

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: — By special order of this House, oral questions will be at 2 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure Supply and Services Ordinary Expenditure

Mr. Chairman: — Order. On page 99 of the blue book is Supply and Services and the activities of the vote, supply and Services, have been transferred to Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation in '87-88. So I'll now ask the minister to introduce his officials, and if there's any questions on page 99 they can be directed to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And it gives me pleasure to introduce the officials that will be assisting me as we discuss the estimates of the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation. Seated beside me is the president of the corporation, Otto Cutts. Behind Otto is Ken Brehm, the corporate secretary. And seated behind myself is Shirley Raab, the treasurer. There are other officials that are at the back of the Chamber which will be assisting as required.

Mr. Chairman: — Are there any questions on page 99 or 100?

Mr. Brockelbank: — The questions I'd be asking, Mr. Chairman, are ranging over the entire Supply and Services item that you're referring to and the property management corporation. I can ask them now or when you get on to property management. It doesn't matter to me. I don't know whether it matters to the minister.

Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure The Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation Ordinary Expenditure - Vote 53

Item 1

Mr. Chairman: — We'll move on to property management now on page 82 of the blue book.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Chairman, I'm going to attempt to ascertain some more information about the property management corporation, the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, and I'm going to send over to the minister a page out of the budget address, March 1986, wherein the Minister of Finance makes some comments about the property management corporation. And his comments deal largely with expenditures under

the Minister of Finance report, and it says, in part: —

One of the ways that expenditures will be controlled is through the creation of the Property Management Corporation. The Corporation, which is modelled after similar Crown corporations in British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec will acquire, finance and manage government land and buildings. No longer will these functions be spread out among several government departments and agencies. Instead they will be centralized in one commercial Crown corporation to achieve maximum efficiencies.

Line department managers will then be able to concentrate their efforts on the programs they know best, leaving the property management function to the experts. For the first time in the history of Saskatchewan . . . managers will be held accountable for the efficient use of space.

We anticipate that savings resulting from the new corporation will be substantial.

It goes on to say that the: —

. . . corporation is in keeping with our commitment to eliminate waste and duplication in government (and certain other comments).

I want to ask the minister if he fully subscribes to the words set out by the Minister of Finance in the budget address of March 1986 in this regard?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I would think the statement as put out by the Minister of Finance is a . . . shall I say, a fair indication of what our goals are in SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation). Certainly I think he will realize, as will anyone, that as you move towards perhaps a different way of dealing with line departments that it will be an evolutionary type of development. By that I mean it wouldn't happen just instantly overnight, and efficiencies and methods of operation, I'm sure, as is the case of most corporations, will certainly develop as time goes on.

But getting back to your statement: — do we support the statement put out by the Minister of Finance in the budget? I would say that that is a fairly fair representation of where we think the corporation will go, but in what savings and what efficiencies will be there for the people of Saskatchewan.

But I do add a caveat on there, that it will evolve, and is evolving. And I believe, as years go on, there will be other efficiencies and perhaps new ways of dealing with the various departments and the operation of the corporation that will evolve with experience and maturation.

Mr. Brockelbank: — I want to particularly deal, Mr. Chairman, with the one statement which I have read, and it's this: —

For the first time in the history of Saskatchewan, government managers will be held accountable

for efficient use of space.

Now this statement was made in March 1986, and the minister subscribes to that, which means that prior to this time there were inefficiencies in the use of space, and managers were not held accountable. And I wonder if the minister could enlarge upon what the problems were in the past?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think what is meant by that, and I would explain it in this fashion, is that perhaps the method of where your space if . . . let's take an example, if you are a manager and previously that was charged to the supply and service, another department. Now under SPMC that comes out of your budget as an expenditure within your department, where you have to make that decision of the moneys that you've been allocated by this Assembly to run your department. And I think that would, and is going to bring about greater efficiencies because you're held more accountable there. In other words, you're spending your money to do what you want in the way of space, furniture, things of this nature.

Previously it would have been that you were spending the money out of my budget, and I believe, when you are accountable and have to defend what you're doing yourself, you're going to have greater efficiencies. I use you in this illustration as . . . of you being a line department manager and myself being the manager of the property management corporation. So I hope that gives you some indication of how I feel, and the Minister of Finance felt there would be greater accountability under this type of structure.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Well, Mr. Minister, the statement seems to indicate that this is the first time in history that there'll be accountability. And I don't believe that for a moment. This is a fairly, fairly firm statement saying there was no accountability before, but there's going to be accountability now.

And I want to draw your attention, Mr. Minister, while I'm on my feet, to the report of the Supply and Services Department. And this is the annual report '85-86, and before I get to what I want to say about this report, I want to ask you, Mr. Minister, to think about this because I want an answer.

This report had a transmittal letter dated November 1, 1986, was finally laid on our desks here in the Assembly July 9, 1987 — more than seven months later. I want to know why it took so long to get that report on to the members' desks and to the public of Saskatchewan, because we're entering a period here where there are no further reports from this department and there are no reports from the Crown corporation. So we're entering a gap, an information gap, and I want to know why it took so long to get that report on the desks of the members here in the Chamber.

(1015)

Now I was talking about efficiency and the use of space. I read this report quite clearly, and it's loaded with complimentary statements about how well the Department of Supply and Services is doing, interfacing

with private enterprise and efficiently managing the space and efficiently purchasing, and so forth and so on. It's loaded with all kinds of phrases that indicate it's a very efficient operation. And the deputy minister, in his letter, in his message, says — and he concludes, after a fairly laudatory, upbeat statement — he says: —

I feel this annual report reflects Supply and Services progress towards an excellence in service, efficiency in all our undertakings, and economy in delivery.

And it's signed by the deputy minister.

Now this seems to me to be in stark contrast to the Minister of Finance, who says that this thing is not running properly. And I wonder if you can explain the contradiction, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think you're confusing the issue a wee bit. You asked two or three questions, and I will go back to the one regarding the statement of the Minister of Finance. And I think if you look at this, really what is meant there, that in regard to space, that under the new structure we believe that program managers and line departments will be held more accountable for space because of, as I indicated to you in my first answer, having to pay for that out of their budget. And I believe that makes common sense.

Now you draw a wee bit of a long bow in saying that perhaps this insinuates that there never had been efficient management before. I'm not suggesting that that is inherently in that statement. However, in discussing about the report of the — I think that was your next question — going on to the report here of the Saskatchewan Supply and Services, in which the deputy minister indicates that the Department of Supply and Services was functioning quite efficiently. I think that's a different thing from what was suggested under the statement by the Minister of Finance.

In regard to the tabling of the document, I believe we started, and I could go back, but it was some time in June when the House opened. We can check the records, and I think this was tabled about . . . in the middle of July. So there was . . . I think as far as tabling goes, that wasn't too long after the opening of the House. I'm just going from memory; we could get the exact dates, and you may well have those; I don't know.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Well that's true, Mr. Minister. It was tabled on July 9, '87. That was seven . . . more than seven months after the letter of transmittal was dated in the report. And I say that's too long, especially in a n agency where there's no information.

We have a secret agency here — a very secret agency of government. The minister refuses to provide information, there are no reports covering the operation of the Supply and Services, and there's no reports covering the operations of the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation. I think that's a serious omission.

I don't know whether it's intentional or not by the minister, but I think it's a serious omission as far as

keeping the people of Saskatchewan up to speed on what this government's doing in space management and other functions that were performed by the Department of Supply and Services.

The Minister of Finance, in his statement, is the one that drew the bow. He's the one that said: —

For the first time in the history of Saskatchewan, government managers will be held accountable for the efficient use of space.

My assumption is that government managers, regardless of where they existed, regardless of how you shuffle the paper, were responsible for the efficient use of space prior to this agency being created. And I don't accept the minister's word.

I want to go on with the Minister of Finance's statement. He says that this corporation is modelled after similar Crown corporations in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Quebec. Well, Mr. Minister, I took the trouble to pick one of those provinces and find out how they run the show over there.

And I thought I'll take the one closest to Saskatchewan — that's Manitoba. And the situation I find in Manitoba doesn't appear to be the situation I see in Saskatchewan. And I want to ask the minister how he modelled the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation on the province of Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well I'll go back to my first statement that I gave you and indicated that as in most corporations, or new methods of doing business, there's an evolutionary track that one follows along. And I believe we will see SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) in Saskatchewan building and bringing in some of the ways of operation of perhaps other property management corporations and developing our own unique Saskatchewan ones, which I would like to see happen here.

I don't believe that one should go holus-bolus and take something from another part of Canada or another part of the world and say, this is the perfect staff. I think you would agree with me that we in Saskatchewan have a record of developing things that are unique and that are Saskatchewan-made and Saskatchewan . . . function well for this province, and have been leaders and will continue to be leaders in this type of development.

You asked specifically in the method of operation. I'm informed that they operate very similar to the Quebec and British Columbia. Your specific question was: — how does it relate to the Manitoba one? And certainly I'll give you a couple, I guess, of examples with Manitoba.

First of all, under SPMC we have brought together all these real properties of the government and put a dollar value on those, and I believe it's somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$500 million of assets this corporation is responsible for. I believe Manitoba did the same thing, so there would be one similarity.

