in the summer. Mr. Minister, I never even said anything about sitting in the summer. You're the one who brought that up. And you talk about us ending the session. I want to just remind you, Mr. Minister, that you are the one who started the session in June 15. It was your government, not us.

I want to now go back to the question that I asked that you didn't answer, Mr. Minister, when I did sit down. Will you, through your northern secretariat and the northern advisory council, go back and meet with the communities and ask them what they really think about the food transportation subsidies, and will you take another serious look at reimplementing that? That was the question that I asked you before we both got sat down.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Mr. Chairman, I believe from the contact that we've had and the people that I've talked to and the discussions with the secretariat and advisory council, I believe, as I said earlier, that I think the whole aspect of what SIAP are endorsing . . . and I should say for those who don't understand what SIAP is, it's the Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program.

And along with the Department of Agriculture of this province, as well as the northern secretariat, hosted a very successful food conference in La Ronge some time ago. And I do believe rather than trying to institute a food subsidy program, because I don't think we want to see just subsidies be the way of life in any part of this province, that it's much more logical to be going with such things as aquaculture — and by that I mean fish farming — and also the growing of berries.

There's such things as fur farming. They have these new animals — the little animals up there — fitch. It seems very profitable. Wild rice, of course, is something that the North is becoming very famous for. We also have an

article here, I see. It's called "The revival of La Loche — chickens may make the future brighter for La Loche."

So rather than trying to institute some subsidy, especially when social assistance has been taking care of the needy and those outlying fly-in communities, I believe it is much more progressive and much more the wave of the future and a true development of the North is to be trying to market, as I see here, native people with corn patches, members of the Timber Bay dairy co-op that we should be doing whatever we can to develop agriculture in the North and that's the thrust we will be taking.

So in answer to your question, no, we wouldn't be looking at reinstituting the food subsidy program but we would be trying to develop these kinds of initiatives for northern people, in conjunction with northern people which I believe and our government believes, it's the direction we should be following.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, most certainly you indicate quite clearly where your priorities are. You state quite clearly that the food transportation subsidy is not a priority and that you will not implement that. Yet you will still continue to subsidize the hauling of liquor into northern Saskatchewan, but no subsidies for food. You make that quite clear, and that's another indication as to your policy and why you are down in the polls.

I want to ask you, Mr. Minister, before I close, did you get advice from your northern secretariat and the advisory body? Was it their advice to you and your cabinet to cut the fish transportation subsidy down to 60 per cent and to completely eliminate it off the pickerel? Was that the recommendation from your secretariat and the advisory council?

(2100)

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — I'm advised that the transportation subsidy comes out of the Parks budget, and my advice is that there was a readjustment and that the pickerel, which is a fish that demands a good price and was sufficient to carry itself because of that and the prices being up on pickerel, that a decision was made by the Parks to address a subsidy to the other varieties that don't garner such a good price. So that would be the rationale, as I'm informed, that was behind that decision.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Then I take it from your answer, Mr. Minister, that it was the recommendation of the northern secretariat and the advisory board to reduce the other species by 60 per cent . . . or down to 60 per cent of the transportation subsidy and to eliminate the pickerel — and I forget the other; there was another species.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — That wasn't a recommendation of the advisory council. It was the decision of the Department of Parks.

**Mr. Thompson:** — Just another one before I sit down, Mr. Chairman. And I see in your annual report you talk about the secretariat and the advisory board giving instructions to the fur industry in northern Saskatchewan and indicating that there was some clouds on the horizon. We



see now that a policy has come out where they have taken the lynx out of production. Trappers cannot sell lynx in Saskatchewan.

I want to know, Mr. Minister, if that is the policy that was recommended by the Northern Development Advisory Council and the northern secretariat. Because once again, here we have, if that is the case . . . if that's not the case, then you didn't get that recommendation from that northern advisory council or the northern secretariat, then I say it's a game, a southern mentality being imposed upon northern citizens, because trappers are continually telling me and they're telling your government.

And I have a letter here from the mayor of Stead Lake, who just had a trappers' meeting in Big River and that was on September 29, where they indicated to your government — and your secretariat is involved in the Stead Lake area — that they cannot trap lynx, and any lynx that are caught they will have to be turned in for government disposal.

