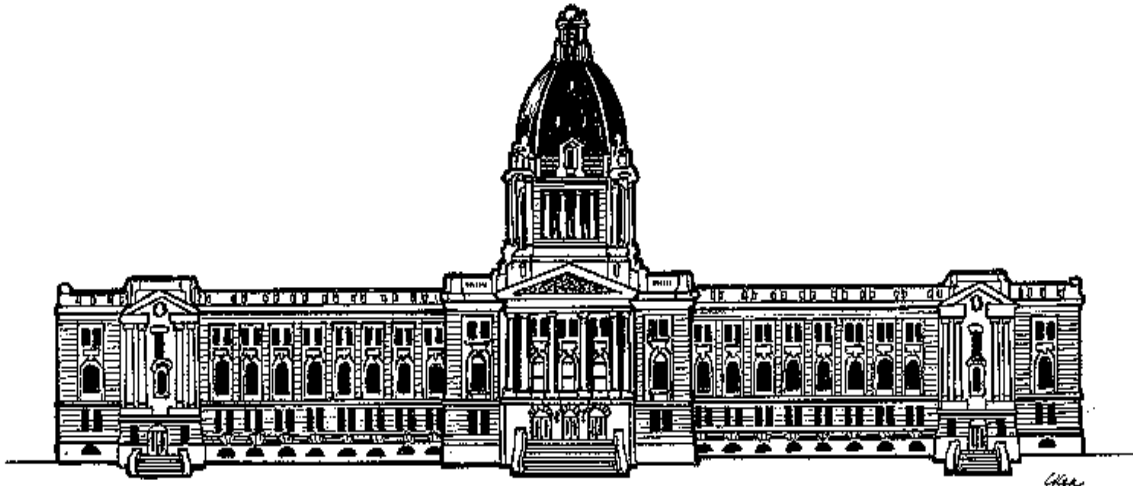




STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hansard Verbatim Report

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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

Twenty-fifth Legislature

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
2004**

Ms. Judy Junor, Chair
Saskatoon Eastview

Mr. Ken Cheveldayoff, Deputy Chair
Saskatoon Silver Springs

Ms. Brenda Bakken
Weyburn-Big Muddy

Mr. Lon Borgerson
Saskatchewan Rivers

Hon. Joanne Crofford
Regina Rosemont

Mr. Glenn Hagel
Moose Jaw North

Mr. Don Morgan
Saskatoon Southeast

The committee met at 15:00.

The Chair: — Okay. So I'll call the Human Services Committee to order. The first order of business today is the supplementary estimates for the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. And before I have the minister introduce her officials, I just want to mention again like we did last week that the questions will pertain to the supplementary estimates and not be ranging into the wider estimates that we did in the spring. So we'll keep the questions relevant to the subvote program or the policy being funded.

So if the minister would like to introduce her officials. And again, anybody who steps up to the mike that hasn't been introduced in this round will please identify themselves for the technical support staff, and if you want to make any opening statements, please do so.

**General Revenue Fund
Supplementary Estimates
Culture, Youth and Recreation
Vote 27**

Subvotes (CR03), (CR09), and (CR07)

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to begin by introducing the department officials who are here with me today: Glenn Hagel, legislative secretary to the Premier for 2005 centennial celebrations; Angie Gélinas, deputy minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation; Bryon Burnett, chief executive officer of the Centennial 2005 Office; Melinda Gorrill, director of corporate services; and Carlos Germann, manager of the heritage resources unit.

The supplementary estimates for Culture, Youth and Recreation being considered today total \$9.527 million. The supplementary estimates are in three main areas. Forty-one thousand in sport and recreation because of departmental restructuring costs that were not able to be absorbed. Secondly, an additional \$120,000 was received by the federal government for operational support for the historic places initiatives. This appears in the supplementary estimates because the department's budget was finalized prior to the agreement between the Government of Canada and Saskatchewan being finalized. This federal-funded initiative preserves and promotes Canada's historic places.

Thirdly, the remaining 9.366 million is for Saskatchewan's centennial 2005 expenditures that were not included in the original estimates. The original estimates included administrative costs associated with planning for Saskatchewan's centennial year in 2005, but did not include the costs for actually delivering centennial programming. Saskatchewan's centennial is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for residents of the province to celebrate this important milestone.

The centennial plan will touch every community and region across the province. It will be an opportunity to look to our proud past and bright future. And that concludes my opening remarks, Madam Chair. And the officials and I are here to answer questions.

The Chair: — The subvote is on . . . it's vote 27, and it's on page 12 of your Supplementary Estimates booklet. Questions? Mr. Dearborn.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Madam Chair. Welcome, Madam Minister, and to your officials and member Hagel, or pardon me, member from Moose Jaw.

Before I get . . . I'd like to ask a question more generic than just pertaining to vote 27. Just on the . . . to the minister, around answering questions to the committee, in explaining around the centennial, as I take it, a lot of this money is for . . . what she feels her role is here to the committee on making explanations put forth by the members, specifically around how the monies are going to be spent.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I can provide some general answers, but Glenn Hagel is the legislative secretary responsible for the centennial, and that's why he's here today.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you. I have a question then. First of all, we have nine and a half million dollars to be spent. Is any of this money going to be spent on salaries for employees within the department?

Mr. Hagel: — Yes, I'll be happy to take that question, Mr. Dearborn. I may make a general comment and then let Mr. Burnett complete or add to that.

The monies that we have here, when we look at them in total, reflect the first half of the two-year budget which will be in the amount of twenty-one and a half million dollars over the course of two years to carry out what is the final phase of the celebration for the centennial. And so these funds will be used for a whole variety of reasons, but all within the context. As the minister has said in her opening remarks that as we move forward in the centennial year, into and throughout the centennial year, it's to engage in a very important exercise for the province of Saskatchewan.

What typically happens in a centennial year is that there's kind of a magic sort of thing which occurs which causes people to do something that doesn't happen very often, but to reflect both back and ahead at the same time — to reflect back with a sense of pride and accomplishment over the course of our first century and in many ways to marvel at how far we've come in the past 100 years; and at the same time to reflect to the future with the same sort of sense of vision and optimism that was typical, I think, of people 100 years ago.

And so the centennial project in itself is intended to enhance that kind of experience throughout the province of Saskatchewan, to facilitate involvement by all Saskatchewan people, to be able to participate in; and to have that sense of pride of place and celebration being here in Saskatchewan.

Now of course some of the monies that are spent will relate to staffing. The centennial office is a relatively small office, about a dozen people or so, and in many ways who are working to carry out partnership kinds of relationships with a large number of Saskatchewan organizations and people.

