

JOURNALS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SESSION 1986-87

Tuesday, March 11, 1986

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Right Rev. *Ronald Shepherd*.

This being the first day of the fourth meeting of the Thirty-third Parliament of the Province of British Columbia for the dispatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation of the Honourable ROBERT GORDON ROGERS, Lieutenant Governor of the Province, dated the seventh day of March 1986, the members took their seats.

The Honourable ROBERT GORDON ROGERS, Lieutenant Governor of the Province, having entered the House, took his seat on the Throne and was pleased to deliver the following gracious Speech:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

As we open this Fourth Session of the Thirty-third Parliament of British Columbia, I would like to extend to you and all British Columbians greetings on behalf of our Sovereign.

During your deliberations, I know that Members of this Assembly will continue to work diligently on behalf of all British Columbians, bearing in mind the priority of economic renewal as the basis of a better life for our people.

During the past year, we grieved as a community over the loss of three British Columbians well-respected by this Assembly and by all the people of our Province.

Dr. Gordon Merritt Shrum was a visionary and a world-class achiever.

His proud record of service to British Columbia and Canada — through Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia and British Columbia Hydro — is well-known. His many contributions to the development of our Province will long be remembered.

It is fitting to note he was honoured with the Order of the British Empire in 1946 and the Order of Canada in 1967.

Chief Justice J. O. (Jack) Wilson was one of the most respected judges and Chief Justices in Canada.

A recipient of the Order of Canada in 1978, his common touch married the formalities of the Court with the pursuit of the Law as the most human of experiences.

Dr. Norman MacKenzie touched and enriched the lives of thousands of young British Columbians. As President, he guided the expansion and fortunes of the University of British Columbia between 1944 and 1962.

He was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 1966 and, in 1975, was honoured with the John E. Reid Medal by the Canadian Council of International Law.

We also mourn the loss of another distinguished Canadian with the passing, at age 81, of T.C. (Tommy) Douglas. All Canadians are aware of the contribution he made to our society and to the Province of Saskatchewan and to the Parliament of Canada as a Member from British Columbia.

As we remember these great Canadians, let us also pay tribute to two magnificent young British Columbians: Steve Fonyo, for his brave cross-Canada run last year to raise funds for cancer research; and Rick Hansen, for his courage in undertaking an epic wheelchair journey around the world to raise funds for spinal cord research.

Their efforts are an inspiration; they demonstrate vividly that a valiant spirit can overcome the most difficult physical handicaps.

During the past year, British Columbia hosted a number of distinguished guests and visitors — among them, Prime Minister Nakasone, of Japan.

The coming year promises to be equally memorable for the people of our Province in greeting international guests who visit during Expo.

All British Columbians await with great pleasure the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to open our World's Fair May 2.

Those in the communities of Victoria, Kelowna, Kamloops, Nanaimo and Prince George look forward with particular eagerness to a personal visit from their Royal Highnesses.

Throughout the five and a half month World's Fair, British Columbia will host the leaders and representatives of many of the participating nations, including British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Ministers of Barbados and Sri Lanka, the Crown Prince of Norway, the President of Italy, and many others.

My Government welcomes these visits and the many opportunities Expo affords our Province to strengthen friendly relationships and economic ties with the international community.

My Government's goal is to create new employment opportunities for our people by controlling public sector costs so as to limit the tax burden on our people and industry, increase trade, diversify our economy, attract new investment and encourage new enterprises all across the Province.

My Government's measures for economic renewal are bearing fruit and British Columbians are seeing and being touched by steady progress and growth in our economy. Most important, I am advised that unemployment is declining steadily and employment is growing at a healthy pace, and that in this past month 50,000 more British Columbians were working than in February of 1985.

In the initial years of its present mandate, my Government sought and gained control of public sector costs.

My Government believes the family is the basic underpinning of our society and, by taking decisive action, has averted the large-scale tax increases that have been implemented in some other jurisdictions.

I am advised that ordinary British Columbians retain the second-lowest personal income tax rates in Canada.

My Government has moved, and will continue to move, not only to retain this advantage for our families but to further reduce taxes for business — small and large — in order to make British Columbia an even better place to do business and employ people.

I am advised that British Columbia's trade patterns have diversified significantly, with dependence on the United States lessening as markets have expanded in the Pacific Rim.

During this Fourth Session of the Thirty-third Parliament and in the remaining years of its mandate, my Government will propose a number of measures to accelerate its long-term strategy blending small and large projects to bring about enduring economic renewal in every sector of our economy.

Through continued wage restraint my Government will pursue, as its highest priorities, improved health and education services and the creation of jobs for those who are still unemployed.

The international recession that struck in 1981 had its most severe impact on our Country and Province.

Individual British Columbians, our industrial sector and our business community endured difficult times as demand and prices for our products diminished.

The worst of those times are behind us and we can face the future with hope and confidence.

British Columbians are showing they can work together to build a new consensus and a stronger economy. While the challenge of economic diversification still remains, while we must maintain and intensify our efforts to create new employment for those of our people still jobless, there are clear signs that our economy is increasing in strength.

I am advised that 1985 marked the second consecutive year of economic growth in our Province and that the economy and employment will expand again this year.

The international recession has made it plain our economy is undergoing a fundamental re-structuring, and my Government has put in place a long-range plan to build a new British Columbia economy.

Initiatives to lower the costs of business, to preserve existing jobs, to stimulate investment, renew our resources, diversify our economy and expand trade to create new jobs have been implemented and indeed will be strengthened.

I am advised that, as a result, British Columbia is seeing positive results.

Bankruptcies have declined, new businesses incorporated and retail sales and housing starts have increased significantly.

Auto insurance rates have been reduced, ferry fares have been stabilized and there is a new mood of consumer and business confidence growing across our Province.

