

**Tuesday, December 1, 1987**

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TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

The Hon. *M. B. Couvelier* (Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 61) intituled *Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Compensation Act* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,*  
*November 30, 1987.*

---

Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *C. S. Rogers* (Minister of Transportation and Highways) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 63) intituled *Motor Vehicle Amendment Act (No. 2), 1987* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,*  
*November 30, 1987.*

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Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *L. Hanson* (Minister of Labour and Consumer Services) tabled the Annual Report of the Travel Assurance Board, 1986-1987.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 59) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 4), 1987*.

The debate continued.

On the motion of Mr. *D'Arcy*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 4 p.m.

Thursday, December 3, 1987

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TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. *W. B. Strachan* (Minister of Environment and Parks) made a ministerial statement relating to the photodegradability of plastic bags.

Ms. *Smallwood* made a statement.

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

Bill (No. 34) intituled *Health Statutes Amendment Act, 1987* was read a third time and passed.

Ms. *Smallwood* rose on a matter of privilege relating to answers given by the Minister of Health during Oral Question Period on Tuesday last.

Mr. Speaker stated he would take the matter under advisement.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 59) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 4), 1987*.

The debate continued.

The House divided.

Motion agreed to on the following division:

YEAS—30

<i>Peterson</i>	<i>Mowat</i>	<i>McCarthy</i>	<i>Michael</i>
<i>Huberts</i>	<i>Gran</i>	<i>Veitch</i>	<i>Parker</i>
<i>Davidson</i>	<i>Jansen</i>	<i>Long</i>	<i>Dueck</i>
<i>Jacobsen</i>	<i>R. Fraser</i>	<i>Dirks</i>	<i>Reid</i>
<i>S. Smith</i>	<i>Couvelier</i>	<i>De Jong</i>	<i>L. Hanson</i>
<i>Ree</i>	<i>Vander Zalm</i>	<i>Loenen</i>	<i>Rogers</i>
<i>Serwa</i>	<i>Strachan</i>	<i>Pelton</i>	<i>Brummet</i>
<i>Vant</i>	<i>S. Hagen</i>		

NAYS—18

<i>Edwards</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Kempf</i>	<i>Rose</i>
<i>Jones</i>	<i>Lovick</i>	<i>D'Arcy</i>	<i>Marzari</i>
<i>A. Hagen</i>	<i>Smallwood</i>	<i>Boone</i>	<i>Barnes</i>
<i>Miller</i>	<i>Guno</i>	<i>Skelly</i>	<i>G. Hanson</i>
<i>Sihota</i>	<i>Cashore</i>		

Bill (No. 59) read a second time and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting after today.

On the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 63) intituled *Motor Vehicle Amendment Act (No. 2), 1987*, a debate arose, which was, on the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

On the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 62) intituled *Pension (Public Service) Amendment Act, 1987*, a debate arose, which was, on the motion of the Hon. W. B. Strachan, adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 11.30 a.m.

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### Thursday, December 3, 1987

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TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved decision as follows:

*Honourable Members:*

Earlier today, the Honourable Member for Surrey-Guildford-Whalley rose on a matter of privilege relating to statements made in this House by the Minister of Health during Oral Question Period on Tuesday last concerning a letter from Dr. T. S. Wong, Chief of Staff at Surrey Memorial Hospital.

Firstly, I wish to thank the Honourable Member for her courtesy in advising the Chair of her intention to raise this matter.

The Honourable Member has raised this matter at the earliest opportunity and has filed a letter, dated November 24, 1987, addressed to Mr. Brian Copley and signed by Doctor T. S. Wong. Page 3 of the said letter indicates that a copy of the letter was sent to the Honourable Minister of Health.

I have examined the *Official Report of Debates* of this Assembly for Tuesday, December 1, 1987, at page 2780, which makes it abundantly clear that during Oral Question Period the Honourable Member for Surrey-Guildford-Whalley raised a question concerning this same letter, to which the Honourable Minister of Health replied, in part, "I have not had a letter from that particular doctor."

Honourable Members might well speculate as to whether or not a copy was ever mailed to the Honourable Minister, as page 3 of the letter purports to indicate — we might speculate as to whether or not, after it was mailed, the Canada postal system carried it with its usual dispatch to the addressee, and we might also speculate as to whether or not the letter, having been received at the Minister's office, had been brought forward for his consideration on the date in question, to wit, December 1, 1987.