Secondly, in the dealing with debt and with third parties

and so on, we are amortizing that over a period of years, and I believe Manitoba are doing exactly the same thing, so there would be two areas where you'd see some similarities.

But I don't want to give you the misconception that we would believe that we should go and take the Manitoba model and bring it right in here and say, because it's done in Manitoba that way, we're going to do it in Saskatchewan. We have picked some bits and pieces. We're developing our own system. It is the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, and I'm sure that you would support that kind of evolutionary development and build what is best for handling the properties, the public properties of the people of the province of Saskatchewan on a Saskatchewan model.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Well, Mr. Minister, I certainly believe in a Saskatchewan-made policy with regard to the health care, trade, you name it, and that includes the Saskatchewan supply and service functions. Whether they're called supply and services or property management corporation, I believe in a Saskatchewan-made policy.

But, Mr. Minister, your remarks display to me a total misunderstanding of how the situation's set up in Manitoba. And I detect what you're doing here is you're guarding the flank of the Minister of Finance. You're guarding the flank of the Minister of Finance.

Now the Minister of Finance is noted for getting off on cloud nine occasionally, and he was that way in this budget speech, Mr. Minister. This is the budget speech where the Minister of Finance said that the deficit would be about \$500 million. But when the economic report of the province of Saskatchewan came in, it was \$1.2 billion.

Now the Minister of Finance wanted some foundation under his decision to go for a Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, so he got some of his research people to pluck out some names of provinces where he could say, these provinces are all doing it; why doesn't Saskatchewan do it?

Mr. Minister, quit defending the Minister of Finance and stand on your feet. The property management corporation function, as it's carried out in the province of Manitoba, is totally different than Saskatchewan — totally different. And I have the script here that tells how the Manitoba operation runs, Manitoba Properties Incorporated. It's a holding company. It's on paper, and it's in the Minister of Finance's office in Manitoba. That's all it is; it's a bunch of paper in the Minister of Finance's office, and to prove it, here's the annual report of Government Services for the province of Manitoba. And all of the functions that are in here . . . most of the functions that are in here are in Saskatchewan in the property management corporation where we can't get at them — where we can't get at them. It's a Crown corporation. They present no report — no report here before us. So we have this secret agency in Saskatchewan.

Manitoba, it's out in the open. It's all here in the report.

You can read about all of the different functions that are normally supplied by the Department of Supply and Services in Saskatchewan prior to this time, and they're there for budgetary examination in the Legislative Assembly, and the report's there on time.

So, Mr. Minister, you should stop defending the flights of fancy of the Minister of Finance of this province. You should have done it when he was so far out on his budgetary deficit. You should have cut your connection with him then and gone on your own, because I would have trusted you farther than I would trust the Minister of Finance of this province to get a straight answer.

For the Minister of Finance to put in a budget address that this is similar to the province of Manitoba, the first one I picked out of the three that he mentioned as examples, is totally fallacious. And you stand here in this Chamber and you support the words of the Minister of Finance. You'd have been much better, Mr. Minister, to avoid the words of the Minister of Finance, and so would any other minister here, because they get caught up in that web of deceit that this Minister of Finance and the previous minister of Finance have woven for the people of Saskatchewan, along with the Premier of Saskatchewan. And I would encourage you to defend your area of responsibility on what you believe is right, not what the Minister of Finance wants the public to think.

I want to ask you, Mr. Minister, when you're going to table a report for the conclusion of the Department of Supply and Services in the province of Saskatchewan for their last year, and when you're going to have a report for the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation? I want to know that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well first of all, just getting on to the Minister of Finance — and I don't think that is the full purpose of these estimates, is to discuss the credibility or the strength of the Minister of Finance — I think the members well know that the Minister of Finance in this government can well defend himself. I think they know that very well on that side of the House. However, I don't intend to get into an ideological argument with the member opposite as to the strength of the Minister of Finance. I can understand that he would be somewhat enamoured and lean towards the Manitoba model.

(1030)

I said in my opening remarks, and I believe this very strongly, that we will develop a Saskatchewan model, and we are developing a Saskatchewan model. And that Saskatchewan model will have some similarities as to Manitoba, as to B.C., as to Quebec, as to other areas as they develop these type of property management corporations. But certainly what I want to see here, and what we will be driving and putting together, is a Saskatchewan model, and I couldn't care if we didn't do it exactly the same as Manitoba.

There's a number of things that they do in Manitoba that I don't quite support. And I guess that's the difference. There are some things probably that they do well, but for us to say because it's done in Manitoba we're going to do it this way in Saskatchewan, if that's what the opposition

are waiting for, they're going to wait a long time to see that happen.

However, be that as it may be, the member was asking about a report. The member knows that this is a Crown corporation, and there will be, after its first year of functioning as a Crown Corporation, a report which will go to the Crown Corporations Committee, at which time, as is the case of other Crown Corporations in this province, and has been for quite some time, full debate and questioning on the operation of the corporation will take place in that form. As to the '86-87 report, it is not completed with the Provincial Auditor at this time. When that is completed, there will be a report come forward.

So, Mr. Member, you realize as I said, this is something new, this is something we're building, and it will be in the Crown Corporations. And you've sat in Crown Corporations for a number of years, you know how they operate, and you can "have right at 'er" in that type of discussion.

I remember when I was in opposition going to Crown Corporations. Very, very distinctly it was told that you questioned the year under review of that corporation. That will be the same type of questioning that will take place for SPMC.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Well, Mr. Chairman, the minister in charge of the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation says that there's a similarity between the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation and the Manitoba Properties Incorporated. Well it's like the similarity between an apple and an orange. They're both generally round, there the similarities cease. And for the minister to get up and suggest . . . that doesn't make any sense because I've got the facts here, and the facts don't support the minister's claim.

The minister says, when the first full year of operation is done the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation will present a report. Let me remind the minister that this secret organization that he has, which has no report, in the order in council has a year-end of the calendar year, and 1986 is done. Where is the report?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — My officials indicate to me that the first report will have a year and five days — it was five days in '86 and then the year in '87, ending on March 31, '87, and that report has not been through the Provincial Auditor at this time. When that is completed, then we would be putting forth the report.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Well, Mr. Minister, I have the order in council here fixing December 31 in each year as the date in which all books and accounts of the corporation shall be closed and balanced — December 31, not March 31. I want to hear your response to that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The year-end date was changed by another OC, and if you want the second one — you have the original one — if you want the second one, we'd be more than pleased to provide you with the number of the OC and I'm sure it's here. So there was a change in the date.

Mr. Brockelbank: — The minister is telling me now that the year-end for the property management corporation is March 31?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Yes.

Mr. Brockelbank: — It's very difficult to deal with this new secret agency, Mr. Minister. On December 4, 1986, I sent a note over to you, Mr. Minister, and I asked you if you could give me the structure of the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation and the appropriate officers filled in the chart. You were unable to supply me that information at that time, Mr. Minister.

And now it's almost nine months later and I have not received any information from you about this secret agency that you've established, or that the Minister of Finance has established for you. I want to know why you're not giving out any information about this agency.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well let's get one thing very correct. And you know, you can use inflammatory words and get into debate and hassle if we want. But you know, for you to indicate some type of a secret organization is simply not correct. In fact, you will see there will be more information provided than there was previously because, as I say, the line departments have to deal with the Property Management Corporation.

So you will see — and trust me on this — as you see this evolve, I'm sure you will see more information. So I want to be very, very straightforward with you — there is no attempt, and you well know that, to have any type of a secret organization.

The OC (order in council) that amended the exchange and extended the year end is OC no. 1163 in '86, the 3rd of '87, 94, no ... the 17th of December. Yes, there's a different number over here. I can provide this to you if you wish. So you know, I'd just like to indicate that there's no attempt to hide anything.

As far as the structure of the management, the management at this time are in an acting position. I have not made the final decision as to the structure, as to the people who will be filling in the structure, so therefore I think it would be fallacy for me to provide this to you. I give you this commitment — when that decision is made, I would have no hesitation in providing you with the people who will be permanently directing this corporation.

In the intervening time, in the evolutionary time, the people who were in Supply and Services have been fulfilling those functions. And I'm sure many of them will continue to do that.

But you wondered why you did not get a response back saying there's this person and this person and this person, because those permanent decisions have not been made at this time.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Well, Mr. Chairman, the minister in charge of the property management corporation says, trust me, trust me. He says, in the effluxion of time all this information will be made available to you in quantities

that you've never had before. And he promises, he promises, he promises.

My problem is, along with the people of Saskatchewan, I've been stung by Tory promises before. And anybody who stands in this House, after some of the promises that have been made by the Tory party, and is prepared to take at face value their promises in the future, deserves to be turfed out of this House because they'd be next to the village idiot. And I'm not prepared to take that position. I'm not going to accept your promises about information being provided. I want some information. I want to know, Mr. Minister, why you changed the cut-off date for the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation from December 31 to March 31?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well you can question, and I guess that's your role when you sit over there, and you can indicate that you don't think this will happen or there'll be some hiding of information. You know, you can go ahead with that kind of line of reasoning, but I don't believe the people of Saskatchewan believe that in the property management corporation there's any type of a sinister or secret type of organization. There's all kinds of people, every day, who do business with these officials. They do business on contracting; they do business in the government; they do business with one of the largest corporations of this province. And I want to tell you, I haven't had one letter — not one letter — saying anything sinister or secretive. So if you want to continue that kind of line of logic, fine and dandy.