My Government will again reduce taxes in the second year of its three-year, billion dollar tax cut program — to lower the cost of doing business in British Columbia, attract new industry, and encourage our private sector to grow and employ our people.

In the Third Session of the Thirty-third Parliament, you approved a *Critical Industries Act*. Since then, I am informed that the Commissioner has assisted six forestry and mining firms and, as a result, more than 1,500 people throughout our Province are working.

My Government's program of discount prices for surplus electricity has already assisted fourteen companies to expand production and increase hiring. Additional efforts will be pursued in the coming year.

My Government has extended tax reductions to our small business sector — the source of many of our new jobs — and will provide additional relief in the second year of the \$150 million program.

In the last Session, you also gave approval to the *Small Business Venture Capital Act*. Seventeen venture capital corporations have raised to date approximately \$13 million in equity capital to invest in small business in the coming year.

My Government will expand the range of eligible investments under the Act to give additional momentum to the diversification of our economy — particularly in the information and knowledge sectors.

You have approved the British Columbia Equity Investment Plan, another measure to enhance investment, strengthen the provincial economy and create jobs. My Minister of Finance will bring forward further details in the coming days.

I am advised there is a growing agreement among our people on the pursuit of two central priorities during the remaining years of my Government's mandate.

My Government assigns the highest priority to continuing to invest in our economy and create employment opportunities for those still without work — rather than increasing income for those with jobs — and to investing the benefits of an expanded economy in improving the services which most directly affect our people — health and education.

My Government will develop new initiatives to encourage private sector economic activity, and will pursue measures to improve the quality of health and education services.

I am advised that several major allocations have already been made from the recently-created fund for Excellence in Education.

The three-year program will allocate \$110 million in the first year, an increase of more than six per cent over current spending, to improve the quality of education in our schools, colleges and universities.

I am advised that funding levels for the second and third years of the Fund will be brought forward by my Minister of Finance for consideration by Members of this Assembly.

While special initiatives will of necessity vary among schools, colleges, institutes and universities, the ultimate goal is identical: to provide our young people with the academic and technical training and education to allow them to take their place in the new economy that is developing in our Province.

I am advised that enrolment in the Colleges and Institutes of our Province will continue to increase, and that participation rates of Interior students will continue to rise.

I am further advised that multi-year funding was requested by our post-secondary institutions and, once in place, will provide them with both stability and the ability to make long-range plans.

My Minister of Education will announce soon the formation of committees to review and modernize the *School Act*, and to advise on both curriculum development and computer use in our schools.

Working together with the School Boards of this Province, my Minister's priority is to improve the quality of education in British Columbia within the taxpayer's ability to pay.

I am advised the establishment of the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education will encourage increased cooperation and interchange among our educational institutions to the benefit of our people.

My Government has identified a number of priority areas for special initiatives in our schools, colleges and universities.

These include increased use of computers and language training in our schools, entrepreneurship training and business development centres in our colleges and institutes, and increased emphasis in our universities on bio-technology, Pacific Rim studies, computer systems, forestry research, international business and links with our vital and growing cultural industries.

Institutions have been asked to consider these and other educational priorities and my Ministers will be consulting closely with them in developing specific proposals.

I am advised that, in 1985, our three Universities, the Open Learning Institute and the Knowledge Network joined together to form the Open University Consortium of British Columbia.

This development greatly increases access to post-secondary education for persons living in remote and rural areas.

In the coming Session, you will be asked to approve legislation creating the Open Learning Authority of British Columbia to plan, co-ordinate and direct all open learning in the Province.

My Minister of Labour has appointed a Youth Advisory Council to establish an open dialogue with young British Columbians, and a number of initiatives have already been taken.

My Government will give full consideration to student priorities — such as the Council's recommendations for subsidized transit fares — in allocating education funds.

My Government will provide increased travel funds to assist students all across our Province to visit Expo 86 and benefit from its vast educational potential.

My Government is committed to the maintenance and expansion of the best possible system of health care for our people and will pursue measures to add new dimensions of quality to our already excellent system.

New hospital beds have been opened, waiting lists shortened and it is expected that the number of kidney transplants will triple to about one hundred a year with the formation of the B.C. Transplant Society. The feasibility of heart and liver transplants will be assessed as well.

I am advised that my Government will shortly announce a major, long-term initiative to improve further health and hospital-care programs.

This initiative will cover a wide range of health issues and involve the consideration of a number of advanced treatments to utilize the latest technological advances in medicine, such as the recently-introduced technology for non-surgical treatment of kidney stones.

My Government continues to allocate about one-in-three of the taxpayer's dollars to health care, and my Minister will invite those in the health sector to assist in identifying priorities for new services.

My Minister of International Trade and Investment is seeking new investment and additional customers for our products in the Pacific Rim, the United States and in the European Economic Community.

I am advised that in its first full year of operation, the Ministry has carried out sixty trade missions, and has given support to more than five hundred British Columbia companies under various export assistance programs.

Investment promotion activities have involved an extensive series of presentations around the world, and specific efforts have identified investments such as the new Louisiana Pacific waferboard plant to be built in Dawson Creek.

I am advised that although investments will be smaller in dollar terms than in the past they will be more numerous and add to the diversity of the economy.

In the coming year, considerable focus will be on developing closer relationships between our universities' research facilities and the private sector, and establishment of centres of excellence in fields such as computer systems, forestry research, international business, Pacific Rim studies, bio-technology and those disciplines contributing to our important cultural sector.

I am advised that my Government will continue to support efforts to expand trade with our country's most important trading partner, the United States, and to increase trade on a multi-lateral basis.