All this speculation is quite unnecessary in the face of the Minister's clear statement as recorded in the *Official Report of Debates*, "I have not had a letter from that particular doctor."

In this House, as in all parliamentary democracies, one Honourable Member's statement is accepted by all other Honourable Members in the absence of incontrovertible evidence to the contrary. There is no such evidence in possession of the Chair today and accordingly the matter raised by the Member falls squarely into the category of a case where there is a simple dispute as to facts.

There are numerous decisions on similar fact contained in our *Journals* and I refer the Honourable Member to the *Journals* of this House, 1982, pages 12, 34, 55 and 132; to Beachesne's 5th Edition at page 12 and to *Parliamentary Practice in British Columbia*, Second Edition, at page 244.

Let me make one further observation for the guidance of all Members. It is inevitable, by the very nature of the debates in this House, that countless disputes as to facts will arise from time to time and it would be unfortunate if, in each of these instances, an attempt was made to routinely convert those disagreements into a charge of misleading the House. Matters of privilege which involve a charge of a Member misleading this House are not to be embarked upon lightly, and I would ask all Honourable Members to consider the seriousness of such a charge before bringing it forward as a matter of privilege.

J. REYNOLDS, *Speaker*

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *P. Dueck* (Minister of Health) made a ministerial statement relating to the Mental Health Consultation Report prepared by the Ministry of Health.

Mrs. *Boone* made a statement.

The Hon. *C. S. Rogers* (Minister of Transportation and Highways) made a ministerial statement relating to a communication between the Minister of Transportation and Highways and Mr. Douglas McKay, Commissioner conducting an inquiry into the construction of the Coquihalla Highway, and tabled a copy of his letter.

Mr. *Lovick* made a statement.

By leave, the Hon. *W. B. Strachan* moved that leave be given for the Special Committee to Appoint an Auditor General to meet today.

Motion agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 63) intituled *Motor Vehicle Amendment Act (No. 2)*, 1987.

The debate continued.

Bill (No. 63) read a second time and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting after today.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 62) intituled *Pension (Public Service) Amendment Act*, 1987.

The debate continued.

Bill (No. 62) read a second time and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting after today.

By leave, on the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the order for committal of Bill (No. 59) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 4), 1987* at the next sitting after today was discharged.

By leave, Bill (No. 59) was committed.

The Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Committee to sit again at the next sitting.

And then the House adjourned at 5.57 p.m.

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### Friday, December 4, 1987

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TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

By leave, the Hon. *W. B. Strachan* moved that leave be given for the Special Committee to Appoint an Auditor General to meet later today while the House is in Session.

Motion agreed to.

Order called for "Private Members' Statements."

By leave, Mr. *Vant* tabled a document entitled Government Restructuring — Statement of Principles.

By leave, on the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

Bill (No. 59) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 4), 1987* was committed.

The Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Committee to sit again at the next sitting.

And then the House adjourned at 12.59 p.m.

**Monday, December 7, 1987**

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TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. *L. Hanson* (Minister of Labour and Consumer Services) tabled the following:

Sixty-sixth Annual Report of the Liquor Distribution Branch for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1987.

Financial Statements of the Liquor Distribution Branch for the period April 1, 1986 to March 31, 1987.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

Bill (No. 59) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 4), 1987* was committed.

By leave, without the Committee rising, the Hon. *G. M. McCarthy* (Minister of Economic Development) made a ministerial statement relating to the formation of Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd., a joint venture of Canfor Corporation of Vancouver and Oji Paper Company Ltd. of Tokyo, to carry out a major investment in pulp and paper making facilities at Port Mellon on Howe Sound, and, by leave, Mr. *Miller* made a statement.

The Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Committee to sit again at the next sitting.