However, getting down to the question that you asked, and that is, why did we change, and I'd like to give you an explanation of this. When it was first ... and I told you when we started, this is ... things evolve, and they will continue to evolve. And as I'm minister, I want to see them evolve in the correct direction. And if you want to question that, that's your role and you have every right to do that. And I welcome your questions if they're constructive, but if you're just going to try and paint some picture of a sinister and secret organization, I say you're wasting your time because nobody believes that in the province of Saskatchewan. But if you want to continue that way, you go right ahead.

However, getting back to your question of why was the year changed. Well in most Crown corporations, most Crown corporations of this province, they operate on the calendar year. In the formulative stages it was thought by the people who put this together after viewing British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec, that they would go for the calendar year. That was not a correct decision. It evolved to show that we should be on the same year as the government, because the basic clients are, in many cases, the line departments. So to be on the same budgetary cycle as them made more sense than to be on the calendar year. That's why the amending OC came through.

But I think that proves the point that is said when I first started, is that this will be a Saskatchewan model, this will be a Saskatchewan corporation best serving the needs of Saskatchewan people and the clients of this corporation, and there will not be anything that is of a secretive nature, as you are attempting to indicate. It's straight business —

business run the most efficient that we can do it, business that will benefit the people of Saskatchewan and the line departments that we deal with.

They tell me there are about 1,500 accommodation manuals in circulation, telling about the operation of the property management Crown. And I have one here — Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation accommodation manual. It tells you all the things about the property Crown, property management corporation, nothing of a secretive nature at all. I hope you have one of these, and if you have not, I'd be more than pleased to send this one across to you at this time.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Yes. Where have you been hiding those, Mr. Minister? I'd love to get a hold of a copy of that.

Could you send me every piece of descriptive literature you've got about the structure and the personnel in the property management corporation, what their titles are, you know, who their names are, what their duties are? I'd like to get a hold of that because I haven't been able to get a hold of it in nine months.

An Hon. Member: — Well it's a secret.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Yes, it is a secret. We have an agency here that has no legislative basis, absolutely no legislative basis. It was brought in even before, even before the Deputy Premier brought in his Bill 5, which allowed the cabinet to do things in the cabinet room that they would be charged with some offence if they did here in the Chamber. Before Bill 5, it was brought in by a simple order in council.

(1045)

And we're dealing with an agency where the ordinary budgetary expenses of the agency are over \$8 million, and where the loans, advances, and investments total \$143 million. And the Minister of Finance has no wind-up report for the previous year of the Supply and Services. He switched the date for the year-end of the property management corporation. That was a decision that the office boy could have made, Mr. Minister — the office boy — or in this day and age, the office person, whoever that may have been.

It is patently obvious to me — and this has nothing to do with having been a former minister in that department — it's patently obvious to me that if you're dealing with government departments that run on a fiscal year ending March 31, that you would run your agency on a fiscal year March 31, not December 31, as dictated in the order in council coming out of the office of the Premier.

And I suggest, Mr. Minister, that you take hold of this agency. Quit knuckling under to the Premier and the Minister of Finance, who out of the blue pulled out the date of December 31 for the year end cut off, and get it on a practical basis as you have now — the end of the fiscal year being March 31.

But, Mr. Minister, the information that has been put out about the property management corporation, up to this point, has been minimal. Now we're dealing with a pretty

big operation here and the minister says: — trust me. He says: — trust this government, trust this government who has betrayed the people of Saskatchewan time and time again, not necessarily in this department but elsewhere in this government.

I want to know, Mr. Minister, when is the report coming out for '86-'87, Saskatchewan Supply and Services?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well we'll give you your last answer first, and that is that the auditors, they tell me, are in the department right now, and as soon as that audit is completed with the Provincial Auditor — and he audits, as you know, the entire government — then that information will be available.

I'm surprised that you had not had one of these, and for your information I'd be more than pleased to send one across for you, and one for your researcher, one for your new leader, and one for your old leader, so I think that would provide you with the information you may need.

Secondly, regarding the structure — and let me once again indicate to you that this will be an evolving corporation. And I have the structure here of the organization chart as of March 31, 1986, and it is basically the same at this time, but there may be changes in the structure of this organization, as I've said at the beginning.

I also have here a sheet that would indicate who the people that are serving in these positions are if you would want that. But I'm a little hesitant to send this to you because it is in rather small print, and I'm sure you will say I'm trying to hide something, so I would prefer to have it printed in larger print so that you can certainly see who every individual is, if you wish that. I said to you previously, though, that the permanent designations have not been made at this point in time.

Once again let me indicate to you that this is a large corporation. I think we agree on this. This is an important corporation to the people of Saskatchewan, and this is a corporation that is evolving and being built. And whether you want to trust me or not, I tell you it will be designed to best serve the needs of the people of the province of Saskatchewan and to run this aspect of government in the most efficient manner possible.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Minister, I want to advise you that right in your own agency you have a branch which can blow that up so that it won't look like you're hiding anything from me. Everybody does it every day around here. It's a photocopier that blows stuff up into a larger size, and I'll be able to see whether there's any fine print there or not.

I think that's a poor excuse for not sending this information over in March, or at least when the House opened, if the minister had it available in March. And I asked for it in December '86. I'm surprised the minister hasn't sent the information over at this time.

Now what I want to know, Mr. Minister, whether all of the functions that were in Supply and Services have been transferred over *en masse* to the Saskatchewan Property

Management Corporation, or have some of them been dropped or done away with or put somewhere else in government? And I want the minister to give me a list of that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Everything was transferred except the systems centre, and some of the systems centre went to SaskCOMP, and a small portion of the systems centre is still in Supply and Services, but everything else was transferred.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Minister, I don't need to know it right now, but if you can provide me with the information later about the breakdown in the systems centre, I mean the break-out in the systems centre. How much is retained and what function is retained in the department; what has gone to SaskCOMP; and if in any way your department and/or agency has been involved in discussions with regard to the new organization which is attempted to be set up within SaskTel dealing with computer operations and so forth, in conjunction probably with SaskCOMP? If the minister has anything on that, I'd appreciate receiving it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well I'd be pleased to provide that to you, and I give you the commitment I'll get it to you as quickly as we can. There's about eight or 10 people left within Supply and Services regarding this aspect of the systems centre. In regard to your comment about SaskTel, there's been no discussions, or my officials have not been involved in anything of that nature at all, if that is . . . in fact is taking place.

Mr. Brockelbank: — In the Minister of Finance's comments in the budget address, he says savings resulting from the new corporation will be substantial. I want the minister to indicate what savings have been obtained at this point, in detail, on how they've been saved, and indicate from where the saving occurred within government.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I'm informed that because we're six months into the operation, actual operation, that we could not indicate at this point in time. With the completion of the first year, we'd be able to indicate by the figures where actual savings have taken place. And that may well be from a number of the areas. I mean, space is a big, big factor, and it may well be through this that we will be able to have more efficient space at better rents, which could be a saving.

Certainly through the use of CVA (central vehicle agency) there may be areas there in which we will be able to bring in some savings, but until we see the first year of operation, the complete first year of operation, it would be pretty hard to say, well, we've got a big saving here. Until those figures have come in, I wouldn't want to indicate to you that there is in a certain area until we have the proof positive through the figures of the first year's operation.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Minister, at least you're not giving me disinformation, you're just not giving me any information. I'm being notably unsuccessful in getting information out of you.

You sent across the accommodation manual and you said, this'll give you a lot of information. Well it gives me a little information about a certain section of the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, but there's no structure of the framework in which the . . . (inaudible interjection). . . Well the minister says he won't send that over because it's small print.

An Hon. Member: — You have it.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Yes, I know. But it's not the same; there's been changes. It becomes very difficult to ask a series of questions to the minister when in fact there's no basis on which to frame the questions. So the minister will understand the problem.

I want to deal with leasing for a while in the property management corporation. I want to get the minister to indicate to me the theory that guides the property management corporation with regard to the terms of leases, the length of terms of leases. If he can do that, perhaps I'd have a couple of questions in that area.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The policy is the same as was in place under Supply and Services, both with our government and with yours, as I understand, in that is that there are leases . . . there are some are monthly leases, there are various terms — one-year, three-year, five-year, 100-, and I believe even up to 20-year terms. The length of the term depends on a number of factors. I guess one thing could be, in some situations, that the type of function that would be provided within that space: — costs — whether we feel that we're striking a good deal and that it should be tied up for some period of time.

So there's a number of factors that would come into the whole thing of leasing. But the types are very similar to what has been in place for a number of years.

(1100)

Mr. Brockelbank: — I wonder if the minister, in due course, could send me the descriptive material which applies to the staff who will be implementing the policy on leasing, in detail, because I want to understand more thoroughly how the minister goes about leasing.