My Government believes that expanded trade will benefit both British Columbia and Canada, and welcomes the Federal Government's commitment to work closely with the Provinces in the negotiation process.

My Government places great emphasis on attracting business visitors during Expo.

With more than 32,000 of the world's top business leaders and investors invited to attend the World's Fair, my Government will ensure they are made fully aware of the great potential of its Municipal partners all across our Province.

I am informed that 124 local governments have signed, or are poised to sign, agreements with my Government under the *Provincial-Municipal Partnership Act*, allowing both levels of government to offer significant taxation and other incentives to new and expanded business operations.

In keeping with this very successful program, my Government will again this year work closely with local governments across our Province to stimulate new economic activity and create employment.

In addition to his on-going services to local government, my Minister of Municipal Affairs will provide continuing support for local economic development strategies and the development of comprehensive economic plans.

My Government recognizes the valuable contribution that our Province's 144 municipalities are making in helping to bring about economic renewal and wishes to congratulate both Colwood and Metchosin, which enjoyed their inaugural years in 1985.

I am informed that in the past year, we have witnessed some major achievements in the continuing development of our Province's transportation systems.

Work is close to completion on the Coquihalla Highway and the new Annacis Bridge across the Fraser River, and the first phase of SkyTrain — our modern rapid transit system — is fully operational and serving commuters between New Westminster and Vancouver.

My Government's pride in these three major feats of engineering is matched only by our pride in the British Columbia workers who brought them in on time and on budget.

While efforts towards economic diversification will be accelerated, mining and forestry will continue to be the backbone of the provincial economy and my Government is committed to making them even stronger.

I am advised that, in the coming year, funding under the Forest Resource Development Agreement will be nearly doubled to improve our important forest resource and to strengthen its employment capability.

This funding reflects my Government's determination to sustain and increase the resource.

While basic re-forestation will be increased, my Government will be introducing for your approval innovative vehicles to increase British Columbia's commitment to, and

provide stability for, silviculture projects so as to maximize employment opportunities and the returns from our most fundamental resource.

My Government is determined to ensure that our industry retains its traditional access into the United States market and will work closely with the industry and the Government of Canada on this important issue.

I am gratified to report that my Government, in partnership with the Government of Canada and the Council of Forest Industries, recently renewed for five-years a program to expand overseas markets for British Columbia wood products.

With more than 1,700 timber sales licenses currently held, my Government expects the Small Business Enterprise Program to continue to grow.

I am advised that British Columbia's mining industry, which was hit hard by the international recession, produced mineral products worth \$3.5 billion in 1985.

World markets are expected to show modest improvement this year with further improvements anticipated for 1987 and beyond.

Although market conditions remain highly competitive, the efforts of our producers to reduce costs and improve productivity, together with the outstanding co-operation of working people and a more optimistic market outlook, suggest the industry will see some growth in strength.

A number of projects are under or near construction, and my Government is assisting in a number of ways.

Funding is being provided for road and infrastructure studies for the Mount Klappen anthracite development in the Northwest and the Mascot project at Hedley.

While recovery in our basic resource industries has been gradual, the tourism industry continues a gratifying pattern of strong growth, reinforcing its increasingly important role as an employer in our economy.

I am advised that revenues in 1985 increased to \$2.5 billion from \$2.3 billion the year before, and the number of visitors to our Province grew from 12.2 million to 12.6 million over the same period. Visitors from the United States increased by more than 8 per cent, the best record in Canada.

The overall outlook for tourism in British Columbia is excellent in both the near term and long term.

With our world exposition on the horizon, and pre-sales of 10 million of Expo's forecast of 13.75 million visits confirmed, my Government is pleased to note that tourism will generate \$3 billion in gross revenues.

During the coming year, my Government will undertake a range of programs to enhance this valuable sector of our economy.

Through Conventions B.C., my Government will pursue a co-ordinated approach to gain an important share of national and international convention business.

This will also ensure that all areas of the Province can take full advantage of their varied scenery and attractions in obtaining a fair share of convention business.

My Government will also expand its Partners in Tourism program which has resulted in a six-fold increase in tourism advertising in two years.

I am advised other programs such as SuperHost and the development of tourism information centres and improved highway signage will also receive priority attention.

My Government will continue its efforts to develop further the film production industry in British Columbia, building upon the technical expertise of our people, competitive rates and unparalleled scenery.

In the past year \$70 million was spent by producers — making 1985 the largest year by far for film making in British Columbia.

Work is continuing on the development of a major movie studio, in order to enhance British Columbia's growing reputation as a good location for filming and open up additional employment opportunities for the skilled craftsmen and professionals who work in the industry.

My Provincial Secretary and Minister of Government Services will pursue measures to enhance the cultural sector through a new Partnership in the Arts which will assist communities throughout the Province to reach their full potential in cultural development.

I am advised this initiative will assist our arts organizations to become a dynamic economic force and make cultural events a significant part of an integrated tourism strategy.

The development of Centres of Excellence in the Arts will link our universities and cultural industries, thus enhancing our tourism opportunities.

I am further advised the B.C. Festival of the Arts will take place this year in Prince George, and will be highlighted by a visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales.

My Government is pleased to note that the Provincial Museum in Victoria, which welcomes about one and a half million visitors each year, is this year celebrating its Centennial.

I am advised this historic year will be highlighted by travelling exhibits and speaking tours, and the opening of a dramatic new section which features marine exhibits.

The process of diversifying our economy and enhancing the role of the service sector as an employer in our economy is gaining momentum.

In my last message, I advised you of my Government's efforts to establish Vancouver as an International Financial Centre, to take advantage of the city's strategic placement between New York and the nations of the Pacific Rim.

My Government was pleased with the Federal Government's recent announcement designating Vancouver and Montreal as international banking centres and will intensify its efforts in the coming years to strengthen the entire financial sector — which plays a vital role in British Columbia's economy.