I want to ask you, Mr. Minister, if you will, through your northern affairs secretariat and the advisory council, go back and recommend to the Minister of Parks, Recreation and Culture to withdraw that regulation that he has put in, because one has to take a look at just how serious, serious that is.

When you say, your government says, Mr. Minister, that you cannot sell lynx . . . If you catch a lynx, then you have to turn it in to the government for disposal.

**An Hon. Member:** — Why?

**Mr. Thompson:** — Well I don't know why, but I want to say this to you, Mr. Deputy Premier, that you should talk to that Minister of Parks, Recreation and Culture and to the Minister of Tourism and Small Business, who is in charge of the northern secretariat, to stop that policy because that is the most expensive fur that is in the bush today, is the lynx. They're down. They run in cycles when the rabbits run.

But all of sudden, in your wisdom, Mr. Minister — and I don't know if that came from your secretariat and from the advisory council or not — but in your wisdom you said that they can't trap them, and if they catch them, they have to turn them in to the government for disposal, and they are going to dispose of them.

One has to know that. When you take a look at some of the advisory council on there, they're trappers. And lots of them live in the North and they know what happens. Everybody knows, and anybody that has anything to do with trapping would know that a lynx can be caught in a mink trap; it can be caught in a fox trap; it can be caught in a weasel trap. And that happens. Lynx are caught in rabbit snares, and that has happened. And lynx are caught in martens traps. So the trappers are going to catch the same amount of lynx.

Some trappers leave just before freeze-up and they don't come back till Christmas, and they catch lynx. And I can take it, for example, that Lawrence and André John who leave Patuanak at freeze-up and will not come back until

Christmas, and they always have three, four lynx. And the lynx are bringing up to \$1,800.

And what are you saying now with a southern policy? And I'm not sure if it came from your northern secretariat or not, but you're saying to those trappers, when you come back with those lynx — and that's money that they use to put food on the table for their children and to pay their expenses — you're going to say that the government is going to take them for disposal. And I say that is wrong. And that is something that has to be stopped.

I ask you, Mr. Minister, if you would, through your good office and through your northern affairs secretariat and advisory council, recommend to the minister that he withdraw that new regulation because it's going to cause no end to problems.

With that, Mr. Minister, I'm fairly well finished. If I will get your assurance that you will take that up with the Minister of Parks and Renewable Resources.

I do want to say, in closing, that you indicated that I wasn't concerned about medical services in northern Saskatchewan. I have always been concerned with medical services. I have indicated to you on many, many occasions in this House that there would be nightmares happening in northern Saskatchewan. And you know, as the years went by, there was. We don't have doctors in La Loche; that's served out of Meadow Lake. Doctors up north are served out of Saskatoon. In Ile-a-la-Crosse in the last three years we've had 37 doctors turnover. So there's a lot of work to do in the health field in northern Saskatchewan, and I urge you to continue on that way.

As far as a drug store, yes, I agreed that we needed a drug store in northern Saskatchewan, but we didn't have to pay a half million dollars to one family to start up those drug stores, and then all of a sudden two years later, have them start to withdraw.

So I just say, yes, I'm concerned about the health services in northern Saskatchewan. And if you would take it upon yourself with your northern secretariat to try and see if you can reverse the regulation on the lynx trapping and continue to work towards better health facilities in northern Saskatchewan and anything else that will create a better life for northern people.

With that, I thank you, Mr. Minister, and I want to thank your officials for helping you out tonight. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well, thank you, member from Athabasca. Certainly on the lynx, I was not aware of that policy. I think you said the 29th, the trappers' meeting was. And it has not been, from my information, brought to my advisory council's attention, and I'm sure it probably will be. Being that, I will certainly look into this and talk it over with my colleague on this policy.

Getting into health care, as we've discussed before, I think you know I have a commitment to health care in the North. I think you must admit that there has been

considerable improvements over the last five years.

On the method of the drug store, I just want to clarify a point there. As you know it was really for three outlets, not just one drug store, and it was the one set of pharmacists, as we know. But I believe you have seen improvement in health services in northern Saskatchewan. I know that there always have been some areas of problem and there still are; it isn't a perfect situation yet. But I think in all seriousness we have to say, if we're being really fair and honest about it, that there has been a considerable improvement over the last four or five years in the delivery of service. And I sincerely hope that in subsequent years that can continue.

So I thank you for your questions pertaining to the North, an area which you represent, and regarding the lynx, you have my commitment that I will look further into this.