And so maybe I can just stop there, Mr. Dearborn, and if you have something more along that line you would like to ask, then we'll move from there.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you. Madam Chair, with regards to (CR09), the recreation, \$41,000 for recreation operations support, the minister mentioned that this money was being put to restructuring. Is any of this monies being targeted at all to human resources and to wages?

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — This was some of the dollars were directed to those that were going to be laid off?

Ms. Gélinas: — This is the remaining . . . there were 14 positions that were abolished and there were salary costs associated with that. The 41,000 was over and above what we had budgeted, anticipated for salary costs. Because at the time the budget was finalized we were unaware that there'd be an early retirement package, etc. So these were just costs that we hadn't budgeted, associated with those salaries of those people whose jobs were abolished.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thanks. Madam Chair, I'm glad that we can come to light now on this \$41,000 is going to be directly related to human resources. There's been a problem existent; and I refer to *Hansard*, May 27 of this year. I requested in this committee, from the minister, the global estimates and I've never been provided with those. And I'd like a reason for that today.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I don't have the answer today but we will check into it and get back to you for sure.

Mr. Dearborn: — Madam Chair, that is beyond unacceptable. We have a situation where this spring I asked a very simple question on how many employees were employed by this department. And I was told by the minister, and I quote:

The global estimates are being worked on right now and will be provided.

But this hasn't been the case, Madam Chair, and I'd like an explanation why it hasn't been the case, and when the minister feels that it's appropriate to provide information to the committee. This is not a complicated question, this is how many . . . this is just about the staffing.

The Chair — I want to mention to the minister that the committee got the answer to this question on June 16. You supplied this to the committee, through me, and to the other members of the committee. And Mr. Dearborn is not a member of the committee; perhaps that's why he was missed with this. But I have the package of your answers which . . . (inaudible) . . . pass on. It was supplied to the committee on June 16.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Madam Chair, I'm glad that we could clear that up. On the question of \$120,000 being spent forward on heritage operations support, how much of this money is going for human resources?

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — This money is from the federal government. Very little will be going to staffing. Most of it will be spent on promotions.

Mr. Dearborn: — I'm sorry, Minister, someone coughed there. I just missed that last sentence.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Most of it will be spent on promotions.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Madam Minister. On all the promotions put forth by the centennial initiative this year, are these going to be in-house promotions done by the government or . . . I suspect some of it will be contracted out. Could you outline what the tendering process around these contracts would be?

Mr. Hagel: — The centennial office is located, as we see here with the estimates, within the structure of the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. And Culture, Youth and Recreation has an agency of record, Brown's Communication, and so Brown's Communication is the agency of record that was inherited by the centennial office when we came into existence, and becomes then our agency that we use for communications purposes outside of what we're doing directly with our own staff.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, secretary to the Premier. Would you be able to elaborate what the tendering process will be for, you know for . . . There's going to be so many Celebrate Saskatchewan or Saskatchewan centennial print things put out in wherever it might be in Saskatchewan, \$100,000 expenditure. How will printers be able to bid on this process?

Mr. Hagel: — Maybe I'll ask Mr. Burnett to add to this, but Brown's Communication will then follow all the regular government processes for purchase of goods and services. And I'll just let Mr. Burnett add to that.

Mr. Burnett: — I think it's fairly straightforward that we do work directly with the Department of Executive Council communication and they have their regular rotational, I believe, procurement process where any print procurement, etc., it goes on a rotational basis. So we follow all those rules and guidelines.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you. With regards to the centennial operation support, will there be any IT (information technology) involved in these processes and has there been . . . what provisions are being made for IT used when it's on an interim, a short-term basis only for a two-year period?

Mr. Burnett: — The major component for the centennial really comes with our Web site. And the Web site's been up and running since, I believe, 1999 and is a joint sort of process with Tourism Saskatchewan, event Saskatchewan, and CYR (Culture, Youth and Recreation), and there has been an IT company that had been on contract to help support that aspect of the Web site. In terms of our internal networking and computer systems, that's all handled through our IT agency or service through Government Relations. They've changed the name of the department on me — it was Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs. But they provide IT support to CYR. But in terms of any new IT work or if there's anything in future, it again would have to go through the regular Exec Council procurement process.

Mr. Dearborn: — If I understand you correctly then, CYR

makes the . . . they put the budget together to be able to handle that IT aspect and then just basically source it out at cost or they just absorb that cost?

Mr. Burnett: — We have kind of a support function within, that handles kind of the on-desk applications for each of the staff. The Web base or the, I guess, a specific program to centennial, that's contained within our marketing budget within the centennial budget.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you. So there's actually a payment that goes across for the — to outside sources — for the Web site for this sort of thing, but for the internal computer use it's just absorbed by the Culture, Youth and Recreation department and budgeted within their annual budget?

Mr. Burnett: — Right.

Mr. Hagel: — Yes, I just add to that too, it's an important part of the communication with the centennial office through the Web site, is I would anticipate that the, over the course of the centennial year, that the large bulk of the information that individuals will receive related to centennial activities will come from the Web site source. And I would certainly recommend to any members who have not had the chance to look at it to go and take a look at the Web site. It's very informational and I think would serve the purposes of members as well in terms of their own constituency functions and that sort of thing. And the Web site address is www.sask2005.ca. So it's easy to remember, 2005.ca — sask2005.ca. A little commercial there, Madam Chair.

The Chair: — Thank you.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Madam Chair. I recently — on the weekend actually — I attended a function in my constituency in one of the small communities who had a fundraising event to raise funds to help their community to celebrate the centennial. And I suppose if I went to the Web site, maybe my question would be answered. But I have to admit I haven't looked at it, so I'm going to ask the question here this afternoon.

For communities, whether they be large or small, is there any financial assistance that's being planned for communities to sponsor centennial celebrations? And if you could briefly outline what's available.

Mr. Hagel: — A couple of things that will be very important to communities of all sizes right across the province will be the homecoming program and the promotional items support that the centennial office will provide.

These will be . . . Not every community will necessarily be having a homecoming, although we've had over 100 communities that have already registered their homecoming dates on the Web site. And I anticipate that by the time we get to the months of June, July, and August of next summer, which will be homecoming season, the roads are just going to be filled with travellers, both internally and expatriates coming home, that we'll probably find something in excess of 200 homecomings, I would expect.

And we announced when we did the . . . we launched the

kickoff to the countdown, the 100-day countdown to the centennial year, we announced the homecoming program, which is delivered as a partnership through Tourism Saskatchewan as our partner there. And it'll provide funds to communities that are planning homecomings to support their ability to communicate to people who used to live in those communities that plans are being put together, and their dates, and all that sort of thing that will attract people to come back.