An Advisory Committee will be named by my Government to assist in developing the opportunities and meeting the challenges provided by the designation of Vancouver as an International Financial Centre.

In my last message, I also advised you of my Government's efforts to have Ottawa put in place special tax incentives on the East and West Coasts to complement provincial measures to attract job-creating investment. Although these incentives have been conferred on Atlantic Canada, they have not yet been extended to the West Coast.

Fully mindful of the new consensus that has developed in our Province on the need for such tax incentives, my Government will redouble its efforts to gain this important stimulus in building a new British Columbia economy — confident of the unity of purpose of all British Columbians in this regard.

In the last Session, you enacted the *Securities Act*, the *Small Business Venture Capital Act*, and the *British Columbia Equity Investment Plan Act*. I am advised that these initiatives will, when taken together, give a significant boost to the financial sector in our Province.

The establishment of Vancouver as a Commercial Arbitration Centre, to capitalize on the growing opportunities in international trade, is a parallel initiative to strengthen the city's role as a major service centre for commerce, strongly complemented by programs at our Universities and Colleges.

In areas of provincial jurisdiction, I am advised that my Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs will consult with British Columbians on improving reporting to depositors and investors, improved monitoring systems and ways to minimize risk to depositors.

The past year was highly significant for the oil and gas industry in the Province.

The Western Accord de-regulated crude oil prices and eliminated virtually the last vestiges of the National Energy Program.

You enacted measures in 1985 to establish a market-oriented regime for both domestic and export natural gas sales and established a royalty system that is responsive to the fluctuations of the marketplace.

The subsequent agreement on Natural Gas Marketing and Pricing set a competitive floor price for our gas exports and opened up new avenues for our gas producers to tap new markets in the United States and Eastern Canada.

I am also advised that you approved attractive incentives to encourage oil exploration and development, resulting in major new exploration activity and increased revenues to government as a result of record bonus bids by industry.

While current instability in global oil prices could have far-reaching implications, my Government anticipates that oil and natural gas activity will remain at a substantial level and continue to contribute significantly to provincial revenues.

My Government will assist in efforts to extend natural gas service into rural areas of the Province and efforts will continue to have the Federal government fulfill its commitment for the Vancouver Island natural gas pipeline.

In the years that lie ahead, the Pacific Northwest and California will assume growing importance as markets for our natural gas and hydroelectricity.

British Columbia Hydro has earned nearly \$300 million in the past year from electricity exports, and is actively considering ways to expand the scope of its export activity.

My Government is working to accelerate construction of the Site C dam project on the Peace River, and appreciates the cooperation of the Federal government in removing obstacles in the United States.

I am advised that if British Columbia can secure a fair price and guaranteed long-term access to the California market, construction of this major project will be accelerated, creating thousands of direct and indirect jobs for British Columbia workers.

With completion of a federal-provincial environmental review, my Government looks forward to an early resolution of jurisdiction over offshore resources.

My Minister of Intergovernmental Relations will continue in the coming year to seek broad support for the entrenchment of property rights in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In the area of federal-provincial relations, a spirit of constructive cooperation and consultation has benefitted both British Columbians and all other Canadians.

I am pleased to advise this Assembly that our Province will be proud to host the next in a series of Annual Conferences of First Ministers, to be held in Vancouver in late November. The conference will take place a week before Grey Cup which, this year and next, will be held in Vancouver.

My Government is pleased to note that Issues of Concern to Women will be the first item on the agenda, and will be pursuing a number of measures to advance the economic equality of women.

Discussions are proceeding with Ottawa and the Sechelt Indians to implement local self-government on Band lands. You will be asked to approve measures complementing Federal legislation.

My Government is awaiting anxiously a clarification of Federal land claims policy and has asked to be provided with full details of all outstanding claims in the Province. My First Minister has asked to meet the Prime Minister on these matters.

My Government's efforts to foster economic renewal and employment opportunities for our people have been greatly assisted by the much-improved state of industrial relations in British Columbia.

I am pleased to note that working time lost last year through industrial disputes was the lowest in twenty years.

To enhance this new climate of cooperation, my Minister of Labour intends to pursue a preventive mediation program to assist employers and workers reach contract settlements without resorting to work stoppages.

Provincial wage settlements reflect market realism and public sector wage restraint, and you will be asked to approve measures to improve the *Compensation Stabilization Act*.

During the past year, significant improvements were made in the area of workers' compensation, including an increase in the maximum levels of earnings on which benefits are paid, and these improvements reflect continued progress in the Workers' Compensation Board's financial position.

I am advised the Board's unfunded liability was reduced by more than \$200 million in 1984 and also fell dramatically last year.

In spending plans to be tabled by my Minister of Finance, you will be asked to provide funding to expedite appeals of Workers' Compensation Board decisions.

In the coming Session, you will be asked to approve additional measures to bring provincial statutes into conformity with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

My Government is concerned about increasing reports of spousal assault and child sexual abuse and my Attorney-General will consider strengthened measures in these areas.

Victims of spousal assault, child sexual abuse and other crimes will be assisted through the court system to ensure that prosecutions proceed in a necessary and appropriate fashion.

My Minister of Human Resources will be deeply involved in these initiatives and I am advised that increased emphasis on child protection has resulted from the appointment of a full-time Superintendent of Family and Child Services.

I am advised by my Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing that housing starts increased by 11 per cent in 1985 and will increase again in 1986.

My Minister will undertake initiatives to ensure that social housing dollars are spent on those most in need, and will work to finalize an agreement with Ottawa in this regard.

This year will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the provincial park system and I am informed that plans are underway to enhance the role of the parks as a major generator of tourism dollars.