**Mr. Goodale:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of questions that I'd like to direct to the minister tonight with respect to his estimates.

Mr. Minister, a number of years ago while I was still serving in the House of Commons in Ottawa, I had the opportunity, as a member of parliament, to be involved in the establishment of the first federal ministry of state responsible for small business matters, which I take some considerable pride and satisfaction in because it was an initiative that was important to small business generally but certainly to Saskatchewan. And of course now as the MLA for Assiniboia-Gravelbourg where small business and agriculture quite literally go hand in hand as the backbone of our local economy, these issues are of particular interest to me.

I want to being, Mr. Minister, by referring to what I regard to be three very worthwhile programs that I want to mention in particular, and I have a couple of questions about them.

All three of these programs were ideas that I personally have advocated and supported for years, going back to the time when I was a member of parliament in the 1970s, so naturally I was pleased when these three specific ideas were proposed for implementation in Saskatchewan, and I refer to the tax break provided for starting up new business, new small businesses in the province of Saskatchewan. I think of the venture capital program, secondly. And I would also refer to the Saskatchewan Stock Savings Plan.

Mr. Minister, with respect to the latter of those programs, the Saskatchewan Stock Savings Plan, which of course provides the tax advantages for investments in business in Saskatchewan, one of the fundamental differences between the plan in operation in Saskatchewan and the parallel plans in operation in other provinces is that in those other provinces, in most cases, the stock savings plans are specifically geared to provide a better benefit and a larger benefit for those people who choose to invest in smaller enterprises. And as you make your choice to invest in larger enterprises, the benefit gradually goes down in those other provinces.

It's my understanding that in Saskatchewan the benefit is

effectively a flat benefit across the board. There are, of course, certain eligibility requirements for the benefit to apply at all, but presuming those criteria are satisfied, as I understand it, the program does not draw a distinction between investments in small or new or emerging enterprises and the very large going concerns. And I wonder if the minister could explain why that plan functions in that way in Saskatchewan, as compared to other provinces where they have deliberately and consciously skewed their stock savings plans to be of the largest benefit to the smallest enterprises. I think that sounds, on the surface, like a very worthy principle. So you give the biggest advantage to those who are in smaller enterprises and may need that investment incentive the most. It's been done in other places like Alberta and Quebec and other provinces, and I wonder why that feature is lacking in the Saskatchewan Stock Savings Plan; and would the government give consideration to a modification in the Saskatchewan Stock Savings Plan to provide greater emphasis upon investments in small enterprises, as opposed to large enterprises.

(2115)

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — I am informed that you have to, before you can qualify, you have to register under the Alberta Stock Exchange. That in itself almost indicates that it is the larger companies, and the smaller ones wouldn't qualify to register there, and that's why in our system, they're not in it. That answers your question.

**Mr. Goodale:** — Mr. Minister, I'd like to pursue that for a moment, both on the point that you just mentioned about registering with the Alberta Stock Exchange and the original question that I asked about the fundamental rules.

I'd just like to quote briefly from the *Financial Post Moneywise* magazine for August of 1987, which contains a rather lengthy analysis of stock savings plans right across the country. And specifically referring to Saskatchewan, the magazine says this:

Saskatchewan approved its SSP (Saskatchewan stock savings plan) in June 1986 and by August the first share issues appeared. The stock savings tax credit program is simpler than the plans of other provinces because it doesn't distinguish between emerging and blue chip enterprises.

And again in documentation that I've read, that has been provided publicly by the Saskatchewan Department of Finance, that same point is made, that while other provinces, no matter what stock exchange they may participate in, while other provinces have sort of a sliding scale of benefits so that you get the biggest tax advantage if you invest in a small enterprise and the smallest tax advantage if you invest in a large enterprise. Other provinces do that, Saskatchewan doesn't, and I'm not sure that that's entirely dependent upon just being registered on the Alberta Stock Exchange.

Another interesting feature, Mr. Minister, in this particular article in this same magazine, is in reference to the Nova Scotia plan. And again I quote from the magazine

referring to what's been done in Nova Scotia:

Nova Scotia's stock savings plan is the first in Canada to allow private companies, specifically small emerging ones, to undertake offerings without first obtaining a stock exchange listing.