We have a government here that is . . . they're not builders, and they're not buyers, they're leasers. And this . . . they're neither builder nor buyer, they're leasers. And this creates some interesting situations about who the leases are awarded to, and I will be dealing with that a little later on.

But it raises an interesting question. If the Conservative government had been the Government of Saskatchewan back in 1908, we wouldn't have been celebrating the 75th anniversary of this building today because we'd have it leased; we wouldn't own it. And this was a very good buy; the building was a very good buy, and I don't want the minister to get too . . . I think we should be builders as well as leasers. And I just wanted to impress that on the minister and ask him to be sure to send me that information about leasing and the guide-lines that his staff apply.

I want to deal for a moment about . . . and we are interfacing again with the Minister of Finance who has a very difficult problem there over in Finance, and he's enlisted the Minister of Supply and Services, now the minister in charge of the property management corporation to assist him in his troubles. And this has to do with the flipping of funds involving the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, which wouldn't have happened if the Department of Supply and Services was there. And the consequence of flipping these funds was to reduce the net debt of the Consolidated Fund by \$69.8 million.

This is a manoeuvre by the Minister of Finance to put himself in a better light, and the corollary of that is to put the minister of the property management corporation in a poorer light. And I wonder if the minister of . . . in charge of the property management corporation has some philosophical thoughts about the position the Minister of Finance puts him in, in an attempt to get out of an ever increasing deficit situation which he's got himself into.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Going back to what you'd asked previously about leasing — and I want to get it entirely straight so that you do not think I'm misleading you or hiding anything — you'd like to know the parameters for leasing, the leasing policy of SPMC. You would like to know the names of the people who work in leasing in that function. Is that the two things that you want to know?

Mr. Brockelbank: — Yes, I want to know the parameters that guide the people in making the decisions about the type of leases, the length of leases, and I want to know the structure from top to bottom. I want to know it for the whole agency, but in particular, I want to know it for the property management corporation — at least, function.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — As I said, you will be provided with that. But once again let me indicate to you that this is not a static corporation, that there are changes and they will be undergoing changes. So I can provide to you at the point of time that I said to you previously, that most of the positions are temporary and there may be some realignment within the corporation. So understanding that, that I will give you what you're asking for, but it may change as things develop further.

Regarding the figure of 69 million — and I think what you're talking about there is the money that had previously been seen as grants, as grants to third parties, had now, with the corporation and the new way of doing business as I explained at the beginning, with those being loans amortized over a longer period of time, that's where they showed up in the property management corporation. I think that's what you're talking about in the \$69 million.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Well, Mr. Minister, just so we're completely clear on what I'm talking about, I'm referring to the . . . I'll refer to a comment in the report of the auditor, the Provincial Auditor, March 31, '86, wherein on page 10 the auditor says . . . He talks about the movement of funds within the property management corporation which was established by order in council March 25, 1986. And in that he says: —

The reported effect of these related party transactions was to reduce the net debt of the Consolidated Fund as at March 31, 1986 by \$69,898,000. If summary financial statements had been prepared it would be apparent that the actual effect was no change to the Province's net debt since the overall net debt cannot be affected when someone is dealing with one's self.

This is a report of the auditor. And the effect, the net effect is that it reduces a debt of the consolidated fund by \$69.8 million.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Yes. On the date of the start up there were projects that were undergoing. Okay. And that amount of money which previously had been a grant money, so that was taken from — and coming out of the Consolidated Fund — so that was taken from there and put into the debt as a loan under the property management corporation. And that is the way that we will be funding third parties on their construction. And that is, as we said earlier in our deliberations, the similarities between Manitoba and Saskatchewan — there is one of the similarities, exactly the same way, that under the property management corporation it will be part of their debt, the long-term amortization of these funds for capital projects, mainly. Health care is one of the big consumers and Education.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Minister, this is not the same as Manitoba's. It doesn't line up with the policy in Manitoba, and the reason for the Manitoba Properties Inc. I think it lines up more with the Minister of Finance and his desires to get some . . . off-load some of his deficit onto different departments where he can hide it, or agencies or Crown corporations. And this was . . . The veil of secrecy was pierced by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. And this is in their circular that they circulated on February 4, '87, and they say: —

. . . by selling the buildings to the Crown it will inject some badly needed cash into the provincial coffers.

That's quoting in part what the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce said on February 4, 1987. So you're not fooling anybody, Mr. Minister. You may be fooling some of the voters, but people that are astute enough to see what the Minister of Finance is doing to you, realize that you're not fooling them. You're not fooling them a bit.

I want to move on, Mr. Minister, to the levels of funding for the 1987-88 fiscal year. And this has to do with the total for that year . . . is, I gather, \$150,770,400; whereas, the previous year, in the Supply and Services '86-87, it was ordinary expenditure of \$112,375,890. Mr. Minister, that's an increase of 34 per cent over the previous year. I wonder if you could just lead me through that and tell me why it's an increase of 34 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The difference is the amounts is mainly capital. You asked for the detail and we'd be pleased to provide that for you.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Yes, I'd like to know the difference and the explanation of the difference. I have here the

supplementaries, Mr. Minister, for year ending March 31, 1987. And in there it shows supplementary ordinary expenditures for Supply and Services at \$25.4 million.

Is it safe to assume, where the largest figure in that grouping is payment to the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation of \$23.2 million, is it safe to project that that figure will occur again in the next time we're discussing these estimates before the House, or is it unlikely that that magnitude of figure will appear? I wonder if you could enlarge on that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Unlikely that that would happen again, they indicate to me, that you wouldn't see that type of a supplemental expenditure.

Mr. Brockelbank: — I would like to, Mr. Minister, get over to this new secret agency within the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation. It's a security . . . perhaps you can tell me the correct name of it. It's headed, I believe, by someone who's title I'm not sure of, but whose name is Harry Stienwand. I want to know what kind of equipment has been . . . state of the art equipment has been purchased by that agency, the property management corporation. Sensitive electronic surveillance equipment — I want to know the type, the cost, and what its capabilities are, if the Premier has it in his office.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well yes, there is a security division. We discussed this, I believe, in question period some time ago. And Mr. Stienwand is the director of that.

As far as equipment, I can't indicate at this point in time what equipment that is. But I can give you this: — if there is any equipment that I will give you the serial numbers and the best description and so on of that equipment. I don't have that at my fingertips here at this point in time, but I give you the commitment that I will provide that to you of any equipment that he has.

Mr. Brockelbank: — I would appreciate receiving that, Mr. Minister, in due course. And while I'm on the subject, I want to know why you didn't answer my question that I asked in the legislature quite some time ago. The fellow that's reading the paper there took notice of it. Did he tell you about the question that you were supposed to answer?

That was a question about this security agency, security branch within the property management corporation. And I wanted to know why the minister wouldn't have a bipartisan or a non-partisan group to override, oversight committee, to overview the decisions that are made by that segment of your operations which I don't know anything about and can't find anything out about.

Now did the Deputy Premier tell you that I asked that question; and if so, what is the answer to it? Maybe you could answer the question now. It's never been answered.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — That's wrong. I just did that. I believe that question was answered, but I'll answer it again. Seems to be the habit of the opposition to not get the answer the first time, so they feel that it is in the best

interest to ask the same question three or four times. And if you feel that's what we should be doing in here, well, we'll do that.

However, and secondly, had you come on the CBC show with me to discuss it instead of ducking, we might have been able to get some of the answers out there too. He was invited and took off at 4 o'clock, if you want to know what the truth is.

However, be that as it may, the security division is basically to look at government buildings and the security of those buildings, the security of the people that work in those buildings.

(1115)

And I believe that that is a responsibility, a responsibility assigned to the property management corporation of this province, and I see no need for it to be a joint part type of committee. I don't see the reason behind that. I mean, when the people of Saskatchewan elected this government, they elected this government to run the province of Saskatchewan. And looking after . . . (inaudible interjection). . . Now if the member wants to chirp, it's going to take a little longer.

But looking after property is a responsibility that this government has, and I am the minister in charge of that. I am satisfied that the security division are well equipped to do this, and there is nothing sinister or secretive about this at all. I indicated to you just two minutes ago that I would provide the description, the serial numbers, whatever it may be, of any equipment they have but I do not see any need of any type of committee, legislative committee, to look after this unit. I wouldn't have a legislative committee to decide what chesterfields we're buying in the various offices. I think we have the capability to do that within the corporation and we take full responsibility for looking after the properties of this government.

Mr. Brockelbank: — That is incredible, Mr. Chairman. I was to appear with the minister in charge of this new secret security division and they cancelled — CBC cancelled. And I said, well why did you cancel? And they said, well the minister's got a banquet he has to attend that evening. And that is the last I heard of it, Mr. Chairman. So the question of who blinked: — it's the minister that blinked and wouldn't appear on that program when I was prepared to appear on that program. And let's put that to rest right now.