The Chairman further reported that in consideration of Mr. *Blencoe's* proposed amendment to section 2 of Bill (No. 59), the Committee divided as follows:

YEAS—16

<i>Edwards</i>	<i>Sihota</i>	<i>Cashore</i>	<i>Skelly</i>
<i>Clark</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Blencoe</i>	<i>Harcourt</i>
<i>A. Hagen</i>	<i>Lovick</i>	<i>Gabelmann</i>	<i>Barnes</i>
<i>Miller</i>	<i>Guno</i>	<i>Boone</i>	<i>G. Hanson</i>

NAYS—29

<i>Huberts</i>	<i>Chalmers</i>	<i>McCarthy</i>	<i>Michael</i>
<i>Jacobsen</i>	<i>R. Fraser</i>	<i>Veitch</i>	<i>Parker</i>
<i>S. Smith</i>	<i>Davis</i>	<i>Dirks</i>	<i>Richmond</i>
<i>Ree</i>	<i>Couvelier</i>	<i>Rabbitt</i>	<i>L. Hanson</i>
<i>Serwa</i>	<i>B. R. D. Smith</i>	<i>De Jong</i>	<i>Rogers</i>
<i>Vant</i>	<i>Strachan</i>	<i>Crandall</i>	<i>Savage</i>
<i>Campbell</i>	<i>S. Hagen</i>	<i>Loenen</i>	<i>Brummet</i>
<i>Mowat</i>			

The Chairman further reported that in consideration of section 2 of Bill (No. 59), the Committee divided as follows:

## YEAS—29

Huberts  
Messmer  
Jacobsen  
S. Smith  
Ree  
Serwa  
Vant  
Campbell

Mowat  
Chalmers  
R. Fraser  
Davis  
Couvelier  
B. R. D. Smith  
Strachan

S. Hagen  
McCarthy  
Veitch  
Dirks  
Rabbitt  
De Jong  
Crandall

Loenen  
Michael  
Parker  
Richmond  
L. Hanson  
Rogers  
Savage

## NAYS—16

Edwards  
Clark  
A. Hagen  
Miller

Sihota  
Williams  
Lovick  
Guno

Cashore  
Blencoe  
Gabelmann  
Boone

Skelly  
Harcourt  
Barnes  
G. Hanson

The Hon. *W. B. Strachan* advised the House that the House would sit on Wednesday next.

And then the House adjourned at 5.58 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 8, 1987**

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

Bill (No. 51) intituled *Mineral Amendment Act, 1987* was committed, reported complete without amendment, on division.

Bill as reported to be considered at the next sitting after today.

Bill (No. 59) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 4), 1987* was committed.

The Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Committee to sit again later today.

And then the House adjourned at 11.58 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 8, 1987**

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TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *P. A. Dueck* (Minister of Health) made a ministerial statement relating to the field of coronary bypass surgery and clarification of earlier statements made by him on that subject.

Mrs. *Boone* made a statement.

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

Bill (No. 59) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 4), 1987* was committed.

The Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Committee to sit again at the next sitting.

The Chairman further reported that in consideration of section 7 of Bill (No. 59), the Committee divided as follows:

YEAS—33

*Peterson*  
*Huberts*  
*Messmer*  
*Jacobsen*  
*S. Smith*  
*Ree*  
*Bruce*  
*Serwa*  
*Vant*

*Campbell*  
*Chalmers*  
*Jansen*  
*Johnston*  
*Davis*  
*Couvelier*  
*B. R. D. Smith*  
*Vander Zalm*

*Strachan*  
*McCarthy*  
*Veitch*  
*Dirks*  
*Rabbitt*  
*Crandall*  
*Loenen*  
*Pelton*

*Michael*  
*Parker*  
*Richmond*  
*Dueck*  
*Reid*  
*L. Hanson*  
*Rogers*  
*Savage*

NAYS—17

*Edwards*  
*Jones*  
*A. Hagen*  
*Miller*  
*Sihota*

*Lovick*  
*Smallwood*  
*Guno*  
*Cashore*

*Blencoe*  
*Gabelmann*  
*D'Arcy*  
*Boone*

*Harcourt*  
*Marzari*  
*Barnes*  
*G. Hanson*

And then the House adjourned at 5.58 p.m.

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**Wednesday, December 9, 1987**

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TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.