And in view of that particular practice in the province of Nova Scotia and in view of the other rules that apply in other provinces that seem to deliberately try to focus the benefit of the program on small enterprises, I wonder, Mr. Minister, and I guess this is more in the shape of a representation than a question, but I wonder if you would be prepared to take up that issue with your cabinet colleagues to determine, first of all, why Saskatchewan has done things differently with a flat kind of benefit across the board rather than focusing upon small business.

And if there does not appear to be a compelling reason that really forces us into doing that, would the minister give consideration to a proposal that might see the Saskatchewan Stock Savings Plan modified in certain ways to provide particular benefits to small enterprises, which of course have a particular problem in attracting investment revenue. I think that might be a healthy development in Saskatchewan for our small business community.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well I guess part of the situation here, and I think you're aware of this, is that a lot of our emerging companies and so on are smaller and we have the VCC (venture capital corporation) vehicle for that, and that's the one they take advantage of. The larger ones that have to be on the stock exchange, of course, get the stock savings plan, and you're aware of that. I've taken your suggestion under consideration. I don't know if you're aware of it or not, we're really responsible for the administration of VCC, the Department of Finance, for the stock savings plan. But I've taken your consideration to . . . paying attention to it, and we'll pass it on and discuss it and dialogue it with my colleagues.

**Mr. Goodale:** — I appreciate that, Mr. Minister, thank you. And I would like to raise with you two other matters that potentially affect small business in Saskatchewan, and I would be grateful for your responses to them. I have before me tonight a paper entitled, "Tax Reform and Small Business," a consultation paper prepared in August of 1987 by a member of the House of Commons, one Alfonso Gagliano, who is a member for a constituency in the province of Quebec. And Mr. Gagliano makes a couple of interesting points that I would like to have your response to, particularly from a Saskatchewan point of view. And I'm now quoting from Mr. Gagliano's paper. He says under a heading entitled, "The rate of taxation for small manufacturing business."

The Minister of Finance proposes to significantly broaden the corporate tax base and reduce taxation rates. The proposed federal corporate tax rates are . . .

And there's a chart that sets out the rates for general business, manufacturing business, small general business, and small manufacturing business. And Mr.

Gagliano goes on to make this point:

As you can see from the chart, only small manufacturers — only small manufacturers have an increased taxation rate . . .

And I say parenthetically there, under tax reform. Going back to the quotation:

Large manufacturers continue to have lower rates than large general businesses. You may well ask why the privilege was not extended to small manufacturers. After all, 85 per cent of the manufacturing industry is small business and 74 per cent of the jobs created in manufacturing were created by small businesses that have fewer than 20 employees.

The proposed tax reform obviously penalizes this very important sector of the economy. It should be remembered that in February of 1986, the Minister of Finance proposed, in what he qualified then as the first phase of corporate tax reform, a reduction of the taxation rate for small manufacturers from 10 per cent to 8 per cent. Why has the minister backtracked? Why has he raised the taxation rate for these businesses?

And again . . . that's the end of the quotation, Mr. Minister. And what the chart tends to show is that for small manufacturing businesses in Canada, this tax rate is going from 10 per cent to 12 per cent, continuing into the future, while for other business categories, the rate is actually going down.

And it may well just be an anomaly in the calculations of the formulas, Mr. Minister, but I wonder if you could indicate if this matter has come to your attention as the minister responsible for small business in the province of Saskatchewan. And if it has, do you plan to make specific representations to the federal government to correct what seems to be an obvious anomaly in the structuring of this formula that, quite surprisingly, raises the tax rate for small manufacturing business while the tax rate for other businesses is generally scheduled to go down?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — That has not been brought to my attention, as the minister, by anyone in the small business field, and I've checked with my officials and they haven't had it brought to their attention.

However, as you know, the dialogue on financial matters, it takes place between the Ministers of Finance, both federally and provincially, and certainly a big portion of that kind of discussion is taxation policy and the application of taxation policy to the various sectors of our economic community. And certainly in discussions that will be upcoming and taking place between the provincial government and the federal government, we

would be more than willing to discuss that with Mr. Wilson to see if there can be any change in it.

But getting back to your question: has it been brought to my attention by the business community? The answer is no. And has it been brought to the attention of my department in discussions with the business community? The answer again is no.