So the homecoming is in place. And there's been a pretty high take-up. And I think, my suspicion is, that there probably are not many communities, probably none at all, that are having homecomings that are not aware of that. I think it's been fairly well understood. And wherever we're going, we're letting communities know about that too.

The other one that has not yet been announced in detail, but I expect it will be sometime within the next month or so, which will be of a very key significance to celebrations of all kinds, including community or organizations within those communities, we've got some, I guess it would be about 150, I think, centennial committees in place now, who are working together with all of the organizations within, which may be schools or they may be service clubs or they may be travel clubs — the list is endless — and who will be putting together their own local listing of centennial activities.

And we're encouraging centennial committees and those organizations to get their . . . to register their activities on the Web site. If you go to the Web site now you'd find that there is something in excess of 7 or 800 activities already listed there. My hunch is by the time it's fully up to completion, we're probably going to be somewhere well in excess of 2,000.

What we'll be doing is setting up a process, so that when events are registered we'll then make a contact to offer to make available, without charge to these local organizations, promotional events, things that add to the centennial atmosphere. Things like placemats, balloons, posters, conference folders, those sorts of things that are hard to get if you have to purchase them yourself but we can bring together in large quantity and then make available for all kinds of celebrations across the province.

So although we're not providing money to do that, what we're doing is providing what people really want to have. And that's the kind of stuff that you can put into a room to add a sense of atmosphere as well.

There will be for communities, centennial communities and organizations within, the opportunity to raise funds while flying the centennial flag so to speak. What was announced about two weeks ago was the centennial merchandise program. And this is a kind of a neat little project that I'm particularly proud of, because it brings together a number of nice pieces.

The centennial merchandise, official centennial merchandise will have several things in common. If it's official, then it will be entitled to use either the centennial logo or the 100 Years of Heart theme logo. The large, large majority of it will be completely Saskatchewan made. And if it's not completely Saskatchewan made, it's because some of it can't be, and in which case it will be Saskatchewan finished in the process.

But it will also, what will also happen is that 15 per cent of the product cost, what you usually think of as the wholesale cost, 15 per cent of that amount which becomes the wholesale, will go to a youth legacy fund to support the young people building their futures in our second century as a province. And it will be open to centennial committees or other non-profit organizations to sell that pre-priced merchandise — good quality centennial merchandise made in Saskatchewan — at reasonable prices for the quality of it, which will also provide them lots of opportunity to raise funds, and it may very well be during the course of their centennial celebrations.

So whether it's, you know, some of the crafts kinds of stuff or clothing, it will be those kinds of things that will be provide centennial celebrations opportunity to raise funds for their celebrations, while at the same time enabling people to show their Saskatchewan pride in the centennial celebration.

So those last two aren't direct funds, but they're opportunities that are created by the centennial operation that are of distinct benefit to communities and organizations who want to celebrate their Saskatchewan pride.

Mr. Hart: — Perhaps we'll follow up in reverse order because that's most fresh in my mind. So the centennial merchandise will be available to community organizations to sell as a fundraiser. Would that be non-profit organizations, service clubs, that sort of thing?

Mr. Hagel: — Yes. Yes, exactly. And going back to the question about the Web site. We're not at the stage where the merchandise is on the Web site yet, but I expect it will be within a couple of weeks or less, so that the Web site itself will serve as a catalogue which will be very valuable to communities who are dealing with people. But organizations can look and see what's there, what they might be interesting in selling — all that kind of stuff. And it'll be constantly updated as new merchandise is brought on line from Saskatchewan sources.

Mr. Hart: — A centennial committee in a community can either apply and sell this merchandise itself, or it could delegate that responsibility to another group within the community, perhaps a Lions club or something along that line, that the committees have that flexibility to sell. And this merchandise is all pre-priced, so each group will be selling it at the same price?

Mr. Hart: — Yes, and the answer is, actually it's both. We're not limiting to one outlet per community. And so it's, I think it's an opportunity for centennial committees themselves. But also, for example, there may be graduation committees, for example, within many communities. And I think you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out what will be the graduation theme for most schools next year of course. And so the opportunity for organizations within, whether it's the Lions or the grad committee, but to use it as a fundraising source for their own purposes, but all of it leading to the ability to show your Saskatchewan pride.

It's also pre-approved, so that, for example, if the local centennial committee wanted to . . . What's your hometown?

Mr. Hart: — Cupar.

Mr. Hagel: — Cupar. So if the Cupar centennial committee wanted to add Cupar to, say, golf shirts for example, with the centennial logo, that can be, you know, that can be done. Or the local school could or that sort of thing. So we're wanting to make it as easy as possible for people to show their Saskatchewan pride in a lot of ways, and including that whole business of merchandise which is an important part of it for a lot of folks and provides the opportunity for fundraising for communities and for centennial committees.

Mr. Hart: — I have just one more question, Madam Chair. You mentioned that there is some funds available for homecoming events for communities. Could you just very briefly outline the funding formula. And I'm presuming those funds would come out of that \$8.6 million that we're dealing with here today.

Mr. Hagel: — Yes, the homecoming program is being delivered by our partner, which is Tourism Saskatchewan, and the actual contacts with communities then are being made by the regional offices of Tourism Saskatchewan. And what was announced on the . . . when we launched the countdown to the 100-day countdown to kick off the centennial, was that \$2,500 is available to communities to support things like postage costs. And a certain amount of it must be used for postage, but also what it does is it gets the community into the tourism loop to ensure that there's also opportunity to think about ways of using the centennial to support the community's strengthening of their tourism attractiveness.

It would be my hope that one of the legacy outcomes from the homecoming program will be a strengthened tourism industry, community by community by community, so that when we come to 2006 and look back that we can say, gee 2005 was a great year, people came home, we had a good time, lots of memories, you know, and we shared, you know, good times and all that kind of stuff. But that we could also say, and as a result of that we can see that there are ways that our tourism, our local tourism attractiveness got a little bit stronger because of the planning and preparation we did related to the fact that there was going to be this natural activity called homecoming.

Mr. Hart: — Thanks, Mr. Hagel, for that information. I really don't have another question other than a comment. I certainly like the theme that was selected for this year's . . . for the centennial celebrations. I would make one observation that perhaps heart could have been spelled in another fashion.

Mr. Hagel: — Well, Mr. Hart, we gave serious consideration to 100 years of H-a-r-t, but we couldn't find anybody in the legislature by that name who was willing to admit to being 100 years old, so we . . .