Attendance at provincial parks reached 16 million in 1985 and the number is expected to increase significantly in 1986.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one for our Province's agriculture and food sector — whose strength lies in its diversity.

The important food production industry will be spotlighted during Food Pacific '86, an international trade show to be held in early autumn at B.C. Place Stadium.

Estimates are that net farm income will climb by 14 per cent in 1986 to more than \$183 million.

My Government is assisting B.C. food processors take full advantage of the demand by hotels and restaurants for high-quality products.

B.C. producers' share of this market increased by 10 per cent in 1985 and is expected to grow significantly in 1986.

I am advised the emerging aquaculture industry is making remarkable progress in British Columbia and has the potential to grow from its current \$3 million to \$150 million in annual sales by 1995.

My Minister of Agriculture will strengthen support in the areas of fish health, marketing and quality control.

In its efforts to further diversify the economy, my Government is committed to additional support for our Province's small business sector, where many of our new jobs are being created.

I am advised the British Columbia Purchasing Commission will expand its efforts to make business aware of opportunities to supply the public sector, including hospitals, schools, municipalities and Crown corporations.

A computerized network is being developed to inform public bodies of potential British Columbia suppliers in order to bring about expansion of production and new jobs for our people.

My Minister of Industry and Small Business Development is taking a lead role in the provision of entrepreneurial programs and advisory and information services.

My Government will strengthen its programs to further the growth of small business in the Province's manufacturing and processing sectors as well as the aquaculture industry.

I am advised that in addition to major transportation projects such as the opening of the Annacis Island Bridge and the Hope to Merrit section of the Coquihalla Highway, my Minister of Transportation and Highways intends to continue improving our highway network across the Province.

Work will continue on the Merrit to Kamloops section of the Coquihalla and, in the coming year, will commence on the Okanagan connector.

In the spending plans to be tabled by my Minister of Finance, you will be asked to approve a major program for small bridge replacement throughout the Province.

You will also be asked to approve funds for increased ferry service during Expo.

My Government will intensify its efforts to improve safety conditions for the public.

The drive towards safety has seen a continuing decline in fatalities on our highways and my Minister's efforts, in tandem with those of the Attorney-General, are geared towards further reductions in accidents and injuries.

My Government believes environmental enhancement is fully consistent with economic renewal, and will assist in the development of an internationally competitive digital mapping industry.

The Okanagan Basin will receive special funding as an environmentally-sensitive area to help control sewage discharges into area lakes.

My Minister of Environment will prepare a management plan for the Cowichan Estuary in order to balance economic opportunities with conservation.

My Government recently signed an agreement with Washington State to work on acid rain control, and has made available more than \$2 million from the provincial Habitat Conservation Fund to enhance British Columbia's wildlife and freshwater fisheries.

My Government recently received the recommendations of the Special Advisory Committee on Wilderness Preservation and will give full consideration to the views of the public in seeking a balance between resource extraction and conservation.

My Minister of Environment will support the Fraser River Flood Control Program, reconstruction of the Zosel Dam and a variety of dyking projects elsewhere in the Province to reduce the potential of flood damage.

My Government wishes to recognize and pay tribute to the thousands of British Columbians who again this year are making a major contribution to the social and economic well-being of our Province.

The recent Winter Games in Terrace owe their tremendous success to the dedication and willingness of more than 2,500 volunteers who stepped forward to give freely of their time and their talents.

My Government is confident that this fine tradition of community involvement will again be demonstrated during the Summer Games to be held in Cranbrook and at the 1987 Winter Games in Fernie.

While British Columbians are playing an integral part in our Province's Games, volunteers are also active on a year-round basis in our hospitals, schools and many other organizations, and my Government is most appreciative of their efforts.

My Government recognizes the significant contributions of our ethnic and cultural communities in enhancing our Province's diverse heritage. My Minister responsible for Cultural Heritage will undertake a number of initiatives designed to enhance this vital component of British Columbia's social fabric.

Honourable Members, it is time for you to begin this new Session.

You will be asked to approve measures to maintain the highest-possible standards on the part of all Members of this Assembly, and others, in conducting public business.

Your actions and your decisions, as you debate and weigh the measures that will be brought before this Assembly, will be crucial to a continuation of economic renewal for our Province.

My Government believes we have weathered the worst of the recent difficult economic times and that, by working together, we can make 1986 a pivotal year in the fortunes of our people and this great Province.

I pray that Divine Providence guide and assist you in your deliberations.

In the name of our Sovereign, I thank you.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to retire.

The Speaker reported that, to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy of His Honour's Speech.

On the motion of the Hon. *B. R. D. Smith* (Attorney General), Bill (No. 1) intituled *An Act to Perpetuate a Parliamentary Right* 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.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. M. McCarthy* (Provincial Secretary and Minister of Government Services), it was *Ordered*—

That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof, and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

The Hon. *W. R. Bennett* (Premier) moved—

That the Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:

1. On Standing Orders, Private Bills and Members' Services;
2. On Public Accounts and Economic Affairs;
3. On Agriculture;
4. On Municipal Affairs and Housing;
5. On Labour and Justice;
6. On Health, Education, and Human Resources;
7. On Transportation and Communications;
8. On Environment and Resources;
9. On Crown Corporations;

which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as shall be referred to them by this House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers, and records, and that a Special Committee be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed lists of members to compose the above Select Standing Committees of this House under Standing Order 68 (1), the Committee to be composed of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the Hon. *R. G. Fraser*, Mrs. *Johnston*, Messrs. *Mowat* and *Reid*, and Ms. *Sanford* and Messrs. *Howard* and *Hanson*.

Mr. *Skelly* moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. *Howard*—

That the motion be amended by adding "10. On Regional Job Creation;"

A debate arose.