**Mr. Goodale:** — Mr. Minister, I'm grateful that you'll be keeping an eye out for it and may raise it for further discussion because, looking at the charts, it does appear to be almost a mistake. And it's something that I think could be relatively easily corrected if someone pursues it.

One other matter, Mr. Minister, flowing from tax reform as it affects small business that I would like to raise with you tonight has to do with the proposals about a new form of sales tax across the country and the concerns which some in the business community have raised very vigorously about the form and the impact of that particular tax.

One of the suggestions that is made in this paper drafted by Mr. Gagliano, the member of parliament that I referred to a bit earlier, is that as the whole process of tax reform proceeds, there should be some specific attention paid to the idea of exempting small businesses from the implications of any new sales tax features. That sounds like a pretty broad proposition that we would obviously want to examine with some considerable care, but there's a very interesting three sentence paragraph in this paper, Mr. Minister, that I would like to quote to you on this idea of providing some form of sales tax exemption or sales tax reduction as far as the small business community is concerned. And the paragraph reads as follows:

This type of exemption is nothing new. In Canada, businesses that have annual sales of under \$50,000 are currently exempt from federal sales tax. Moreover, countries that levy value-added tax stipulate the minimum sales figure for tax purposes, and small businesses with total sales below this threshold are exempt.

That's the end of the quotation. If we already have some exceptions within our system, Mr. Minister, for small business, and if those other countries that apply VATs (value-added tax) or BTTs (business transfer tax) or all of those other new variations on sales taxes, if those other countries provide exemptions for small businesses, it would seem reasonable, at least, that Canada should consider the same thing.

And as your representations go forward to Mr. Wilson on the other point about the manufacturing tax, I wonder if I could ask you to ensure that this other matter gets into the mill, as well, so that we can assure that whatever happens in tax reform, it doesn't come down heavily on the small business community which is obviously especially critical in the province of Saskatchewan.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well, certainly I think there'll be a lot of dialogue that'll take place in this, and is taking place now on tax reform. Certainly, with the VAT or the value-added tax, or the BTT, business transfer tax,

whatever form, if either of those are adopted in Canada, it would be my intention and certainly that of my colleagues to see that we could get in that reform system, perhaps the best system possible for small business.

And I'm sure that you have suggested and what Mr. Gagliano has discussed in his paper will be part of those discussions. As you know, I can't give any assurance as to how those will come out, other than our input will be from Saskatchewan, certainly to the extent that we hope we can gain some benefit for the small business sector. I wouldn't want to see them adversely hit with a tax reform that would make things very difficult for them.

(2130)

**Mr. Goodale:** — Thank you, Mr. Minister, for agreeing to pursue that matter.

I just have one other question I would like to direct to you, and it has to do specifically with Saskatchewan taxation. As I have talked with a number of small-business people in my own constituency and across the province, and as I've read the results of the various surveys conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and other organizations, there seems to be one consistent message that comes through all of that, and that is the burden upon small business enterprises of local business taxes.

It's a difficult question involving at least two, if not three, levels of government and the whole issue of revenue sharing, the whole issue of providing sufficient tax bases for the operations of local government, and at the same time not implanting a burden upon local business communities that is just too crushing to bear. We've seen in a number of communities in Saskatchewan various programs being implemented at the local level to try to alleviate that local tax burden. In other communities we've seen the beginnings of what appeared to be mini tax revolts in relation to that particular tax burden.

I wonder, Mr. Minister, what consideration is being given within your department to this whole matter of the local tax burden upon small business enterprises, and what is presently under way in terms of your government's planning to address that question, and to make it possible for local governments to bring down that burden which is presently very high in many communities and threatening to get even higher to the point where it could become a very clear disincentive and discouragement to business enterprises?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Certainly this has been raised with me and with my colleagues here on this side of the House; I think particularly the Minister of Urban Affairs has addressed this on many occasions. And I understand, and I guess it varies from community to community because there are different levels of it as to severity of it, but I guess looking across the province one could correctly say that it is a concern of many communities.

You understand, and I can tell from your remarks, that it is of course applied by the municipal jurisdiction. And certainly it may well be, and I imagine you would concur with this, that I think in the times we are in, that it may be incumbent upon municipal government as well as

provincial government to look at maybe more imaginative and efficient ways of delivering service.