The Hon. *W. B. Strachan* (on behalf of the Hon. *S. Hagen*, Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 58) intituled *Open Learning Agency Act* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,*  
*December 8, 1987.*

Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *C. H. Richmond* (Minister of Social Services and Housing) tabled the following:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, 1986-87.  
Annual Report of British Columbia Housing Management Commission, 1986.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

Bill (No. 59) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 4), 1987* was committed, reported complete with amendment.

Bill as reported to be considered at the next sitting after today.

Sections 11, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of Bill (No. 59) passed, on division.

Bill (No. 62) intituled *Pension (Public Service) Amendment Act, 1987* was committed, reported complete without amendment, read a third time and passed.

On the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 61) intituled *Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Compensation Act*, a debate arose, which was, on the motion of Mr. *Miller*, adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 5.57 p.m.

**Thursday, December 10, 1987**

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. *S. Hagen* (Minister of Advanced Education and Job Training) tabled the Ninth Annual Report of the Science Council of British Columbia and the Secretariat on Science, Research and Development, for the year ended March 31, 1987.

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 61) intituled *Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Compensation Act*.

The debate continued.

Bill (No. 61) read a second time and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting after today.

On the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 58) intituled *Open Learning Agency Act*, a debate arose.

Mr. Speaker, having been earlier advised of the wish of the Honourable Member for Boundary-Similkameen to make a personal statement, recognized the Honourable Member.

The Member for Boundary-Similkameen advised Mr. Speaker of his intention to resign his seat as Member for the constituency of Boundary-Similkameen, effective midnight, Thursday, December 10, 1987.

The Hon. *W. N. Vander Zalm* (Premier) made a statement.

Mr. *Harcourt* made a statement.

The House resumed the debate on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 58) intituled *Open Learning Agency Act*, which was, on the motion of the Hon. *S. Hagen*, adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 11.57 a.m.

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**Thursday, December 10, 1987**

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TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

By leave, the Hon. *B. R. D. Smith*, seconded by Mr. *G. Hanson*, moved—

That the Members of this Legislature strongly support the decision reached by the Canadian Commonwealth Games Committee in selecting Victoria as the Canadian nominee for the 1994 Commonwealth Games and we urge the Government of Canada to confirm its commitment to support Victoria without delay; and confirm that the Members of this House are confident that Victoria will host the most outstanding Commonwealth Games in the history of this event.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. *J. Savage* (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries) tabled a report entitled *British Columbia Agricultural Aid to Developing Countries, 1986-87*.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 58) intituled *Open Learning Agency Act*.

Bill (No. 58) read a second time and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting after today.

Bill (No. 63) intituled *Motor Vehicle Amendment Act (No. 2), 1987* was committed, reported complete without amendment, read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 59) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 4), 1987* was read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 51) intituled *Mineral Amendment Act, 1987* was read a third time and passed.

By leave, Bill (No. 61) intituled *Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge Compensation Act* was committed, reported complete without amendment and, by leave, read a third time and passed.

And then the House adjourned at 3.55 p.m.

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## Friday, December 11, 1987

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TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. *Blencoe* rose on a matter of privilege relating to certain special warrants relating to Ministers of State.

The Hon. *C. H. Richmond* rose on the same matter.

Mr. Speaker stated that he would take the matter under advisement.

The Hon. *M. B. Couvelier* (Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 67) intituled *Assessment Amendment Act, 1987* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,*  
*December 8, 1987.*

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Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, on behalf of the Hon. *E. N. Veitch* (Provincial Secretary and Minister of Government Services) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 69) intituled *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Amendment Act, 1987* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,*  
*December 10, 1987.*

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Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

Order called for "Private Members' Statements."

By leave, on the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

Bill (No. 58) intituled *Open Learning Agency Act* was committed, reported complete without amendment, read a third time and passed.

On the motion for third reading of Bill (No. 48) intituled *Insurance Amendment Act, 1987*, a debate arose.

The debate continued.

Bill (No. 48) read a third time and passed.

The Hon. *M. B. Couvelier* (Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 60) intituled *Property Purchase Tax Amendment Act, 1987* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,*  
*December 11, 1987.*

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Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *M. B. Couvelier* (Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 65) intituled *Cooperative Association Amendment Act, 1987* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,*  
*December 11, 1987.*

Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *W. B. Strachan* on behalf of the Hon. *B. R. D. Smith* (Attorney General) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 68) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 5), 1987* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,*  
*December 11, 1987.*

Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *W. B. Strachan* advised the House that the House will sit on Wednesday next.