The House divided.

The amendment was negatived on the following division:

YEAS—21

<i>Blencoe</i>	<i>Rose</i>	<i>Gabelmann</i>	<i>Skelly</i>
<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Hanson</i>	<i>Sanford</i>	<i>Howard</i>
<i>Wallace</i>	<i>D'Arcy</i>	<i>Nicolson</i>	<i>Cocke</i>
<i>Barnes</i>	<i>Lea</i>	<i>Lauk</i>	<i>Dailly</i>
<i>MacWilliam</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Stupich</i>	<i>Macdonald</i>
<i>Lockstead</i>			

NAYS—34

<i>Strachan</i>	<i>Fraser, A. V.</i>	<i>Chabot</i>	<i>Richmond</i>
<i>Veitch</i>	<i>McGeer</i>	<i>Fraser, R. G.</i>	<i>Hewitt</i>
<i>Reynolds</i>	<i>Phillips</i>	<i>Kempf</i>	<i>Heinrich</i>
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Johnston</i>	<i>McClelland</i>
<i>Ree</i>	<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Michael</i>	<i>Segarty</i>
<i>Parks</i>	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Passarell</i>	<i>Rogers</i>
<i>Mowat</i>	<i>Gardom</i>	<i>Pelton</i>	<i>Brummet</i>
<i>Davis</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>	<i>Ritchie</i>	<i>Waterland</i>
<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>McCarthy</i>		

Motion agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, seconded by Mr. *Howard*, it was *Ordered*—

That *William Bruce Strachan*, Esquire, Member for Prince George South Electoral District, be appointed Deputy Speaker for this Session of the Legislative Assembly.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, seconded by Mr. *Howard*, it was *Ordered*—

That *Angus Ree*, Esquire, Member for North Vancouver-Capilano Electoral District, be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Committee of the Whole for this Session of the Legislative Assembly.

Pursuant to Standing Order 2 (2), the House was advised of Wednesday sitting.

The Hon. *G. M. McCarthy* (Provincial Secretary and Minister of Government Services), tabled the following:

Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Business Done in Pursuance of the *Pension (Teachers) Act*, year ended December 31, 1984.

Forty-sixth Annual Report of the Business Done in Pursuance of the *Pension (Municipal) Act*, year ended December 31, 1984.

Ninth Annual Report of the Business Done in Pursuance of the *Public Service Benefit Plan Act*, year ended March 31, 1985.

The Hon. *B. R. D. Smith* (Attorney General), tabled the following:

Annual Report, Legal Services Society of British Columbia, April 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985.

Annual Report of the British Columbia Board of Parole for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985.

Annual Report of the Law Reform Commission of British Columbia, 1984/85.

Annual Report of the Justice Institute of British Columbia, 1984-1985.

14th Annual Report of the *Criminal Injury Compensation Act* of British Columbia, January 1, 1985 to December 31, 1985.

The Hon. *A. J. Brummet* (Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources), tabled the Annual Report of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, 1984.

The Hon. *G. B. Gardom* (Minister of Intergovernmental Relations) tabled the Annual Report of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Relations, April 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985.

And then the House adjourned at 3.23 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12, 1986

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. *W. S. Ritchie* (Minister of Municipal Affairs) made a ministerial statement relating to the delivery of social housing in the City of Vancouver.

Mr. *Blencoe* made a statement.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) tabled the following:

Annual Report, 1984, Ministry of Finance.

Statement of Crown Proceeding Payments, 1984/85, pursuant to the provisions of the *Crown Proceeding Act*.

Report of the Assessment Appeal Board of British Columbia for the 1985 calendar year.

Mr. *Lauk* rose on a point of order, relating to the disposition of a supplementary question asked during Oral Question Period.

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

The Hon. *J. A. Nielsen* (Minister of Human Resources) tabled the Thirteenth Annual Report, 1985, of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia.

Mr. *Reynolds* moved, seconded by Mr. *Passarell*—

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, in Session assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious Speech which Your Honour has addressed to us at the opening of the present Session.

A debate arose.

On the motion of Mr. *Skelly* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 3.45 p.m.

Thursday, March 13, 1986

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Rev. *Lester E. Markham*.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) 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. 3) intituled *Compensation Stabilization Amendment Act, 1986* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 11, 1986.

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

By leave, on the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, it was *Ordered* that leave be given for the Special Committee of Selection to meet while the House is in session and on short notice.

The House proceeded to "Motions on Notice."

3 The Hon. *G. B. Gardom* moved—

That the Special Committee of Selection, appointed on March 11, 1986, be empowered to appoint a Special Committee to select and unanimously recommend the appointment of an Ombudsman, pursuant to section 2 (2) of the *Ombudsman Act*, and that the Special Committee so appointed shall 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.

Motion agreed to.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session.

The debate continued.

On the motion of Mr. *Michael*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 11.59 a.m.

Thursday, March 13, 1986

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Order called for "Oral Question Period."

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session.

The debate continued.

On the motion of Mr. *Williams* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.

Friday, March 14, 1986

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. *Mowat* presented a Report of the Special Committee of Selection, as follows:

REPORT

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,

March 14, 1986

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Special Committee of Selection begs leave to report as follows:

Pursuant to Order of the House made on March 13, 1986, your Special Committee appointed on March 11, 1986, to prepare and report lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees of the House for the present Session, begs to report that the following is the list of members to compose the Special Committee to recommend a person to be appointed Ombudsman, pursuant to section 2 (2) of the *Ombudsman Act*, being chapter 306 of the R.S.B.C. 1979: Mr. *Parks* (Convenor), the Hon. *R. G. Fraser*, the Hon. *J. Kempf*, the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the Hon. *W. S. Ritchie*, Mrs. *Daily*, Messrs. *Michael*, *Strachan*, *Cocke*, *Lockstead* and *Lea*.