The Chair: — Thank you. Mr. Dearborn.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Madam Chair. With regards to (CR03) and the centennial initiatives, the \$8.6 million, is there going to be a controller in place for the expenditure of these funds?

I realize Mr. Hagel said that it was going to be over a two-year period, and could you outline what the dates of those would be? Would it be all of 2004 and all of 2005, or six months of

2004-2005, six months 2006, or how does that two-year mandate work and is there a controller in place for the monies being spent?

Mr. Hagel: — There is a chief financial officer. That's one of the staff people that we have at the centennial office and we're very, very conscious of the importance of transparency and accountability with the use of public funds.

So much of what we're doing is . . . Virtually everything that we're doing has an element of partnership about it, which makes sense when your objective is to involve the entire communities of Saskatchewan. And so it's very important to us that we work closely with the auditor's office as well as Finance to ensure that as funds are being transferred that we can be accountable for the public funds. And our community partners, of course, have to contribute to that accountability for us in order to ultimately be accountable to this committee and to the legislature.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you. I'm glad to hear that there's a CFO (chief financial officer) in place.

What I am concerned about is the timelines around which the funds are going to be released. It would seem to me that to promote the centennial, there has to be some money spent beforehand. You're obviously not going to be spending a great deal of money proportionally in December 2005 relative to, you know, the rest of the year.

Is there a tabled business plan outlining, you know, of the \$21 million and for this \$8.6 million around when it's going to be spent? And if you could just give us a thumbnail sketch or possibly table that plan for the committee of just when those funds are going to be expended.

Mr. Hagel: — Maybe I'll ask Mr. Burnett to add to this. What we have in the supplementary estimate here is the estimated expenditure over the '04-05 fiscal year. Some of which, of course, has already been expended. But as it turns out, on our business plan, of the \$21.5 million that I call this final phase of the centennial celebration . . . Maybe I'll just back up for a moment.

The total centennial expenditure budget is \$170 million which include . . . the large bulk of which is capital that has already been expended in the Centenary Fund as well as some special projects like the deepening of the lake and others.

And so what people would typically think of sort of as the centennial — the things that they are aware of is the centennial projects and celebrations related things in this final phase, is a two-year period of twenty-one and a half million dollars. Our anticipated expenditures on that break down almost 50/50 in terms of fiscal years. Recognizing of course that this fiscal year is a quarter of the way into the calendar year 2005. But it will be that the bulk of the expenditures will have occurred by the time we get to centennial anniversary day itself — September 4.

We can give you some general comments today. The number of the expenditures . . . we're not able to be specific today as we will be able to be a year from now because of arrangements with community partners. And so to some extent money will

roll out as it's required to accomplish the objectives. And what is probably, it's probably fair to say, that the firm figure is the twenty-one and a half million dollars over the course of the two years. Our best business estimate at this stage is what's reflected in the supplementary here.

But we have already expended some monies that you will have recognized through the announcements of the marketing program, the theme, the kickoff. Some of the things that you will have seen in newspaper supplements, television ads, that sort of thing, to remind people the centennial is coming, start thinking about it, prepare for it, and that sort of thing.

But I'll ask Mr. Burnett to just give you some general parameters for the spending here now. A good amount of what we're working on has not yet been announced and I don't want to scoop ourselves in a sense, because we will be announcing programs and projects as they're tied together with our community partners. But Mr. Burnett perhaps you can add to that.

Mr. Burnett: — Sure. I think that as . . . (inaudible) . . . Hagel has said, the guiding principle is, a majority of our funding does go to third party partners and we have a broad range of sort of announcement dates that are forthcoming. Out of the final phase of funding of the 21 million we have a cash flow projection which we built based on some of the funding requirements of our partners. And we anticipate we'll be spending about \$10.9 million for fiscal year '04-05 which takes us to March 31. Then there'll be the second phase of the funding.

And again, going back to our chief financial officer, he is a chartered accountant, has many years experience in federal government as well as non-profit and private sector organizations. So we do have our tracking system in cash flow.

Mr. Dearborn: — That's quite clear. With regards, you know, on 21 million, you've said that there's half spent in '04-05 and then in '05-06. Will the amounts put forth here in the supplementary estimates be spent in full by the end of, you know, by March 31, '05, so there will be no carry-over, so to speak?

Mr. Hagel: — That's our best estimate at this point. And if you ask me at this stage what's my best judgment, my best judgment as we sit here today is that we'll be very close to that. Obviously we won't exceed that. We can't do that. And it would be my hope then if we underspend, that we will then be granted the authority to carry over the underspent into next fiscal year's budget. Because from our . . . Because really what we're doing here is we're working on a two-year project, which is the centennial, which will wrap up by the end of fiscal year '05-06. And so what we're delivering here is a business plan that's really a two-year plan with our best estimate is how that breaks down by each fiscal year. And interestingly enough, it almost breaks down 50/50. I think we . . . But at this stage my best estimate is that we're going to be very, very close.

Mr. Dearborn: — Mr. Hagel, you said that the majority of the funds would be disbursed before Saskatchewan came into being in September as an Act of parliament. Just on a raw percentage, would you be able to provide me with an estimate of what that would be? Ninety per cent of the funds would probably be

expended by that point?

Mr. Hagel: — Yes, we've not that figured out that way, but yes, I would say you're in the right ballpark.

September 4, by the way, is the day that I think people will become more conscious of because that's our actual day of celebration, and we do that because it's the inauguration day. It's the day that Amédée Forget took the first oath to become the first lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, and then granting Saskatchewan at that moment the ability to function as a province. So Sunday of the Labour Day weekend is the day that I encourage everybody to mark on their calendars as the day of celebration.

Mr. Dearborn: — I'd have one last question for the minister, just regarding (CR09), the recreation operations support. What would have been the plan in place to provide for this \$41,000 had, you know, the windfall not come upon the government, that we have supplementary estimates for everyone. How would that have been handled?

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I guess there is two possibilities. We'd have to ask for a special warrant or else, you know, look within our own department, you know, to make up for it.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you. That's all the questions I have for right now.

The Chair: — Seeing no further questions then, I'll entertain a motion for the supplementary estimates of 2004-05:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005 the following sum: for Culture, Youth and Recreation, \$9,527,000.

Do we have a mover? Ms. Crofford. Thank you. All in favour?

Some Members: — Agreed.

Subvotes (CR03), (CR09), (CR07) agreed to.

Vote 27 agreed to.

The Chair: — Thank you. Thanks to the minister and her officials, and the Legislative Secretary . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Oh yes, if you want to make a statement, sure.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Just regarding Mr. Dearborn's earlier question of why his question was not answered, and just for my own clarification, the information was provided by the department to the committee and because he's not a committee member, it wasn't forwarded to him — is that the issue?