We have been through a period of time where things came pretty easily for a while, and I don't think that's there right now when you look at the resources of our province and you look at the price of our grain, and so on. Your seat and my seat are indicative of that, that the resources are just not bringing in the money that they did previously. So therefore it's going to be incumbent upon government to maybe rethink in some situations the way they have been addressing and providing services. Being that as it may, though, we have instituted within government an interdepartmental committee with Urban Affairs, with people from my department, as well as people from the municipal sector at large, to address this whole situation.

I think it goes without saying that there are many who would say I wish it could be removed, but looking at it realistically, those services and infrastructure has to be maintained in these villages and towns and communities, and just for one area of government to relinquish it and put it on the other area of government who is also strapped for resources is not really the solution.

So I hope that out of this committee that we can come up with some kind of solution. I am sure that you're well aware that there is no easy solution. It's going to take sane heads and a lot of thought and discussion to try and come up with some type of solution, and that may take some time. I don't see an instantaneous answer to this one.

**Mr. Goodale:** — Mr. Minister, I appreciate your comments on the point. I would ask you for just one further bit of information which I would be quite satisfied with if you could provide it within the next few days, and that is the amount of money that is generated in total within the province of Saskatchewan as a result of local business taxes? I think that should be a relatively easy statistic to obtain, and particularly what portion of it would be generated by small business? That may be a little bit more difficult to obtain. But I would be grateful if you could attempt to gather those statistics so we could have that information.

With that, Mr. Minister, I just want to thank you and your officials for your attention this evening, and I'm grateful to have the reassurances that you've given, that at least some of the items that I've raised this evening you intend to pursue as policy matters on behalf of the government.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well certainly you have my assurance that we will ascertain for you the amount of money from the business tax across the province.

On the second aspect of it, that's a little bit difficult, and maybe you and I have to meet outside the House or somewhere to kind of come to an agreement on what we call small; you know, is it under 50 employees or 20 or whatever it is. And then, I think, in all fairness, so we're not misleading you, the best we could do would be an educated estimate, but to try and be as close as we can.

So if that is satisfactory to you, I give you the commitment we will do that. And thank you for your questions.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ex-MLA for Regina North keeps chirping item no 1, agreed, and it shows the complete disregard that the Conservative government holds co-operatives and that, what used to be a once proud department, that of co-operation and co-operative development, holds it in absolute disdain.

In the Tourism and Small Business estimates, and in the northern affairs secretariat, I never once heard the minister talk about the co-operative movement or the co-operative sector of our Saskatchewan economy. Mr. Chairman, it is time for us to focus on that co-operative sector.

The attack on co-operatives in Saskatchewan by you and your Conservative government is unprecedented, unequalled, unfortunate, and totally uncalled for.

It's unprecedented in that not even the free enterprise Liberal government from 1964 to 1971 dared to amalgamate and disseminate the department, or pardon me decimate, the department of co-operation and co-operative development as your Conservative government has done, and continues to do today.

It's unequalled because Saskatchewan, more than any other province, has a solid, and a strong, and a no-nonsense approach of helping ourselves by helping each other make things happen through co-operative efforts.

Pooling wheat was important early in this century to Saskatchewan farmers because the private grain companies — the private grain trade — were fixing prices for wheat, causing severe economic hardship for Saskatchewan farmers. And so farmers banded together and they lobbied governments for a pooling of wheat. Together those farmers, those pioneers, moved governments into action, and the Canadian Wheat Board of today continues to this day as an active monument to the co-operative spirit of Saskatchewan pioneers.

In the process of fighting those free enterprise grain traders of Winnipeg, the co-operative movement became the solution for many of the problems that were holding back Saskatchewan people. Political action became focused on co-op ideals. People were seeking a fairer deal for Saskatchewan people.

The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, or CCF, grew from that political movement, and it is alive and well today within the New Democratic Party. The attack that your government has led on co-operatives in Saskatchewan is unfortunate because we now need co-operation more today, more in these tough Tory times than we do in relatively good economic times.

In Conservative Saskatchewan today we have unemployment that is persistent, it's personally devastating to the many, many thousands of people that are looking for work. And much of the unemployment is unnecessary. Worker co-ops have been tried, and they're been successful in a number of places right around the world and in other provinces, in Saskatchewan, and we have a few cases, a few examples right here in

Saskatchewan where they've been successful.