Respectfully submitted.

DOUGLAS L. MOWAT, *Chairman*

Mr. *Rose* asked leave, pursuant to Standing Order 35, to move adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, educational funding.

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

Order called for "Private Members' Statements."

Upon the Second Member for Vancouver-Little Mountain failing to withdraw an unparliamentary expression, the Chair ordered him to withdraw from the House for the balance of the day's sitting.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session.

The debate continued.

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved opinion as follows:

Honourable Members:

This morning the Member for Coquitlam-Moody sought to move adjournment of the House, under Standing Order 35. He handed in a written statement which I have perused.

The statement is concerned with educational funding and recommends amendments to legislation. The 16th edition of Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice, at page 373, indicates that such a motion may not have priority over the other business of the House if it involves legislation. Additionally, such a motion is not in order where an ordinary parliamentary opportunity is available for discussion of the subject matter. Today's Orders indicate that such an opportunity will arise with priority after Members' Statements in the form of the Throne Speech Debate.

For these reasons, I cannot entertain the motion.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

The debate continued.

On the motion of Mr. *Parks*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 12.47 p.m.

Monday, March 17, 1986

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) tabled Refunds/Remissions Made Under Section 23, *Taxation (Rural Area) Act*, During Calendar Year 1985, Covering Erroneous Assessments of Land and Improvements Within the Rural Area.

The Hon. *W. S. Ritchie* (Minister of Municipal Affairs) tabled The Annual Report of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, 1984/85.

On the motion of Mr. *Blencoe*, Bill (No. M 201) intituled *An Act to Protect Long Term Tenants From the Impacts of Expo 86* 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.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session.

The debate continued.

Mr. *Howard* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Barnes*—

That the motion “We, Her Majesty’s most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, in Session assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious Speech which Your Honour has addressed to us at the opening of the present Session.” be amended by adding the following:

“But this House regrets that the Speech of His Honour fails to meet the expectations and hopes of our people that they can place their trust in the current government and that it fails to indicate that the government cares about the economic and social plight of ordinary British Columbians.”

The debate on the amendment continued.

The House divided.

The amendment was negated on the following division:

YEAS—17

<i>Blencoe</i>	<i>Lockstead</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Skelly</i>
<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Rose</i>	<i>Gabelmann</i>	<i>Howard</i>
<i>Wallace</i>	<i>Hanson</i>	<i>Sanford</i>	<i>Cocke</i>
<i>Barnes</i>	<i>D’Arcy</i>	<i>Stupich</i>	<i>Dailly</i>
<i>MacWilliam</i>			

NAYS—24

<i>Strachan</i>	<i>Hewitt</i>	<i>McCarthy</i>	<i>Veitch</i>
<i>Ree</i>	<i>Ritchie</i>	<i>Davis</i>	<i>Kempf</i>
<i>Reynolds</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Michael</i>	<i>Segarty</i>
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Passarell</i>	<i>McClelland</i>
<i>Chabot</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>	<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Waterland</i>
<i>Rogers</i>	<i>A. V. Fraser</i>	<i>Pelton</i>	<i>Brummet</i>

The debate was resumed on the main motion.

The debate continued.

On the motion of the Hon. *T. P. Segarty*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 5.53 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18, 1986

TEN O’CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Rev. *N. Pasechnik*.

The Hon. *J. J. Heinrich* (Minister of Forests) tabled the British Columbia Railway Consolidated Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1984.

The Hon. *J. A. Nielsen* (Minister of Human Resources) tabled the Annual Report and Supplement to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Human Resources, 1984-85.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session.

The debate continued.

On the motion of the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 11.58 a.m.

Tuesday, March 18, 1986

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *B. R. D. Smith* (Attorney General) made a ministerial statement relating to aboriginal land claims and, by leave, tabled a copy of correspondence with the Honourable *David Crombie*, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Mr. *Skelly* made a statement.

Mr. *Lea* asked leave to make a statement.

Leave was not granted.

Mr. *Reynolds* asked leave, pursuant to Standing Order 35, to move adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, Indian land claims and Federal-Provincial fiscal responsibility.

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

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session.

The debate continued.

By leave, Mr. *MacWilliam* tabled a document referred to during debate.

The debate continued.

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved opinion as follows:

Honourable Members:

Today the Honourable Member for West Vancouver-Howe Sound sought to move adjournment of the House, under Standing Order 35, to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. Briefly stated, the matter related to Indian land claims and Federal-Provincial fiscal responsibility.

We are currently embarked on the Throne Speech debate, a time affording a normal parliamentary opportunity to discuss matters of broad scope such as the matter suggested. Accordingly, Standing Order 35 does not apply as the vehicle for such debate as requested.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

The debate continued.

On the motion of the Hon. *J. J. Kempf*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Pursuant to Standing Order 2 (2), the House was advised of Wednesday sitting.

And then the House adjourned at 5.52 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19, 1986

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

On the motion of Mr. *Howard*, Bill (No. M 202) intituled *Forests Renewal Act* 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.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *J. J. Kempf* (Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing) made a ministerial statement relating to social housing in British Columbia.

Mr. *Blencoe* made a statement.

Mr. *Lea* asked leave to make a statement.

Leave was not granted.

Mr. *Howard* rose on a matter of privilege relating to pre-Budget briefing and, by leave, tabled correspondence relating to the matter raised.

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

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session.

The debate continued.

Mr. *Lauk* rose on a point of order, namely, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs ought to table papers referred to by him in the course of debate.

Mr. Speaker, citing Sir Erskine May, ruled that as the papers read or quoted from were not dispatches or other state papers, the Minister was not required to table them.