The Chair: — It appears that it would be our fault because we did give it to the other members of the . . . to the members of the committee, and your department and yourself did supply the information.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — So Mr. Dearborn will be getting that information?

The Chair: — I just gave him mine.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — So he's okay.

The Chair: — Yes. Thanks to the committee and the officials. Thank you.

Bill No. 31 — The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal (Regulatory Reform) Act, 2004

Clause 1

The Chair: — Our next order of business is Bill No. 31, The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal (Regulatory Reform) Act, 2004, and we'll be having the Minister of Justice and his officials come in.

All right. I see the Minister of Justice is with us. Our next order of business, as I said, is the miscellaneous . . . Bill No. 31. I'll ask the minister to introduce whatever officials he feels appropriate and make any opening comments.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Madam Chair. Sitting next to me from Saskatchewan Justice is Andrea Seale, who is Crown counsel.

This legislation concerns the repeal of five Acts or five statutes that are no longer required and in respect to those particular Acts, we have particular officials here who can answer specific questions.

In respect to The Co-operative Guarantee Act and The Potash Resources Act, from Industry and Resources, Larry Spannier the deputy minister and Verna Mogk the legislative officer.

In respect to The Hearing Aid Act, we have from the Department of Health, Linda Restau director of program support audiology, not surprisingly and Phyllis Ng audiologist, again not surprisingly.

In respect to the IPSCO Inc. and United Steelworkers of America, Local 5890, Collective Bargaining Agreement Act, we have from the Department of Labour, Pat Parenteau, senior policy analyst.

And, in respect to The Pulp and Paper Mills Act, we have from Crown Investments Corporation Doug Kosloski, general counsel and corporate secretary.

And I said, the purpose of the Act is to repeal five statutes that are no longer required and I've listed them when I listed the officials that are here.

The Chair: — Questions then. Mr. Hart.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, as you will know, I am sitting in for Mr. Morgan who is the Justice critic and who has thoroughly examined these Bills and he tells me that there is nothing in any of the three Bills that are before this committee today that we would have any concern about.

And frankly, I don't have a background in justice and I believe Mr. Morgan made all pertinent comments that we, as far as the official opposition, would have with regards to these Bills. So at this point in time, we really have no questions on any of the

Bills.

We do have some questions when we get to consideration of further spending by the Department of Justice.

The Chair: — We'll go through the Bills then and vote them off. We'll start with Bill 31 then.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 7 inclusive agreed to.

The Chair: — Okay then, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enacts as follows: The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal (Regulatory Reform) Act, 2004.

I'll entertain a motion that this committee report Bill No. 31, The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal (Regulatory Reform) Act, 2004 without amendment.

Mr. Hart, would you like to move that?

Mr. Hart: — Yes.

The Chair: — Okay. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

Bill No. 62 — The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004

The Chair: — Then the next Bill is No. 62, The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004. Clause . . . No further questions then? Clause 1 agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 38 inclusive agreed to.

The Chair: — All right. Thank you. Then, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enacts as follows: The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004.

We'll have a motion:

That this committee report Bill No. 62, The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

Ms. Crofford, thank you.

All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

Bill No. 63 — The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2)/Loi de modification législative de 2004 (n° 2)

The Chair: — The next one is Bill No. 63, The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2). Again there's 37 clauses. Can we do Clause 1 to 37 agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Clauses 1 to 37 inclusive agreed to.

The Chair: — And clause 38, coming into force. Agreed?

Clause 38 agreed to.

The Chair: — Then, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enacts as follows: The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2).

And a motion will be:

That this committee report Bill No. 63, The Statute Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2) without amendment.

Mr. Dearborn, thank you. All in favour? Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

The Chair: — Next order of business then is estimates for the Department of Justice, and if there's new officials the minister can introduce them. And if he has an opening statement, we can entertain that now. The vote is vote 3 and is found on page 13 of your Supplementary Estimates book.

General Revenue Fund Supplementary Estimates Justice Vote 3

Subvotes (JU04) and (JU08)

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Madam Chair. Seated next to me is the deputy minister of the Department of Justice, Doug Moen; and next to Mr. Moen is Elizabeth Smith, executive assistant to the deputy minister of Justice. Also with me today is Daryl Rayner, the director of prosecutors; Gerald Tegart, executive director, civil law division; Don McKillop, Crown solicitor, civil law division; Gord Sisson, director, administrative of services; and Murray Sawatsky, executive director, law enforcement services, community justice division.

The supplementary estimates requested were in the amount of \$1.085 million. I don't have a statement. I'd be quite willing to move directly to questions.

The Chair: — Mr. Hart.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Madam Chair. Minister, could you just briefly outline what the additional funds are required for, the purpose that they are intended for and how they will be spent.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — In legal services there are two amounts. Under public prosecutions, settlement of civil actions, \$727,000; and occupational health and safety prosecutor, \$70,000. That amount will be offset by Workers' Compensation Board revenue. Again within legal services, in this case the program civil law, legal work for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation in the amount of \$60,000. That will be offset by revenue from Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation. And then within boards and commissions under the program of inquiries, completion of the Stonechild inquiry in the amount of \$228,000.

Mr. Hart: — Now just to review, you said part of the \$797,000 funds are funds that will be recovered from Workers' Compensation. Did I hear you correctly? Is that the case?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Seventy thousand dollars would be offset by Workers' Compensation Board revenue.

Mr. Hart: — Seventy thousand dollars. Okay. And the 228,000 is additional costs of the Stonechild inquiry. Is that what that amount represents?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Yes.

Mr. Hart: — What is the total cost to date of the Stonechild inquiry?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — \$1,938,844.

Mr. Hart: — This \$228,000 that's part of the supplementary estimates, do you anticipate that that will be the only additional funds that will be required or will there be further requirements in the future fiscal year, fiscal year '05-06?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — That is the final amount that will be required.

Mr. Hart: — So then what was the original estimated cost when the inquiry was first initiated?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — The initial estimate for the Stonechild inquiry was \$800,000 based on an estimated 24 hearing days. The inquiry sat for 43 hearing days.

Mr. Hart: — So we've had additional funds allocated to this inquiry over and above that initial 800,000. Obviously, the cost is more than double the initial estimate of \$800,000 and this \$228,000 will then look after all costs. The figure you quoted of \$1.9 million will be the total cost of the inquiry then.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Yes.