Now in the Department of Supply and Services, where the functions of security were performed, and I wonder if the minister can tell me where those functions of security were provided in Department of Supply and Services?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well let's get back to the blinking first because there was an appointment for a meeting on CBC. I had a previous appointment and couldn't make that, which is quite normal for ministers of the Crown to have other appointments. I hope you realize that. However, the day that I was going on — until 4 o'clock of that day you were going on — and I have the clip to show the people of Saskatchewan that I went on and explained it. And I noticed a vacant chair where you were to be sitting.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Minister, after you ducked the first time I was never called by CBC for a further programming. I'd have been there; I would have loved to have been there to discuss this new secrecy within the department.

Now the minister didn't answer the question, Mr. Chairman. The question . . . he wanted to determine who blinked first. On page 9 of the report of the Department of Supply and Services there is a section that says: —

Security awareness: — A government-wide security awareness program and professional expertise assist security staff in their duties.

Is that the . . . your new agency only in the property management corporation, whereas before, in this instance, it was in the Supply and Services, is that where it's housed?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The information is that it was . . . Previously, the security part we're talking about was under operations maintenance and now is under corporate affairs, if that answers your question.

Mr. Brockelbank: — And this is headed by the former specialist from the RCMP Special I section which deals in electronic surveillance and undercover work, plus four other people. And this is a new agency laid over top of that which previously existed in the department, and it seems to me that justification for this new agency is laid out in a press release, I believe, with the deputy. And in this news item it says: —

The unit had used SaskTel and the RCMP debugging expertise to electronically sweep outside government offices where cabinet ministers and senior government officials meet.

To date they have found no bugs. So in that area we have no bugs. And it goes . . . this article goes on: —

And the unit's work is primarily to oversee security for government buildings.

This is a new five-person unit established on top of the previous unit which was there, and on top of Wascana police and the Speaker's security in the Chamber. And it says that there's been . . . the past year, burglaries have taken place with regard to some electronic equipment in Saskatoon, food vouchers from the Social Services offices in Regina, and a rash of purse snatchings from offices. And I suspect there were some cookies taken too.

And I wonder, Mr. Minister, was it necessary to overlay the previously existing security system in Supply and Services with another five-person group in property management corporation, for which we can find no information about? Why is that necessary, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, first of all, I think you're a little confused when you . . . I don't know if you're reading something into I Division that Mr. Stienwand once headed with the RCM Police. I Division is like, for some divisions, F Division. It's simply just a number. It has nothing to do with intelligence or anything of that nature.

So I think you're trying to insinuate or draw a longbow again. We're not laying anything on over. This is the security unit. This is the security unit for the operation of the buildings of this government. And as I said to you previously, at a \$500 million property, it would seem logical to me that you would have some people to look at the security of these things. Now you may make light of burglaries and break-ins and the stealing of food vouchers and so on, but we are responsible for the maintenance and the safe maintenance of the buildings of this province, and for the people that work in them.

And I do not think it is anything out of line at all to have a unit such as is in place, with whom I did say. And obviously you missed that answer too. Mr. Stienwand was recruited from an across-Canada selection in a very detailed investigation or interview, shall I say, and came out on top as being a very, very capable individual in this type of function.

Mr. Brockelbank: — In due course, Mr. Minister, will you identify when you answered those questions that I directed to the Deputy Premier? I want to see it in Hansard. If you would identify that time for me because you'll be aware of it, and I'd like to check it back.

I've got a few more cavities I want to fill in in information here, and it has to do with dental chairs. I understand your agency is responsible for disposing of a number of dental chairs that are surplus to the operation of a made-in-Saskatchewan program, and really what it represents here is a substitution of a destruct-in-Saskatchewan program for a made-in-Saskatchewan program.

I want to know, Mr. Minister, how many excess dental chairs you anticipated or have on your hands at the dissolution of the dental program, the school-based dental program for children.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Approximately 400 dental suites.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Four hundred dental what?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Suites. That's a chair and a stool and a cabinet and an X-ray and a drill — a suite. You know, if you were going to be a dentist and I said, here you go, you could probably function with that amount of equipment. That's what I'm calling a dental suite. About 400.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Are you sure . . . Mr. Minister, are these surplus to operation, or is that the total amount that were in the province? I imagine you made an assessment.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — That was the total amount. That was the total amount that were brought in.

Mr. Brockelbank: — My information, Mr. Minister, is that there are over 570.

An Hon. Member: — Maybe yours is wrong.

Mr. Brockelbank: — It could be mine is false. I wonder if the minister could give me a detailed list of these surplus . . . of the dental suites that were surplus to operation; and

could the minister tell me what the original cost of these pieces of equipment would be?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think where you have an error in your figures is that somebody supplied you with the number of clinics, and some of the clinics were serviced by mobile units, so that would bring the number of units that I've told you into line.

Mr. Brockelbank: — I can't hear what the minister's saying.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well maybe if some of the fellows beside you quit chirping, it would be easier for me to converse with you. The member from Regina Centre continually has to disrupt good dialogue in this Chamber. So if he would be quiet, you and I can have a reasonable discussion about the . . . Well, Mr. Chairman, we'll wait until there's some degree of control in this place and then continue on.

(1130)

I indicated to you, there were approximately 570 clinics. Some of the clinics were served by mobile units, and that would indicate the difference between what I told you in suites and your figure that you have.

Now you wanted to know the cost of the equipment. I think you would well realize that some of the equipment was purchased in 1974, making it 13 years old by now. There have some subsequent purchases also. The best information I have on the total value of it, I guess as of a new purchase, would be about \$3 million over . . . but as I say, some of it had been in service for that period of time. So the market value of it today, I guess, will be indicated by the market — depends what people see 13-year-old dental equipment to be worth.

Mr. Brockelbank: — I wonder if, in due course, Mr. Minister . . . I know this particular operation is still moving along, judging by the information that I have. I wonder if the minister could provide in due course a more detailed explanation of the assessment of how many units or partial units were available to dispose of, how they were disposed of, the original cost, and the cost of equivalent equipment at this point in time. And if the minister can supply that later, I won't take any more time at this time.

I want to turn, Mr. Chairman, to the leasing of space with regard to the new convention centre in Regina. And I want to ask the minister: — has his agency rented space or made arrangements or signed any agreements to rent space in the new convention centre in Regina?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I'll answer your question on the dental equipment and then move on to the next one.

On the dental equipment, as you are well aware, we're looking at methods of disposing of it, and there has been tenders by the dentists and the dental therapists, then looking at other interest groups to sell this off to. I would be, in your request, I would certainly be willing to provide that information as it evolves and takes place.

The only thing I don't think I would be . . . or do I see the

reason, is the equivalent cost today. I mean, we're selling this off. The market will dictate. So the third caveat, or the last caveat you put on there, I don't see the rationale for giving you the equivalent costs of today because we're not into buying it or anything of this nature.

And the equivalent in costs of today has very little impact because this is used equipment and it is the market that will dictate what the value of it is. But for the number that are sold and who gets them and these sort of things, no problem in providing that to you as it transpires.

Now on to your question of the convention centre. For a moment I'll confer with my officials and provide that answer to you. Yes, we do have leased space in the new convention centre when it is open, yes.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Minister, when do you expect it will be open; how much space have you leased; and how much space had you negotiated to lease in the initial stages, or confirmed that you are leasing?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — It is indicated that the convention centre will open in January of '88. The commitment is for 6,000 square metres of office space, 700 square metres of permanent display space, and 700 square metres of semi-permanent display.

Mr. Brockelbank: — I wonder if, for someone who's in the imperial age, if you could just give me a conversion of the 6,000, 700 and 700 in square feet — approximation.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Approximately times 10.

Mr. Brockelbank: — So what the minister is saying that you have firm leases signed for approximately 60,000 square feet of office space and approximately 15,000 square feet of display space, give or take a few centimetres.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Yes, we have.

Mr. Brockelbank: — At this point the property management corporation is going ahead with this lease. It's not attempting to get out of the lease — or has there been any attempt by the property management corporation to get out of the lease that they have agreed to?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — There have been discussions between the developers and the property management corporation, ongoing, but certainly we have this lease, and we're going ahead with the lease.

Mr. Brockelbank: — What will that space be for, the largest blocks of space be for, Mr. Minister? And . . . Well, I'll get that answer first.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — We haven't made the final commitment or decision as to what department may be moving into there. As you know, there's reorganization and down-sizing and . . .

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could ask the member from Regina Centre if he's had his estimates before the House yet. I'd like to help him, too.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I appreciate that comment.

As I said, we haven't made the decision yet as to which departments may be moving into there. We've been in a down-sizing government — there has been some reorganization — and I cannot give you a commitment as to which ones would be necessarily going in there.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Okay, that brings to mind another question, Mr. Minister. The efficiency of the use of space and the reduction of the amount of unused space by the agency — I wonder if the previous report of the department indicated what space was . . . how space was being handled, and what was not being used, and so forth. And I wonder if the minister can provide me with a detailed summary of space that is not being used.

For example, the one that was brought up previously in the question period had to do with the Department of Co-ops where three employees were using space that was for significantly more employees at a large cost. And if the minister can provide that at a later date, would be fine.