And then the House adjourned at 1.05 p.m.

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**Monday, December 14, 1987**

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TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

On the motion of Mr. *Cashore*, Bill (No. M 209) intituled *An Act to Feed Hungry School Children* was introduced, read a first time, and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *M. B. Couvelier* (Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations) tabled the 1986 Annual Report of the British Columbia Assessment Authority.

Order called for "Presenting Reports."

Mr. *Chalmers* presented a Report of the Special Committee to Appoint an Auditor General, as follows:

#### REPORT

December 14, 1987

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Special Committee to Appoint an Auditor General begs leave to report as follows:

#### *Introduction*

Pursuant to section 2 (2) of the *Auditor General Act*, a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly is to unanimously recommend to the Assembly a person to be the Auditor General of the Province of British Columbia.

In 1977, the Office of the Auditor General was established under the provisions contained in the *Auditor General Act*. This Report is the third recommendation to the Legislative Assembly.

#### *Terms of Reference*

On Thursday, April 16, 1987, the Hon. *C. S. Rogers*, on behalf of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, moved—

That a Special Committee of the Legislature be appointed to recommend a person to be appointed as Auditor General, as provided under section 2 of the *Auditor General Act*, and, if required, an Acting Auditor General under section 3 of the *Auditor General Act*, and that the committee be composed of Mr. *Hewitt* (Convenor), the Hon. *Stephen Rogers*, Messrs. *Mercier*, *Rabbitt*, *Crandall* and *Chalmers*, and Messrs. *Stupich*, *Blencoe* and *Clark*, and further that the Special Committee so appointed have the following powers:

- (a) to appoint of their number one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the committee;
- (b) to sit
  - (i) during any period in which the House is adjourned and during any sitting of the House, and
  - (ii) to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and shall report to the House on the matter referred to it during this session, or following any adjournment of the House, or at the next following session, as the case may be.

The motion was agreed to.

#### *Procedure*

At its organization meeting on June 2, 1987, the Committee elected Mr. *James J. Hewitt*, MLA (Boundary-Similkameen) as its Chairman, and Mr. *Larry Chalmers*, MLA (Okanagan South) as the Deputy Chairman. A subcommittee consisting of Messrs. *Hewitt*, *Chalmers* and *Stupich* was constituted for administrative purposes.

The Committee conducted 12 meetings in Victoria and Vancouver on the following dates:

Victoria	June 2	— Committee
Victoria	June 30	— Committee
Victoria	August 12	— Subcommittee
Richmond	August 26	— Committee
Vancouver	September 16	— Chairman/Consultant
Vancouver	September 23	— Committee
Victoria	November 4	— Committee
Vancouver	November 13	— Chairman/Consultant
Victoria	December 2	— Committee
Victoria	December 3	— Committee
Victoria	December 4	— Committee
Victoria	December 10	— Committee

After soliciting proposals from six management consultants in the Province, the Committee decided to retain the services of Stevenson Kellogg Ernst and Whinney of Vancouver to assist in the candidate selection process. The Committee prepared a draft position selection criteria upon which a systematic, accurate and fair assessment of all candidates could be made.

An advertisement prepared and approved by the Committee was placed in selected British Columbia and Canadian newspapers in June of this year.

As a result, the Committee received 40 applications for the position of Auditor General. The initial candidate evaluation on the basis of the applications received was undertaken solely by the Committee. The Committee requested that the consultant undertake a preliminary screening by telephone of the candidates approved for further consideration. Receiving the consultant's report on this phase of the selection process, the Committee approved a list of candidates which were to be interviewed, in-person, by the consultant. A short list of candidates from the consultant's report on the interviews resulted in seven individuals being interviewed by the Committee on Wednesday, December 2, and Thursday, December 3, of this year. On Thursday, December 10, 1987, the Committee reached a unanimous decision.

#### *Recommendation*

After concluding the interviews the Committee diligently considered the qualifications and assessed the prospective impact upon the Office of the Auditor General and the requirements of the Legislative Assembly of the seven finalist candidates.