Mr. Hart: — Now if we could go back to the rest of the \$797,000, you said \$70,000 is for an occupational health and safety officer which will be recovered from Workers' Compensation. What are the remaining funds used for then?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I can advise the committee that \$727,000 of the supplementary estimates is related to the Klassen and Kvello settlement. I can confirm that \$264,000 is for fees paid to outside counsel representing the prosecutor, Matthew Miazga, and \$463,000 relates directly to the

settlement. These figures don't tell the whole story. There are also payments from other parties including the Department of Community Resources and Employment.

A separate settlement agreement was reached with Richard and Kari Klassen in early June, and the Government of Saskatchewan paid out \$100,000 to each of those plaintiffs. The settlement agreement reached with the other plaintiffs in this case, which include the \$463,000 I previously mentioned, contains a confidentiality clause, the terms of which cannot be disclosed unless required by law. I am bound by that agreement.

I can and must, in my opinion, disclose the information to both the Provincial Auditor and the Provincial Comptroller. I have asked the parties to give me the freedom to speak about the settlement publicly, and I await their response.

Mr. Hart: — So what you're saying is that some of the costs of the Klassen, Kvello case cannot be revealed due to the agreement. Or is it just the amount of the settlement that's confidential?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — The terms of the agreement are confidential. The amount that has been paid by the Department of Justice towards the settlement has just been disclosed to you.

Mr. Hart: — So what were the costs to the department for department officials in conducting the investigation into this whole cost? I'm not looking for settlement costs but I'm looking for costs to the department, that the department incurred with Department of Justice officials in dealing with this case.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I'm sorry, I want to provide some clarification to the previous answer. Then maybe if you could ask that question again.

Of that \$463,000, \$100,000 of that is not part of the confidential settlement; \$100,000 is part of the other amount I mentioned that went to Richard and Kari Klassen. So \$363,000 would be paid towards the settlement with the other plaintiffs, the terms of which are confidential. Now, I'm sorry, if I could have the member's next question.

Mr. Hart: — My question was, are there costs that the Department of Justice incurred as far as officials and lawyers and those sorts of things, dealing with the Klassen, Kvello case that are part of this \$797,000? You mentioned a lot of figures and I'm just having a little bit of problem following all these figures and that sort of thing. And what I'm looking for is, what was the cost for department officials and their involvement in this case? Are there some costs in these funds that we're looking at today, part of that?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — No. Within the supplementary estimate, \$727,000 relates to the Klassen, Kvello settlement. \$264,000 is for fees paid to outside counsel; \$463,000 — and those two numbers add up to \$727,000 — \$463,000 relates directly to the settlement of which \$100,000 is \$100,000 paid to Richard and Kari Klassen, \$50,000 to each and \$363,000 is paid to other plaintiffs. And that \$363,000 and the terms of how that is distributed, for example, is confidential.

Mr. Hart: — But you mentioned \$264,000 were for fees for outside counsel, outside the Department of Justice. Did I understand you correctly there?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Yes.

Mr. Hart: — Could you tell this committee who those fees were paid to?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — That would be an amount paid to the law firm MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman.

Mr. Hart: — And there was no other firms involved in that figure?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — No.

Mr. Hart: — Was the firm of Olive, Waller, and Zinkhan at all involved in this case and any of these funds that we're discussing today?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — No.

Mr. Hart: — Good.

Recently the Sterling family . . . you reached a settlement with that family. Are any of these funds allocated for that family?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — No.

Mr. Hart: — Okay now, let's go back to the \$60,000. Could you just explain what that's for one more time?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation used outside legal services. These services are now going to be provided by the Department of Justice at an annualized cost of \$120,000, and \$60,000 is half of that. So half a fiscal year.

Mr. Hart: — So in plain language SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) hired a law firm to do some work for them and Department of Justice is paying for it. Is that what you're telling us here today?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — In plain language, Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation hired a law firm to do work for them but now they're hiring the Department of Justice to do that work.

Mr. Hart: — Oh, okay. Just as a matter of interest, what law firm did Saskatchewan Property Management hire?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — That would be Olive Waller Zinkhan & Waller.

Mr. Hart: — What a surprise. None of these additional . . . I understand that, I am told there is a need for additional prosecutors. Are any of these funds going to be used to hire new prosecutors? And if so, how many and where will they be deployed?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — The \$70,000 we spoke of earlier is for an occupational health and safety prosecutor.

Mr. Hart: — But no other prosecutors as far as prosecuting criminal cases and that sort of thing. We're not . . .

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Not in these funds.

Mr. Hart: — Not in these funds. Okay.

Another question that I would have is, are any of these funds of this \$1.8 million that we're . . . or 85,000 that we're dealing with here today, are any of these funds being used to in any way look after costs, any legal costs that would be attributed to the SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) case?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — No.

Mr. Hart: — So then that would lead me to another question then. Did the Department of Justice provide any legal services to SaskWater on the SPUDCO case?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — The department did not play a significant role in the activities leading up to the lawsuit. We can discuss the role of the Justice department in general terms but not, you know, in a way that would offend solicitor-client privilege or breach solicitor-client privilege. When the lawsuit was commenced against SaskWater and the government, the department was consulted in relation to the government's decision to have the defence of the lawsuit against the executive government proper handled by the law firm retained by SaskWater.

The department did not actively participate in the conduct of the lawsuit. And from time to time during the course of the lawsuit the department was consulted by executive government with respect to specific issues arising in relation to or out of the lawsuit. But I think the relevant phrase is, from time to time.

Mr. Hart: — Have you an estimate as to the value of legal services that the Department of Justice provided to SaskWater? I mean, from time to time is a pretty loose term. Could you define that a bit more as far as the number of hours and with what officials, that sort of thing, so that we have a better idea of exactly how many resources of Justice were used by SaskWater in this whole SPUDCO affair?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — To answer the question precisely, I do not believe the Justice department ever provided advice to SaskWater in this matter. The department did provide advice from time to time to executive government but there would be no estimate of that. It would have been negligible.

Mr. Hart: — Could you expand on the type of advice Justice provided to Executive Council?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I don't think I could give examples without breaching solicitor-client privilege in any case.

Mr. Hart: — How is the Department of Justice dealing with Executive Council breaching solicitor-client privilege? I'm not a lawyer so if you could explain how that works. I can see if a law firm is dealing with a client, whether that be SaskWater or whatever, I can understand that there could be solicitor-client privilege there. But with Department of Justice officials

providing advice to Executive Council government, I don't see that as being . . . I see that as employer-employee relationship, not solicitor-client relationship.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I'm not sure when it comes to solicitor-client it really matters whether it's a contract or an employee . . . employer-employee relationship in any case. Corporate counsel would still be bound by solicitor-client privilege, for example.