I want to move to the Saskatoon scene, and I want to find out how much space there is in the cabinet office in Saskatoon.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I will provide you with that. I think you want to know what there is in excess space. I should point out from the time, and the member from Regina North had questioned about the space in Credit Union Central, that that has been . . . that lease is terminated. And I believe the credit union are using all the space now.

And it's as I said in question period, when you're into leases it takes a period of time sometime to negotiate out of them. And if your clients will not negotiate out, then you have no other alternative except to run the full extent of the lease. But I think this indicates with the Credit Union Central where the lease was able to be terminated, and they are using the space. I will get the answer for your next question immediately.

Three hundred and sixty-six square metres of space.

Mr. Brockelbank: — The Executive Council is planning in establishing a new cabinet office in Saskatoon. Where will that space be leased from, or is it leased? And what are the terms and what is the cost and how much space?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The space is in what was called the old co-op store. It's a ground level space, right on the street level in Saskatoon, and it is a five-year lease.

Mr. Brockelbank: — If I was you, I'd make it a shorter lease, Mr. Minister. I don't think you're going to last. How much space?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Three hundred and sixty-six square metres.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Exactly the same space as you have in the cabinet office now.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Perhaps we misunderstood your

question. You see, that's the problem. We gave . . . the first figure we gave you was the new one.

I'll provide that information on the old space. They're looking for it. It isn't at fingertips right now.

Mr. Brockelbank: — While the minister is having his officials search out the amount of old space in the cabinet office in Saskatoon, I want to ask him a question about the provincial office building, or the building that's used as a provincial office building in Rosetown. Is that building privately owned, and if so, who owns it?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Yes, the building is leased, and the landlord is Western Developments Ltd.

Mr. Brockelbank: — That's Rosetown. And what's the term of the lease?

(1145)

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — It seems that these two questions are taking a bit of time to find the information. They're phoning for the length of the lease, and as soon it comes in we'll provide that to you. Perhaps though to expedite the use of time, if you have more questions we'll deal with those, and I'll commit to answering the two that we're looking for the information for.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Okay. Mr. Minister, I have two questions in a holding pattern. Now one is about the Rosetown and the other is about the cabinet office. I want to know the size of the cabinet office now?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well you have the size of the present cabinet office and the holding is . . . the square foot in the old cabinet office and the holding is the length of the term of the lease in Rosetown.

Mr. Brockelbank: — I have the size of the new space for the cabinet office in Saskatoon as 366 square metres. I don't know the size of the old cabinet office . . . (inaudible interjection). . . Okay, that's holding then. Okay.

One other building in Rosetown, and it's a building that's leased to the Department of Highways. I could go into the legal description, but the minister probably knows what building it is, and I want to know who are the owners of that, and what's the length of the lease there?

On the cabinet office, Mr. Minister, I also want to know whether the space that you're leasing now . . . or the space that you have now in the old cabinet office is considered to be higher quality space than the space you'll be renting, and does the lease cost reflect that? You attribute, obviously in your property management you attribute a certain cost to the present cabinet space, and you'll have a lease figure for the new space. What is the difference . . . or what is the two prices?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I want to correct something. I believe that the first information we gave you on Rosetown was for the second building — that's the Highway building. But you asked for a provincial building, I believe. So we will . . . and when I give you the breakdown on the space we will give you that.

As far as the value or leases of property, as you know, it has never been the . . . that has never been disclosed and we would not be doing that either, as you know, because it affects business deals you can make if the leases are all out public. Those never have been made public. I think you asked something about the value of space. Well I guess the only way you can tell the value of space, of course, is to give the amount of the lease. So I don't want to mislead you at all. What I will be providing for you, going back, is both the Rosetowns and the old office, cabinet office. But as far as the evaluation of the two, that would be indicating lease agreements, and I wouldn't be providing that.

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Minister, your policy has given you a convenient shield to duck behind here on the cabinet office, and I'll tell you why. You have a cabinet office that is approximately 2,400 square feet or less now. You're leasing new space which is 3,600, in excess of 3,600 square feet.

And here, once again, we have the philosophy of the Premier coming to the fore. Do not what I do, but do what I say. The Premier says, tighten your belts, batten down the hatches, we're in tough times. But the Premier is increasing the size of the cabinet office, I believe, in Saskatoon by about 50 per cent — a 50 per cent increase in the size of the palace for the Premier in Saskatoon, and his deputy, of course, who will visit Saskatoon on occasion.

And I suggest to you that once again, from the fountain-head of government extravagance, the Premier, he's saying: — look, taxpayers in Saskatchewan, we're in tough times; you've got to batten down the hatches. Everybody's got to contribute to this serious situation — to get us out of this serious situation we're in. And we have the Premier of this province increasing the size of the cabinet office in Saskatoon by 50 per cent. There is no justification for that. That idea about extravagant government and expenditures runs through these estimates right from the Premier's office down.

And, Mr. Minister, in charge of the property management corporation, I'm surprised, but I accept it, you're caught up in this same web of deceit to the people of Saskatchewan — that they should sacrifice, but the Premier of Saskatchewan does not have to sacrifice. That is unfortunate.

Mr. Chairman, I know that some of my colleagues have a few questions they want to ask. I don't want to monopolize all the time, so I will give way to some of my colleagues.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions, a few short questions of the minister regarding the security unit that you've established. And I'd like to know, Mr. Minister, if there's been any special security arrangements or equipment undertaken with respect to private residences; and if so, I'd like to know which ones those might be.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think that I could indicate to you that under the vital points program — and I believe you

were in the House when I explained the vital points program previously in question period. And if you're not aware, I will go back over this.

This was a program that came in, in '81, that was agreed to in which . . .

An Hon. Member: — Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well it's part of the answer. If you want to interrupt, then it's going to take longer to answer the question. I'm asking the person who questioned me, if he wants to know about vital points. If he understands vital points, that's just fine.

However, let me move to this, that certainly, under the vital points program, there was concern for the residence of the Premier, and there has been some expenditure of money there. I think it would be more advisable, and I indicate this to you, that I would be willing to discuss with you what security situations surround the Premier and his family. I don't know if we want to do that in a public forum. But if you want to see me about that you're quite willing to come to my office, and you and I will have a complete dialogue on this. But I don't know if this is the forum for those things to be indicated.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Well, Mr. Minister, I don't want the details of the security. Surely you could understand that. In terms of what type of equipment you may have in there, what I asked was: — if you have put security systems in any private homes, I ask which private homes they were installed in? And I think that's a pretty clear and a pretty fair and an open question, and I'm not sure if you've answered it completely, or partially, and I'd like to know that.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I will say again, certainly there are some things that have been done to the Premier's home. And I'd be more than pleased to discuss those with you, but I do not believe that this is the proper forum to do that, for obvious reasons.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, are there any systems installed by your corporation in any other private homes other than the Premier's?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — My information is, no.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, could you tell me if there's any bodyguard services provided by the security staff of the corporation; who assigns them; who might request them? And I'd like to know as well if this service is available to all MLAs, and who might authorize the assignments that are given to these people?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — In this building, of course, it's the Sergeant-at-Arms, that's in control of that.

And the other things, certainly if the RCM Police, the city police, the Wascana police, indicate there is some security problem, then it is arranged with our security unit that that would be looked after. There's a close co-ordination between them, and that stands for any elected member. If there was something that indicated that there was a danger to you, you would be given that

same provision.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, do you have any people contracted, other than those employed by the unit, to provide these bodyguard services outside of this Chamber?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — We have people contracted, but not for bodyguard service.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Can you tell me what the nature of these contracts are? What would the purpose of these contracts be?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Yes, we have individuals contracted, and indicate that it's mainly for security provisions at Kelsey and STI (Saskatchewan Technical Institute). They're on monthly contracts.

(1200)

Mr. Lautermilch: — No other places other than Kelsey and STI? No services to Executive Council members, or the Premier?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The only thing of that nature would be from time to time, if the RCMP indicate that there's a need for security, they may assist there. But mainly their function is the security of those buildings. And if there would be some other buildings in those areas, that would be an indication of a need for security there.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, I have some other questions regarding the security unit, and I note in a newspaper clipping of September 12, 1987, I believe it was your deputy minister indicated that there was nothing cloak and dagger about the security unit and its expertise in electronic surveillance.

I have one comment to make on that, and I would want to suggest that you don't hire a plumber to do accounting work. And I think that this is very much a similar circumstance.

But I want to go on. And he says, he indicates that the unit has used SaskTel and the RCMP's debugging expertise to electronically sweep rooms outside the government offices where cabinet ministers and senior government officials meet.

Now I would like to ask, Mr. Minister, if this service would be available . . . Have you swept the opposition meeting room where we caucus, and have you swept our offices as well?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well that's only provided on request, and I don't know if you've requested it or not . . . (inaudible interjection). . . I say that service is only provided on request, and I don't know if you've requested a sweep of your office or not.

Mr. Lautermilch: — What services then are available through this unit to the opposition caucus upon request?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — If you have a concern of your office or something, then I would suggest that you meet with the

Sergeant-at-Arms, who's in charge of the security within this building, the head of my security unit, your caucus chairman, and have a talk about it.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, can I ask you if the debugging of the government side offices was done through the Sergeant-at-Arms, or was it done specifically by the security unit?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I understand that any sweep that was done was done by the RCMP on the advice of the security unit.