And I can't understand why you, Mr. Minister, have so radically and drastically reduced the department of co-operation and co-operative development. When worker co-ops offer some hope to the unemployed Saskatchewan people this department should be actively promoting the worker co-ops, day care co-ops to help Saskatchewan families across Saskatchewan and to . . . pardon me, helping these Saskatchewan farmers . . . I'll start that all over. It should be: promoting day care co-ops to help families across Saskatchewan to properly care for our province's children.

Day care co-ops can also stimulate some growth by providing much needed jobs. The department of co-operation staff are needed, as I say, more than ever, but particularly, Mr. Minister, in the field of agriculture. They're needed to help Saskatchewan farmers by explaining and promoting some of the ideals and the objectives of co-operatives, so that that alternative could be better understood and that farmers could utilize co-op ideas to help them with the cost-price squeeze.

We need some alternatives such as active promotion of co-op farms; of machinery co-ops; seeding co-ops; harvesting co-ops; livestock co-ops; soil conservation co-ops — much needed in the province; even snow-plough co-ops; and the list just could go on and on indefinitely. But the opportunities for Saskatchewan farmers to join together in a co-operative manner to help themselves and help their neighbours, those opportunities have never been greater than they are today with the cost-price squeeze that those farmers are facing.

Mr. Minister, there can be no dispute over the enormous impact of the co-operative movement in Canada, and indeed right here in Saskatchewan. In Saskatchewan, co-operatives and credit unions combined together report an active membership in excess of 1,026,000 people. The reason that the active membership is greater than the population of the province is that many of us are active members in more than one co-operative.

As well, the economic power and potential of the co-operative movement for job creation and regional development has to be emphasized. And I'll cite a few examples of some of the things that co-operatives are doing. Saskatchewan co-operatives and credit unions, Mr. Minister, paid combined salaries of \$322 million in 1985 and '86. In total, co-operatives and credit unions employed 14,692 Saskatchewan people; more than 11,000 of those are full time, and more than 3,000 are part time. Total revenue of Saskatchewan co-operatives and credit unions has exceeded \$4.8 billion in 1985-86. Total assets of Saskatchewan co-operatives and credit unions exceed \$6.8 billion.

Three of Saskatchewan's top ten businesses as reported in *Saskatchewan Business* in July of 1986, Mr. Minister, were co-operatives. IN total, there are 25 co-ops and credit unions, that are included in the list of Saskatchewan's top 100 businesses.

(2145)

I doubt very much if I'm telling you things that you don't know — at least I hope not, but sometimes I have to wonder. This year, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool led Saskatchewan's list of people that entered the *Financial-Post* top 500 corporations in Canada, they were 50th.

I hope that in some small way I contributed in the past to the wheat pool growth. It was a very, very small way, but as you are well aware, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool was my former employer before the good people of Regina North became my employer.

There was 198 retail co-operatives that had sales of \$729 million in 1985 and '86, and that represents 16 per cent of the total retail sales in Saskatchewan. I could go on outlining the co-operative accomplishments, Mr. Minister, but, given the significant contribution of the co-operative sector to Saskatchewan's economic and social life, it seems appropriate that initiatives to help people form co-operatives for the delivery of goods and services would be a major initiative of this government. That would seem logical. It is not apparently happening, since instead we have the spectacle where, since 1982-83 under this Tory government, there's been a steady demise of the department of co-operative — co-operative and co-operative development.

Along with the demise of the department, the co-operative spirit is being dismembered, if you like. Let me cite the department budget: in 1982-83, the province budgeted \$3,340,000 and a total of 79 person-years that was directed to the co-operative effort. In 1986-87, that budget had been reduced from nearly \$3.5 million to \$2,959,000, and the reduction in the person-years from 79 person-years all the way down to 59-3 person-years — a very, very severe reduction. And these actions, Minister, display to us and to the co-operative movement in Saskatchewan a total lack of commitment to that co-operative movement.

I see that in the 1987-88 budget forecasts, that the Department of . . . the Co-operatives branch of your department has a total budget of \$443,900. That is one dismal record of withdrawal of support for the co-operative sector. Does your government not agree that there is a basic inconsistency in your actions, Minister; that your present course towards co-operative development is at a cross purposes to the general trend of co-operative institutions in Saskatchewan? And does this government believe that you can continue and do more work and more development with less money and less staff?