Your Committee unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the name of Mr. George Morfitt, F.C.A., be recommended to the Lieutenant Governor for the position as Auditor General for the Province of British Columbia to exercise the powers and perform the duties provided by the *Auditor General Act*.

Mr. George Morfitt is a Vancouver resident and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia. During his distinguished career in the public and private sectors, Mr. Morfitt worked for Clarkson Gordon and Company in Vancouver during the years 1958–1967. From 1967–1987 he became the Chief Financial Officer and Director of the Diamond Group of Companies and then the Executive Vice President.

Mr. Morfitt has been affiliated with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia as its President; Governor and Executive Committee Member of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants; a Member of the Chartered Accountants' Government Advisory Group; Governor of the B.C. School of Chartered Accounting; and a

Member of the long-range Strategic Planning Committee of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. With the University of British Columbia, Mr. Morfitt has been Chairman of the Board of Governors, President of the Alumni Association, and Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Morfitt has been Chairman of the Universities Council of British Columbia. Many other British Columbia organizations have been the recipients of Mr. Morfitt's services.

The Special Committee to Appoint an Auditor General would like the Assembly to be aware of the harmonious manner in which the Committee conducted its meetings. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Clerk of Committees, Mr. Craig James, for co-ordinating the meetings, communicating with the candidates, preparing the advertisement and assisting the consultant, and to the consultant for the professional manner brought to bear upon this task.

Your Committee unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the name of Mr. George Morfitt be recommended to the Lieutenant Governor for the position as Auditor General for the Province of British Columbia to exercise the powers and perform the duties provided by the *Auditor General Act*.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

L. CHALMERS, *Deputy Chairman*

The report was read and received.

By leave of the House, the Rules were suspended and the Report adopted.

Mr. Chalmers moved—

That this House recommend to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor the appointment of Mr. George Morfitt, F.C.A., as an Officer of the Legislature to exercise the powers and duties assigned to the Auditor General for the Province of British Columbia, pursuant to the *Auditor General Act*, Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1979, chapter 24.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Mercier presented a Report of the Select Standing Committee on Economic Development, Transportation and Municipal Affairs, relating to examination and inquiry into the matter of the *Islands Trust Act* by the said Committee.

The Report was taken as read and received.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. Harcourt asked leave, pursuant to Standing Order 35, to move adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. Speaker stated he would take the matter under advisement.

On the motion of the Hon. W. B. Strachan, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

On the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 68) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 5), 1987*, a debate arose.



Bill (No. 68) read a second time.

On the motion of the Hon. *B. R. D. Smith* (Attorney General), the motion for second reading was discharged.

The House resumed the debate on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 68).

The debate continued.

Bill (No. 68) read a second time and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting of the House after today.

Bill (No. 60) intitled *Property Purchase Tax Amendment Act, 1987* was read a second time, on division, and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting after today.

Bill (No. 67) intitled *Assessment Amendment Act, 1987* was read a second time and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting after today.

By leave, Bill (No. 68) intitled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 5), 1987* was committed.

The Committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Committee to sit again at the next sitting.

Section 2 of Bill (No. 68) defeated; section 22 of Bill (No. 68) postponed.

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved decision as follows:

*Honourable Members:*

On Friday last, the Honourable Second Member for Victoria rose on a matter of privilege relating to the propriety of certain special warrants, alleging the events related thereto amount to an abuse of the privileges of all Members of this House.

I have obtained a transcript of the Member's remarks, together with remarks made by the Minister of Social Services and Housing, and have examined the transcript carefully. I have also examined the Notice of Motion which the Honourable Second Member for Victoria proposes to move should the Chair find there has indeed been a *prima facie* breach of privilege.

In bringing this matter forward as a matter of privilege, the Honourable Member is seeking to have the ordinary business of the House set aside to have the alleged matter of privilege granted precedence. There have been numerous instances when the matter raised did not qualify as a matter of privilege but have been put down on notice on the Order Paper in the normal way, and in this regard I refer the Honourable Member to the 17th Edition of May, at page 379.

The Member suggests that certain facts have recently come to light in relation to this matter, thereby qualifying the matter under the first opportunity rule, but the Chair must observe that the subject matter of these warrants has been commented upon on numerous occasions during this sitting of the House and therefore the Chair does not agree that the matter has been raised at the first possible opportunity.