Mr. Hart: — What you're telling us here this afternoon is that if an official from the Department of Justice provides advice to Executive Council, that's privileged information and falls under the same veil of secrecy, I guess, for lack of a better term, and would be compared to someone in private . . . in practice providing advice to a client. Is that what you're saying here today?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — It's a client's privilege of course and the employment status of the lawyers isn't the point.

Mr. Hart: — So basically what you're saying is you can't or are not prepared to tell us the type of advice that the Justice officials were providing to Executive Council. So then can you tell us the amount of time that, and what the estimated cost of that would be, for the Justice officials providing advice to Executive Council with relationship to the SPUDCO case?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — This, I understand, would be over approximately a six-year time period. It would be some hours involved; no record would have been kept of them. I mean no cost is recovered in respect to these matters in particular.

Mr. Hart: — Is it regular government practice for Department of Justice officials to provide legal advice to Executive Council. Is this a long-standing practice?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — One of the roles of the Justice department is to provide legal advice to any government department.

Mr. Hart: — Would you provide the committee with some of the examples in the past where Justice officials provided advice to Executive Council on matters that would be similar to the SPUDCO case?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Two issues arise. First of all it would be my relatively short experience as Attorney General; and secondly again, solicitor-client privilege. But it's certainly the role of the Department of Justice to provide legal advice to government departments. And by the way, it's cost effective to do it that way.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Minister, you just stated that from time . . . to paraphrase, advice was offered to Executive Council from time to time over a six-year period. What would have been the final year of that six-year period?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Well it could be up to today.

Mr. Dearborn: — So, Mr. Minister, it's very possible that advice could have been given to Executive Council, to members of Executive Council within the 2003 year, specifically within the month of November.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Yes, it's theoretically possible.

Mr. Dearborn: — I guess, could you outline — advice to be given would usually be at the request of Executive Council or proffered by the Department of Justice? They request it, I take it.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — As a rule they would request it, yes.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you. It would seem to me that the protection of client privilege would have to do around the nature of the advice, not the time when it was given. Would I be correct in assuming that?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — It probably would be around the nature of the advice, but again, as I said before, it wouldn't be the practice to keep a record of the time expended or the time that advice was requested or given.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you. To your knowledge then — and I'm sure you'll have to refer this to your officials as you weren't the minister at the time — in November 2003, was advice given to the Executive Council, specifically to the Deputy Premier, on the SPUDCO case?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Neither Mr. Moen or Mr. Tegart, who may have been involved, have any recollection of giving any advice at that time. And as I said before, there wouldn't be any record kept necessarily at all.

Mr. Dearborn: — But for the record, Mr. Minister, there was a period of six years from today, backwards, where advice has been available to Executive Council merely upon the asking. So it would have been available to the Deputy Premier during an election to ask legal advice of the Department of Justice what filing a lawsuit would mean during an election period. And that would have been available to him from the Department of Justice. Whether it was or not is not my question.

But in essence, he could have asked for an opinion from the Department of Justice. Am I correct on that assumption?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — If I might expand on the question. Since 1905, legal advice from the Department of Justice has been available to Executive Council or other departments of government.

The Chair: — Mr. Hart.

Mr. Hart: — Did I hear you correctly say, Minister, that two department officials couldn't remember whether Department of Justice provided Executive Council any advice around the time frame that this affidavit was filed and the Deputy Premier approved it? Did I hear . . . Is that what you said?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — I was referring to the month of 2003. I don't have the affidavit you're referring to in front of me.

Mr. Hart: — Okay. We discussed in the House today and yesterday and, in written questions it was, your government said that the Deputy Premier and the deputy minister to the Premier approved the affidavit that was filed by the law firm of Olive, Waller, and Zinkhan during the election campaign alleging that the opposition had reached a deal to settle with the plaintiffs in the SPUDCO case.

Now the question is, did the Deputy Premier and Executive Council receive advice from the Department of Justice on this matter?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — First of all, I think the general comment that the department isn't in a position to waive solicitor-client privilege. So if Executive Council wants to advise as to what advice they have a record of receiving from the Department of Justice, I think that's Executive Council's decision. But it's not the Department of Justice's decision or any other lawyer's decision to waive solicitor-client privilege for the client.

And I'm not sure that what I heard in the House today as to the Deputy Premier's involvement with the affidavit is exactly what the member has stated in committee this afternoon.

Mr. Hart: — We can argue whether what you heard and what I heard all day and, you know, we'll agree to disagree. I think the records will show, you know, what are the facts.

I have a bit of a problem with some of your answers here today, Minister, in that I think you've reverting back to your days in private practice. And here you're a minister of the Crown. The people that you have around you are civil servants that work for the Crown. The Crown isn't a client. These are not lawyers that are in private practice. They are government employees.

And when members of this legislature ask whether there, in fact, the certain officials provided advice and what the cost of that advice would be, I don't think that an appropriate answer is that it's client-solicitor privilege. I don't buy that argument. Now I may be completely wrong, but I don't think that's a valid answer to our questions.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — With respect to the member who earlier said that he didn't have a background in justice, I will tend to differ a little. What the member does not have a background in is legal training. I'm sure he may very well have a background in justice.

The role of the Attorney General is somewhat different than the role of every other minister of the Crown. And with respect, these are not the same type of questions that might be put to another minister with different responsibilities and, as a matter of fact, remaining as an officer of the court, different duties, loyalties, and obligations.

Mr. Hart: — Madam Chair, we're not here discussing a particular case that's before the courts. What we are discussing is what the cost of running your department is, what services you provide, and those sorts of things.

If we were discussing the role that the Department of Justice plays in the court system, I think your answers would be valid

and would have grounds. But that's not what we're discussing here today.

We're asking specific questions as to . . . If certain officials of your department were asked to provide advice — we haven't even asked the question as to what that advice would be — all we're asking is, if officials of your department were asked to provide advice, to whom and on what dates? And you haven't given any of us that answer. You hide behind this solicitor-client privilege and frankly, Minister, I don't buy that. I don't think you have a case here.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Well as the member points out, we're not in court, so it doesn't really matter if I have a case here or not.

We're supposed to be discussing the supplementary estimates, and we're not even close to them, Madam Chair. So that's what we're supposed to be discussing.

If the member wants to have a discussion about the role of the attorney general within the British parliamentary system, we can discuss that at some length as well, although I wish the Justice critic was here if we're going to have that discussion because that might be more helpful.

The Chair: — That was going to be my very next comment, that we're cautioned at the beginning of our meeting to keep our questions to the subvote of the policy being discussed. And we were starting to stray. So with those remarks, Mr. Dearborn.