Mr. Lautermilch: — So then it doesn't go through the Sergeant-at-Arms, it goes through the special security unit.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — As I say, the minister's offices are under this jurisdiction. And the legislature, of course . . . these buildings are under the security of the Sergeant-at-Arms, so the minister's offices was done under the security unit by the RCM Police.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Another question I have, Mr. Minister. Would you then allow the opposition caucus to contract similar service to what you have supplied to the cabinet and the Executive Council and the PC caucus? Would you allow the opposition members to contract that same service that you supplied to yourselves, and would you allow us to submit a bill to the security unit or to your corporation for those services?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — As I said previously, if you want this done, just let me know, and we will have the security unit meet with your caucus chairman, in conjunction with the Sergeant-at-Arms, so that he knows what's taking place in this building, and I gave you that offer 15 minutes ago.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, my colleague says you don't hire a hawk . . . a fox to guard the chicken coop. What I asked you was: — would you allow the opposition caucus to contract those services to the person or people or firm of their choice, and would this department cover the costs of those services?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think, if you're looking at the costs for that, you should look at the Board of Internal Economy. That's the board that looks after member services. I did it for the cabinet ministers of this government, and I believe that is correct. But if you want that service, and if you want to contract it with somebody else, you have a Board of Internal Economy that looks after member services, and I would advise you to raise it there.

Mr. Lautermilch: — So, Mr. Minister, you're setting two standards. They're setting one standard for the PC caucus and another for anybody else in this legislature. And I tell you that that's not fair. And what you're leaving is a perception that this security unit is something other than what you say it is, and the people of this province will understand that.

I ask you again, through this department, not through the Board of Internal Economy — the Board of Internal Economy has enough financial difficulties right now. I

happen to sit on that board and know how it's functioning and under what duress it's functioning.

But I ask you again: — would your department, that has sprung funds to do surveillance checks in the PC caucus, would that same department, or Executive Council . . . he says not the PC caucus, so let's talk Executive Council and the government-side caucus rooms, would you offer the same services to the members of the opposition, funded through your department?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — As I indicated, for the cabinet ministers' offices we have done it with the security division, getting a hold of the RCM Police. You sit, you admit yourself you're on the Board of Internal Economy. If you want that service for members and their offices, I would advise you to raise it in the Board of Internal Economy where other members' services are raised.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, what about the office of the Leader of the Opposition?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Yes, we would do the Leader of the Opposition's office.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, the Leader of the Opposition also meets in other offices in this building. Would you be willing to offer that service in the area where he caucuses with his MLAs; would you be willing to do that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Many, many cabinet ministers meet in other offices too, so we're giving the same privilege to the minister . . . to the Leader of the Opposition as we are to cabinet ministers. I said to you before, if opposition members want it, you have your own body which is the Board of Internal Economy that was set up some years ago to deal with the members' services, and this is a service to members, and that's where that should be raised.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, I want to quote your deputy, and I quote: —

That they have used . . . they have swept rooms outside government offices where cabinet ministers and senior government officials meet.

Mr. Minister, you have swept other than cabinet ministers' offices, and you have swept other than your caucus office, apparently, by your deputy's own statement. I'm asking you again, will you offer that same service to the Leader of the Opposition that you've allowed . . . that you have given to your Executive Council?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I indicated to you that we would provide that service for the office of the Leader of the Opposition. I have indicated to you before, in question period, that yes, when the cabinet meets outside of the city of Regina, that there is a sweep of those buildings because that is government business that's taking place in there, and that's the extent of the operation.

Mr. Lautermilch: — So, Mr. Minister, you are providing a half service to the Leader of the Opposition, full service to the Executive Council. Do you not see that that is a

double standard? Do you not understand that that is a standard for one, and a different standard for another?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — No, I don't accept that.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Well, Mr. Minister, I say that you should accept it because it's very clear, it's very clear that that's what you're doing. And I want to say that you're putting this security unit in very bad light by doing that because what you're showing here is that it's not an impartial body, it is there to serve some, and not others.

And I want to go back, Mr. Speaker, to the one statement that I made that you don't hire a plumber to do accounting work. And the man that you've hired is an expert in one particular area, and that's electronic surveillance. And I want to suggest to you that it's very, very dicey here in terms of, first of all, who you've employed, and second of all, the kind of work that you're having him do. And I say if it's good enough for that side, it's good enough for this side. Do you not agree?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — — Once again, we see — and I think the same member did this previously — you know, casting aspersions on the person that we hired. I've indicated that in a cross-Canada competition he came out as the outstanding candidate. I think he's serving this province very well, and I would certainly defend that individual.

Mr. Lautermilch: — — Mr. Minister, I would like a complete list of all of the offices that have been checked, have been scanned. I would like to know where those offices are; I would like know when they were scanned; I would like to know by whom, and I would like a list of the equipment that was used.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Once again I don't think the member is really giving much thought to what he is asking before he asks the question . . . (inaudible interjection). . . No, let me illustrate to you. And I will sit down with you and with the security people and answer every question that you've asked, but I don't think it is wise, and I don't think it's in the best interest for me in this Chamber here, to give to you in a public forum the type of surveillance that is taking place in various parts of this province. I don't think that is in the best interest, and I caution you to think before you ask.

Now I give you the commitment here that if you want to come as an elected member to me and to the head of the security division, you will be provided with that. But I caution you again to see if you think this is the type of discussion that you want to have take place in this Chamber within a total viewing audience of what type of security.

Now I ask you that. And you give that careful consideration because there's some very strong implications to what you're asking, and could have some serious consequences.

Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Minister, let me assure you that I have thought this through very clearly, and what we're dealing with is a public expenditure, and this is the forum that you deal with public expenditures, and you're not willing to do that.

I say to you that you are Americanizing this province. And if you want to set a CIA up in here, that's fine, but at least be honest and open and clear with the people that that's what you're doing. At least be open, honest, and clear that that's what you're doing. And you haven't done that. And I'm going to leave it at this, Mr. Minister, because I think the points have been made.

It's very clear the direction your government has taken. But I ask you to reconsider your decision to offer the same kind of services in an independent fashion to the members of the opposition and the Leader of the Opposition that you're offering to your Executive Council, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Just in bringing this to a conclusion, this discussion, I have no intention of setting up any type of a secretive type of organization, but I just want to indicate to you, and I ask the members just to give a little bit of thought, not to ask foolish questions in haste. Because I want to, and I will give you the kind of answer I prefer to give.

(1215)

I want to say this to you: — I want to avoid and prevent any type of thing such as happened in the province of Quebec a few years ago. And I hope you share the same kind of viewpoint. And that is entirely what I want to avoid, and that is the reason why I would not want to discuss in a public forum with you some of the security measures that may in some day be of value to you and to other members of this Chamber.

Mr. Anguish: — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same topic, just briefly, I have a couple of questions on that topic, and I at least can understand the sensitivity of answering questions in a public forum when you're dealing with security and surveillance and the activities that are associated with that.

It would seem to me that the best way to handle this would be to have a legislative committee, a very small committee, at least having one representative from each of the caucuses that's represented in the Assembly, to oversee this special security unit. It doesn't make any sense. If it's not secretive, it's certainly appears to be secretive to people who'd be watching here today and people that are asking you the questions in this Legislative Chamber. And at least, if there was a non-partisan committee to oversee the security unit, then it would have increased credibility in terms of what you're trying to do, Mr. Minister.

And in the long term, I don't question your integrity as an individual on this sensitive point for you, but you have to look at it in a longer term, and you're certainly not going to be government for ever in the province of Saskatchewan; you're not going to be the minister in charge for ever.

And who's going to know what happens in the future? You certainly can't look into the crystal ball. And I think it would be very advisable to have a small committee, one representative from each party in this legislature, to

oversee the security unit.

Now I think that the minister should look at that and report to us that you will, in fact, set up a committee of this Assembly to oversee the unit.

The question I have in conjunction with that, is that has the security unit not only swept cabinet meeting rooms, cabinet members' offices, but the security unit — and I'm not asking for any locations — has the security unit set up any surveillance of individuals or buildings? And have there been any electronic devices placed by the security unit to gather information for their unit?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think on your concern about sharing information, I think with my last offer to the member from Prince Albert-Duck Lake that I would be more than pleased to sit down with him and discuss it in confidence between us, indicates that there's no attempt to try and hide anything from anyone.

As far as using electronic equipment for surveillance, my indication is no, that that has not taken place.

Mr. Anguish: — I have a question on the concerns of Saskatchewan Hospital. I remember earlier, before property management came into place to take over the employees and services of Supply and Services, your esteemed deputy minister met with employees in the city of North Battleford. And at that time the employees had the assurance that there would be no change, no change at all in their status, that things would operate as normal. It was just a change in management, and they had nothing to worry about.

I'm particularly concerned about one aspect of the Saskatchewan Hospital, and that's the power plant at the Saskatchewan Hospital. The employees there have been continually decreasing over the years, and I assume that there's some modernization process that you have in mind or a possible closure of that plant. I'd like to know what your intentions are.