By implication, the Government says the warrants were properly issued. The Member suggests in his statement that warrants were improperly issued. The Chair is not

required to rule on the merit of either argument. It is obviously not in a position to do so. But, if all Honourable Members would focus their attention on the definition of privilege as outlined in *Parliamentary Practice in British Columbia*, Second Edition, at page 36, they would readily see that the matter raised does not qualify.

I would also bring to the Members' attention a decision relating to a matter of privilege contained in the *Journals*, 1981-82, at page 41, when the Chair, on that occasion, mentioned that until the Speaker finds a *prima facie* case of privilege, the motion cannot be read to the House but simply tendered to the Chair at the conclusion of the Member's statement. I quote further from the decision: "The statement of the matter, together with the tendered motion, comprise the material which the Chair must examine to determine whether the matter qualifies *prima facie* as a matter of privilege." In this particular instance, as the Member did not provide the Chair with a written statement, the Chair had to resort to the verbatim reports to determine the gist of the Member's argument.

For the above reasons the matter raised does not qualify as a matter of privilege.

J. REYNOLDS, *Speaker*

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved opinion as follows:

*Honourable Members:*

Earlier today, the Leader of the Official Opposition sought to move adjournment of the House, pursuant to Standing Order 35, to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the proposal of the Government of Canada to sign a free trade agreement with the United States of America.

In determining whether the matter ought to proceed, it is not the urgency or the importance of the subject matter which I must rule upon, but rather the urgency of debate (see B.C. *Journals*, 1961, p. 97 and 1981, p. 93).

The Member's statement indicates that the event which is the subject matter of the application will not occur for some 20 days.

The Order Paper contains Notices of Motion numbers 69, 70 and 78, two of which are in the name of the House Leader of the Official Opposition, which notices were filed May 14, May 19 and June 17, 1987. These Notices of Motion deal with a number, if not all, aspects of the free trade agreement.

I am of the opinion that the test of urgency of debate has not been met. In addition, there is doubt in my mind that the matter has been raised at the earliest opportunity (16th Edition of May, page 370).

J. REYNOLDS, *Speaker*

And then the House adjourned at 5.56 p.m.

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**Tuesday, December 15, 1987**

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

Bill (No. 68) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 5), 1987* was again committed, reported complete with amendment.

Bill as reported to be considered at the next sitting after today.

Section 22 of Bill (No. 68) passed, on division.

Bill (No. 69) intituled *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Amendment Act, 1987* was read a second time, on division, and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting after today.

Bill (No. 60) intituled *Property Purchase Tax Amendment Act, 1987* was committed, reported complete without amendment, on division, read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 67) intituled *Assessment Amendment Act, 1987* was committed.

The Committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Committee to sit again later today.

And then the House adjourned at 11.59 a.m.

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## Tuesday, December 15, 1987

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TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

The Hon. *R. M. Johnston* (Minister of Municipal Affairs) tabled the 1986–1987 Annual Report of B.C. Transit.

The Hon. *D. Parker* (Minister of Forests and Lands) made a ministerial statement relating to the removal of the fifteen percent federal softwood lumber export tax.

Mr. *Miller* made a statement.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *J. Davis* (Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 66) intituled *Mineral Tenure Act* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,  
December 11, 1987.

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Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *J. Davis* (Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 64) intituled *Petroleum and Natural Gas Amendment Act, 1987* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,  
December 11, 1987.

Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

By leave, on the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to Notice of Motion 92.

**92** The Hon. *W. B. Strachan* moved, by leave—

That, pursuant to Standing Order 69 (2): Mr. *Dirks* be substituted for Mr. *Jacobsen* on the Select Standing Committee on Forests and Lands;

Ms. *Campbell* and Mr. *Miller* be added to the list of members of the Select Standing Committee on Forests and Lands; and

Mr. *Williams* be substituted for Mr. *Lovick*, and Mr. *Mercier* substituted for Mr. *Hewitt* on the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Motion agreed to.