Mr. Dearborn: — With regard to vote (JU04), there's extra monies being put forth here. We had a line of questioning today trying to find out the nature of . . . There's monies being taken here from general revenues procured for civil law, for public prosecutions, as outlined in this.

The member from Last Mountain-Touchwood alluded to trying to find out around the nature of billing or the cost involved of legal advice provided to the government — to the Executive Council — around SPUDCO, which is something that we dealt with today in the House.

And I had a specific question. I hoped that it was relevant along the lines of the monies being expended, and it's simply this because I don't believe that my question breaches the nature of confidentiality. It's simply this: was advice offered to the Deputy Premier in November 2003 regarding the filing of the affidavit from the Department of Justice?

The Chair: — Before the minister answers, we're discussing the estimates for 2004 and '05 and these questions are specific to 2003. So I would caution the members to keep the questions to the subvote that is '04 and '05.

Mr. Hagel: — Madam Chair, just on a point of order. The item before us is the supplementary estimates for Justice — as Mr. Dearborn has just pointed out — related to civil law and public prosecutions and then boards and commissions' inquiries. And I wonder if it would be helpful to ensure that we stay on topic because that's the limit of what the committee is entitled to deal with.

To just have a brief description, either by the Chair or the minister as to what those funds — not detail — but just what those funds are targeted to achieve, because it would seem to me that that defines the parameters for the questions for the committee. And I'm not sure that's . . . It's not clear to me what those are and that may be helpful to keep the committee on track.

The Chair: — Thank you. I think . . . Is the member referring to the comment on the bottom of page 13 which says, "Additional funding is required to provide for costs related to civil actions . . ." Is that what your looking at?

Mr. Hagel: — No. I'm looking at the bottom of page 13, the Justice - Vote 3. The precise items Mr. Dearborn just referred to; legal services (JU04), civil law and public prosecutions. And then, inquiries under boards and commissions.

I think this gives notice that there may be further demand on the public purse, but all that is before us is vote 3, which is (JU04), (JU08). And it would be helpful for the committee to define what that subject matter is because, clearly, it's not the entire estimates of the Department of Justice. It's relate . . . We're here for one reason and that's because there's a supplementary estimate.

The Chair: — Okay. I'll ask the minister to . . . Maybe you can elaborate on what you see this as.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — We reviewed this in response to Mr. Hart's first question. But maybe it would be helpful to go through it again so that it's very clear for what purposes this money is required.

Looking at the page that the member Mr. Hagel just referred to, it's civil law \$60,000. That is the legal work for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation and that will be offset by revenue from Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation. That's work that's previously been done by outside counsel that will now be done by the Department of Justice.

Mr. Hagel: — Yes. And I'm not asking for an explanation, just a definition of the category of the expenditure to help define what's available to the committee to question.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — In respect to the \$797,000, \$727,000 has to do with the Klassen Kvello settlement and I've broken that down for the committee today; \$70,000 is for the occupational health and safety prosecutor. And again that money will be offset by Workers' Compensation Board revenue and the . . . finally, under boards and commissions, inquiries \$228,000, that is entirely for completion of the Stonechild inquiry.

The Chair: — Thank you then. With those parameters, any further questions?

Mr. Dearborn: — Well I have a question for the Chair. Madam, have I been ruled out of order then as the minister has not gone forth on my previous question?

The Chair: — Yes, when I was commenting that we're moving

into '03, that was where I was going. The questions are out of order since they've moved past the parameters which have now been defined by the minister in response to the point of order. Mr. Hart.

Mr. Hart: — Thanks, Madam Chair. I think we've asked the questions that we wanted to ask in some of these areas, but I do have a couple of additional questions now that I've understood completely what the funds are for. The minister speaks rather rapidly or else I listen very slowly, I'm not sure which one it is.

But the \$70,000 for an occupational health safety prosecutor. This is a new position I would take it because if it . . . and that's the reason that it's in the supplementary estimates, I'm guessing. When will . . . Is there a person in place now? When will that person be in place? Could you briefly describe the duties of this prosecutor?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Madam Chair, that's not the first time that I've been accused of speaking too rapidly, so I take note of the member's comment.

The prosecutor will be dedicated to providing investigative training, prosecutions advice, and prosecutions services to the Department of Labour and the Workers' Compensation Board. This is a pilot project that will run for a definite two-year term and then be evaluated. The individual is now in place.

In the past the daily press of Criminal Code prosecutions work has restrained the ability of public prosecutions to conduct prosecutions of violations of occupational health and safety legislation, and of the Workers' Compensation Board legislation. And we hope that by dedicating a position to doing just these prosecutions to increase the level of compliance with these statutes and better ensure the safety and well-being of Saskatchewan workers.

Mr. Hart: — So this position has never been in place before. You said it's a new position that's for a two-year term, and this individual will be looking by and large at workplace infractions and that sort of thing. For the committee, could you outline to the committee very briefly some . . . you know what type of infractions this prosecutor will be dealing with?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — In the past, Madam Chair, the department, through public prosecutions, has usually done around six to eight occupational health and safety prosecutions a year. And this represented only the most serious cases, cases involving death or very serious injury. And there has been very little prosecutions-related activity with respect to violations of Workers' Compensation Board legislation.

So by dedicating a prosecutor to occupational health and safety legislation as a whole, we expect that there will be prosecutions for serious cases, but not as serious as was previously . . . (inaudible) . . . to. And we therefore we expect that following that there will be more compliance with occupational health and safety legislation because the actual risk of prosecution will obviously go up if we have a dedicated prosecutor. I shouldn't say obviously, but that's what the two-year pilot project is about.

Mr. Hart: — This prosecutor will be . . . Where will this

prosecutor be located?

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — The prosecutor is now in place and located in Saskatoon.

Mr. Hart: — Madam Chair, I have no further questions.

The Chair: — Seeing then no other questions from the floor, were the supplementary estimates for Justice vote 3, legal services (JU04), \$857,000 agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Subvote (JU04) agreed to.

The Chair: — Boards and commissions (JU08), 228,000. Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Subvote (JU08) agreed to.

The Chair: — Justice vote 3 then, \$1,085,000. Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — I'll entertain a motion then for supplementary estimates 2004-2005:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2005, the following sum for Justice, \$1,085,000.

Mr. Borgerson. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Agreed.

Vote 3 agreed to.

The Chair: — Seeing no other business before the committee, I'll also entertain a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hagel. Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — The committee is now adjourned, thank you everyone. Thanks to the minister and his officials.

The committee adjourned at 16:27.