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the hon. member is mistaken or just doesn't understand what is taking place in the co-ops, and I will get to that in a moment as to the number of staff and the budgetary figures. But I listened to him with interest and outlining some statistics pertaining to co-operative development and co-operative activity in the province of Saskatchewan, and I can assure him that the co-operative spirit is well and alive in Saskatchewan.

In fact, some of our top businesses are co-ops. He listed a few of them there. But certainly I remember looking in

*Business Week* magazine or one of those magazines and looking at the top 100 companies in the province of Saskatchewan, and a large majority of those were co-operatives. So to say that the co-op spirit is not alive and well in the province of Saskatchewan is just simply not correct.

At this year, just to indicate some of the things that have happened in the present year — this is April to August of '87 this year — there's been 16 feeder co-ops have started up in this province in that period of time; three rural development co-operations; one outfitter's co-op; two farmers' markets; one hog marketing co-op. So there's been a number. I can go on and list them, but I won't take the time of the House to list them all, but actually 31 from April till August, '87, the formation of 31 new co-operatives. And '86 and '87 we had the growth of 77 new co-operatives in the province of Saskatchewan.

The member, when he started his introductory remarks . . . and I don't think he was paying attention, or I will draw to his attention what I had said. He indicated that in the discussions of Tourism, Small business, northern development and Co-operatives, that I had not talked about co-ops. And I'm sure his seat-mate, the critic for a small business, will correct him and will recall that when we started our discussions on the estimates last evening and we got into the discussion on the business resource centres, which some of the members opposite support, is a very innovative and modern approach to the assistance of the establishment of small business in this province . . .

When I was discussing the formation of these, I indicated to the members opposite and to all present that one of the initiatives undertaken by the amalgamation of the departments was to allow these business resource centres to incorporate the formation of co-operatives.

So I would . . . and I explained that in some detail — if the member would like to look back in *Hansard* he would see this — that simply put, that in 12 centres throughout the province of Saskatchewan we have, at street level, business resource centres where one can come in and get access to just a large number of business-related materials, also to computers to help analyse your own business problems that you may be having. And we have some very, very capable people, some very, very capable people in these business resource centres who are there to assist people and advise them. One of the things that they will be describing in the formation of a co-operative and how you would go about forming a co-operative if you so wish.

So for today I could say that if there was someone, let us take in the area around Yorkton, who may wish to form a farmers' market co-op and don't know how to just go about that, they can just walk right into the business resource centre in Yorkton. The consultant there will certainly sit down and go through all the things that are necessary to form a co-op, or he will access from people in Regina in my department. They will come out and help whoever it is form a co-operative if that is the type of business venture that they would wish to form. So for the member to say that there have been no discussion of this, I think it is simply not correct.

Further to that we are having a lot of meetings with co-ops at this time. My acting deputy is telling me about meetings that are taking place with co-ops, to have co-ops access the VCC type of activity — a way of giving financing to retail co-ops who may need that.

I want to tell you that in May I had a meeting with all the major co-ops down at the Saskatchewan Hotel. It was a fine meeting. They had some, some concerns . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — That's another meeting he had.

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Yes, another meeting. Something . . . And to the member of Quill Lakes, I would again caution him and remind him, had he had a few meetings he probably wouldn't have got kicked out so severely in 1982.

But getting back to the critic here for co-ops, I want to indicate that that was a very good meeting in which I explained some of the thrust and initiatives we would be having to help develop the co-operative spirit and the formation of co-ops through our business resource centres.

I think the statistics that I've read to you tonight are proof positive. And just before I end, Mr. House Leader, I see you're getting anxious to get to your feet. But before you rise to your feet, I'd just like to remind the member opposite, who takes great pride in the wheat pool — and well he should as he was an employee of the wheat pool at one time. I don't know if the management feel the same way about him as he does, but we'll leave that to pass.

However, I just want to remind you and the members, give you something to think about tonight. And that is the biggest co-op project that has even been undertaken in the province of Saskatchewan — right out there, north Regina, where I spent five years of my life working at the Co-op Refineries.

And I'm proud to say that a Conservative government was able to sit down with the biggest co-op, one of the biggest co-ops in this province, and work out a deal for the biggest project of its type ever undertaken in the province of Saskatchewan. I think that tells you where the real spirit of co-operative endeavour is in this House.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly adjourned at 9:58 p.m.