**93** The Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, on behalf of the Hon. *B. R. D. Smith*, moved—

That this House authorize the Select Standing Committee on Labour, Justice and Intergovernmental Relations to examine, inquire into and make recommendations on the matter of the *Builders Lien Act* with particular reference to the following:

1. the purposes of and the continuing relevance of the legislation in today's society;
  2. the policy consideration behind the Act;
  3. the desirability of repeal or reform to any or all of the provisions within the Act;
- and
4. the policy directions which would guide any reform.

and to report to the House as soon as possible, or following any adjournment, or at the next following Session, as the case may be.

In addition to the powers previously conferred upon the said Committee by the House, the Committee shall have the following additional powers, namely:

- (a) to appoint of their number one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Committee; and
- (b) to sit
  - (i) during any period in which the House is adjourned, is prorogued, and during any sitting of the House, and
  - (ii) to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and

- (c) to retain consultants as required to advise the Committee generally and during its deliberations.

Motion agreed to.

**94** The Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, on behalf of the Hon. *D. Parker*, moved—

That this House authorize the Select Standing Committee on Forests and Lands to examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to provisions of timber harvesting contracts between tree farm licensees or forest licensees and contractors, as provided in the *Forest Act*, and in particular without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to consider:

- (a) the desirability of a standard timber harvesting contract;
- (b) the desirability of submitting to arbitration issues between parties to a timber harvesting contract; and
- (c) in the event that arbitration is recommended, the policy considerations and desirability of providing for the same by legislation or contract;

and to report to the House as soon as possible, during this Session or at the next following Session, as the case may be.

In addition to the powers previously conferred upon the said Committee by the House, the Committee shall have the following additional powers, namely:

- (a) to appoint of their number one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Committee;
- (b) to sit during any period in which the House is adjourned, during the recess after prorogation, and during any sitting of the House;
- (c) to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and
- (d) to retain consultants as required to advise the Committee.

Motion agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to “Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice.

Bill (No. 67) intituled *Assessment Amendment Act, 1987* was committed, reported complete without amendment, read a third time and passed.

The Chairman further reported that in consideration of section 3 of Bill (No. 67) the Committee divided as follows:

YEAS—31

<i>Peterson</i>	<i>Vant</i>	<i>Johnston</i>	<i>Mercier</i>
<i>Huberts</i>	<i>Campbell</i>	<i>Davis</i>	<i>De Jong</i>
<i>Davidson</i>	<i>Mowat</i>	<i>Couvelier</i>	<i>Crandall</i>
<i>Jacobsen</i>	<i>Chalmers</i>	<i>B. R. D. Smith</i>	<i>Loenen</i>
<i>S. Smith</i>	<i>Gran</i>	<i>Strachan</i>	<i>Parker</i>
<i>Ree</i>	<i>Jansen</i>	<i>McCarthy</i>	<i>Dueck</i>
<i>Bruce</i>	<i>Weisgerber</i>	<i>Veitch</i>	<i>Brummet</i>
<i>Serwa</i>	<i>R. Fraser</i>	<i>Long</i>	

NAYS—14

<i>Jones</i>	<i>Guno</i>	<i>Boone</i>	<i>Rose</i>
<i>A. Hagen</i>	<i>Blencoe</i>	<i>Skelly</i>	<i>Marzari</i>
<i>Miller</i>	<i>Gabelmann</i>	<i>Stupich</i>	<i>G. Hanson</i>
<i>Williams</i>	<i>D'Arcy</i>		

The Hon. *D. Parker* (Minister of Forests and Lands) presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

ROBERT G. ROGERS  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 70) intituled *Forest Amendment Act (No. 2), 1987* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,*  
*December 15, 1987.*

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Bill introduced and read a first time.  
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

And then the House adjourned at 3.37 p.m.

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**Wednesday, December 16, 1987**

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. *Lovick* presented a petition.

On the motion of the Hon. *W. B. Strachan*, the House proceeded to "Public Bills and Orders and Government Motions on Notice."

Bill (No. 68) intituled *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 5), 1987* was read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 70) intituled *Forest Amendment Act (No. 2), 1987* was read a second time and *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for committal at the next sitting of the House after today.

Bill (No. 69) intituled *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Amendment Act, 1987* was committed, reported complete without amendment, read a third time and passed.

Section 4 of Bill (No. 69) passed, on division.

And then the House adjourned at 3.33 p.m.