First off, if you could just tell us a little bit of the history about the reduction in employees, say, in 1980, 1984, '87; what you planned for the future, as to whether or not you're going to have one employee per shift in the power plant; and what is going to happen to the employees that are there now if they are displaced by modernization of the plant.

So first I'd like to know, what are your intentions of the plant? Do you plan on modernizing the power plant? And what is your projection on employees? And if there are surplus employees there now, what are your intentions to do with them? And what is their chain of command in the North Battleford Saskatchewan Hospital?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — As you probably are aware, it is a kind of an antiquated power plant and very costly to operate. There has been some down-sizing of individuals over the past years, mainly by early retirement. They tell me there was one temporary that was not renewed. And as to the future of it, yes, we would be looking at bringing in new technology that would be more efficient to operate. But the individuals that would be there would

either be reallocated or retrained. They wouldn't lose their jobs. They'd find another job for them.

Mr. Anguish: — Just my final question: — are you giving us your assurance today that the people that work in the power plant at Saskatchewan Hospital at the current time that are permanent employees, or any others that work there now, today, at this moment, will not lose their jobs through modernization of that plant? Is that what you're telling me?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — No, I can't cast that in stone that they'd be for ever and ever there, but I can tell you that we will be looking at whatever ways we can to reallocate people, retrain people. There may be early retirement packages. I can't say what will happen in four or five years. I can give you the commitment though that we will look to try and accommodate the employees there as best we can.

Mr. Anguish: — Can you just tell us the time frame then, how soon will they know? They've been in a state of uncertainty ever since property management corporation took over. There are plans being considered but they never know. When will the employees know there what the status of the plant is and what's going to happen? Will it be a week, a year, two years, when?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Approximately six months, we believe we should have that all figured out and they should know.

Ms. Smart: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Minister, I've listened to you talk about the willingness to be accountable and the fact that you don't want to have secrecy in what you're doing with the property management corporation. And recently we passed a budget for the Parks, Recreation and Culture department with over \$11.5 million amount of money to the corporation for the renting of facilities.

And I particularly want to know from you how much the rent is that's being paid for the Archives Board in Regina and what the terms of that lease are. And I would like you to answer the question here because, as you say, the Department of Supply and Services and the property management corporation are in a state of flux, and this is the forum for us to get the answers to those questions right now. Please tell me.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — As I indicated to some of the other members, we do not give out the costs of leases. We have a large number of leases. We'd have to dig that information up as we have about 1,500 of them. You're asking specifically about the archives building. I'll have to get that information for you. But the costs of leases, things of this nature, are not disclosed.

Ms. Smart: — Are you saying that I can have that information or I can't have that information, if you say it's not disclosed? Are you saying you will give it to me?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I'm saying the same as I did to the member from Saskatoon, the critic. I don't recall the seat — Westmount. I will give you the terms of the lease . . . the term of it, if it's three-year, five-year, two-year, and so on,

but you do not disclose the conditions of the lease, the dollar values, because you realize we are doing business with the private sector out there.

And if the dollar values came out on the leases it's like playing cards with the cards up, and I don't think we would get the best deals for the province of Saskatchewan if those things were made public. I mean, if you were leasing a building you would want to go to the highest lease possible. So for that reason, and this is no change, it has been that way and was that way with the government — the party that you're with, when they were government. There's been no change in that at all.

Ms. Smart: — The change is that you've put a lot more buildings under the control of the property management corporation and you're leasing out a lot more space in the private sector. And it's very much in the interests of the people of Saskatchewan to know what that rent is. And it's very important that we know how high it is, not because there's going to be competition from other people to get it, but because we want to know how much patronage you're paying out in the rents to people like McCallum Hill who own the building that the Archives Board is in.

And I would like to know how much that rent is and the people of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the archives want to know how much that rent is, and the terms for that lease? Because the understanding is that it's very high and that you could have been building or buying a space for the Archives Board for the amount that you're leasing it.

And that information needs to be available to the taxpayers of this province because we have just approved \$11 million in one department alone — lease money to the management corporation which is very rapidly becoming the patronage corporation. I think it's appalling that we don't have that information. I want to know who is renting that space, as well as how much, and for how long?

And you say you don't believe in secrecy; you want to be accountable. This is the way you can be accountable. This is the way you can do away with the secrecy that you say you want to do away with. And we need that information. You should be giving it to us.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, really, if the member again would ask some of her colleague who perhaps were in the position of minister of Supply and Service, they will tell you that there's been no change, that we give out the term of the lease. There's nothing wrong with that, and where . . . who has the lease. But if you understand anything about business, and if you would want this government to try and cut some good deals, you sure don't go out and tell the world everything you're paying for rent. I mean, you're not paying attention.

An Hon. Member: — Patronage.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — No, it's not patronage. It's just common sense that you don't put all your bids out. It's the same throughout all the corporations. That's just the way it operates. I mean, you don't go putting out publicly what

you're paying for this or that, because everybody else would go to the highest denominator in every case. They would say, well you pay this guy this much, then you have to pay me that much. So I hope you understand that.

(1230)

Mr. Brockelbank: — Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few comments in an attempt to wrap up this estimate.

And when I think of how these estimates have been presented to us, the situation we've been put in, the lack of information and the slowness of the response by the minister, it seems to me that by design or otherwise, information is being hidden; information is not being given.

I recall an incident where a president of the United States got in a lot of trouble a while ago because 18 minutes on a tape was erased. Apparently his secretary leaned over and accidentally erased 18 important minutes in that tape. And it caused that president an awful lot of trouble, which he hasn't got out of yet.

Here in Saskatchewan we have a situation where we had a Department of Supply and Services which, for all intents and purposes, ceased to operate some time in 1986-87, but there's no report presented to this Assembly — no report, no information. We have a Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, a new Crown corporation established roughly in that 1986 period, which provides no information to the legislature, no information to the Crown Corporations Committee.

And the minister says we should accept this, that you should trust us. Well, the people of Saskatchewan are losing . . . their level of trust in this government has dropped drastically. And you need only take a look at the polls, you need only to go to talk to people out on the street to find that their level of trust of this government has dropped drastically.

I don't want anybody to get the idea that I am saying anything about the staff of Supply and Services or the staff of the property management corporation. They are attempting to cope with the situation where the Minister of Finance is jerking them around, where the policy direction is not firm. At one point the end of the fiscal year is the end of the calendar year; at another point it's the end of the fiscal year for departments of government, March 31. They're attempting to do their job. But the problem, Mr. Chairman, is at the top. That is unacceptable; that is deplorable. Information is not provided to this Assembly, as it should normally be, and we can't accept that. We don't accept that for a moment.

And topping it all off is the Premier, aided and abetted by the minister in charge of the property management corporation, opening a new cabinet office in Saskatoon with a 50 per cent increase in space, at a time when the Premier says we all have to make sacrifices. All except the Premier and his cabinet have to make sacrifices, Mr. Chairman.

And what is happening in this new cabinet office? The same thing that would be happening in the old cabinet

office. The cabinet has ceased to advertise that they're going to be in the cabinet office, Mr. Chairman. They've ceased to tell the public that they're going to be there at a certain time, that the Deputy Premier's going to be in the cabinet office on a certain day. And the reason they've ceased to do that is because they don't want the public to know when they're there.

And I suspect they want a 50 per cent larger cabinet office so they'll have other rooms to hide in, in case the public confronts them at the Saskatoon cabinet office. I can see no reason, Mr. Chairman, for having more space in the Saskatoon cabinet office when the Premier says we all have to make sacrifices.

Mr. Minister, you owe something to your staff. You owe them leadership. You, and your government, have not been able to give leadership in this area. I hold you responsible, Mr. Minister, and I hold your highest officials responsible. There are insufficient and incomplete answers offered by the minister and the information comes very late. There is a gap of at least one year where the accounting is not presented to us, nor to the auditor.

Therefore, I take exception to the manner in which the minister and his high officials come before this Assembly and expect us to trust them. I am not going to trust them; I'm going to keep an eye on them, as are my colleagues.

I think that the people of Saskatchewan, those that are watching this today, will be taking another reading on their level of trust of this government and they're not prepared, as I am not prepared, to trust this government.

And that's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, when the common, ordinary routine of government falls into disrepute as it has under this disillusion of the Saskatchewan Supply and Services department and the creation of yet another Crown corporation, the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Well, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to indicate to the member that I have here a number of the things that the member asked for. I'd be more than pleased to provide them. If the page would come I'd send them across.

Item 1 agreed to.

Vote 53 agreed to.

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

Item 1 agreed to.

Vote 168 agreed to.

**Consolidated Fund Loans, Advances, and Investments
Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation
Vote 148**

Item 1 — Statutory

Vote 148 agreed to.

**Supplementary Estimates 1987
Consolidated Fund Budgetary Expenditure
Supply and Services
Ordinary Expenditure - Vote 13**

Items 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.

Vote 13 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: — I'd like to thank the minister's officials.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I'd like to thank the officials for their assistance, and some of the questions from the opposition.

The committee reported progress.

The Assembly recessed until 2 p.m.