The debate continued.

Mr. *Howard* expanded upon a matter of privilege raised at an earlier hour.

The debate continued.

Motion agreed to on the following division:

YEAS—25

<i>Strachan</i>	<i>Hewitt</i>	<i>Mowat</i>	<i>Richmond</i>
<i>Ree</i>	<i>Ritchie</i>	<i>Davis</i>	<i>Veitch</i>
<i>Reid</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Michael</i>	<i>Heinrich</i>
<i>Johnston</i>	<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Passarell</i>	<i>Kempf</i>
<i>Parks</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>	<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Waterland</i>
<i>Chabot</i>	<i>McCarthy</i>	<i>Pelton</i>	<i>Brummet</i>
<i>Rogers</i>			

NAYS—15

<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Hanson</i>	<i>Nicolson</i>	<i>Howard</i>
<i>Barnes</i>	<i>D'Arcy</i>	<i>Lauk</i>	<i>Cocke</i>
<i>Lockstead</i>	<i>Gabelmann</i>	<i>Stupich</i>	<i>Dailly</i>
<i>Rose</i>	<i>Sanford</i>	<i>Skelly</i>	

The Hon. *J. A. Nielsen* advised the House that, pursuant to agreement with the House Leader of the Official Opposition and the Leader of the United Party, the House will meet at 3 o'clock p.m. tomorrow for the Budget Speech with a Question Period preceding, and further that the House will sit next Wednesday morning, as well as next Wednesday afternoon, and debate on the Budget Speech will conclude on Thursday, March 27th.

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved decision as follows:

Honourable Members:

Earlier today the Honourable Member for Skeena, having previously advised the Chair in accordance with Practice Recommendation # 7 of our Standing Orders, rose on a matter of privilege and tabled correspondence between the Member for Nanaimo and the Minister of Finance relating to extending the scope of persons to be included in a prior briefing on the Budget Speech.

I note that a remarkably similar case arose in the House of Commons in Ottawa on June 3rd, 1969. In that particular case, the member rose on a point of privilege to state that the decision of the Minister of Finance (the Honourable Mr. *Benson*) to deny party representatives access to advance budgetary briefings is a breach of parliamentary privilege and he complained that the press was given this information but that the members were not. That distinguished Speaker of the House of Commons decided that such a complaint did not raise a *prima facie* breach of privilege and while he suggested that the whole matter of advanced budgetary briefings might well be reviewed by the Executive, there was nothing in such a complaint upon which a member could found a matter of privilege. In February of 1973, Mr. Speaker *Dowding* adopted the above reasons in rejecting a similar complaint raised on a matter of privilege at that time.

For the above reasons, the Chair cannot accept the matter raised as qualifying under the practices of this House.

I am satisfied that the same principle applies to the additional matter raised by the Member for Skeena later this afternoon.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

Mr. *Mowat* tabled the Annual Report of the Labour Relations Board of B.C., 1985.

And then the House adjourned at 5.56 p.m.

Thursday, March 20, 1986

THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Monsignor *Phillip Hanley*.

The Hon. *J. A. Nielsen* advised the House that, by agreement, Question Period would be deferred until tomorrow morning.

Mr. *Howard* rose on a point of order relating to televising the speech of the financial critic of the Opposition and asked that unanimous consent be asked to permit television coverage.

Mr. Speaker stated that unanimous leave could not be requested at this stage of the proceedings and further stated that a motion on notice was required in order to comply with existing usages.

Order called for Budget Debate.

On the motion of the Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance), it was *Ordered*—

That this House, at its next sitting, resolve itself for this Session into a Committee to consider Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) presented the Public Accounts of British Columbia for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) moved—

That the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 1984/85 be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economic Affairs.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) presented:

The Report of the Comptroller General (Interim Financial Statements of Revenue and Expenditure) for the first ten months of the 1985/86 fiscal year, pursuant to the *Financial Administration Act*, section 8 (4).

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) 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:

Estimates of sums required for the services of the Province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1987;
and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 19, 1986.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Estimates accompanying same, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) moved, seconded by the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen* (Minister of Human Resources), "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. Speaker declared a short recess.

A debate arose, which was, on the motion of Mr. *Stupich*, adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) 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. 4) intituled *Education Excellence Appropriation Act* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 18, 1986.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) 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. 5) intituled *Health Improvement Appropriation Act* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 18, 1986.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) 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. 7) intituled *Assessment Amendment Act, 1986* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 18, 1986.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) 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. 8) intituled *Income Tax Amendment Act, 1986* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 18, 1986.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) 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. 9) intituled *Motor Fuel Tax Amendment Act, 1986* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 18, 1986.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) 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. 10) intituled *Insurance Premium Tax Amendment Act, 1986* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 18, 1986.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) 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. 11) intituled *Taxation Statutes Amendment Act, 1986* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 18, 1986.

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

The Hon. *J. H. Heinrich* (Minister of Forests) 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. 6) intituled *Forest Stand Management Fund Act* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 18, 1986.

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

And then the House adjourned at 5.15 p.m.

Friday, March 21, 1986

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. *A. V. Fraser* (Minister of Transportation and Highways) tabled the Annual Report of the Ministry of Transportation and Highways for the fiscal year 1984/85.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. Speaker made the following statement:

Honourable Members:

Yesterday, prior to the commencement of the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance, the Member for Skeena rose on a point of order proposing, as he did in 1983, that the speech of the financial critic of the Official Opposition should be televised.

In support of his position, the Member stated that the Chair had put a motion to the House seeking unanimous consent in 1983, and stated further the Chair would be inconsistent not to do so during yesterday's sitting.

The proceedings of July 8th, 1983, disclose that when the matter was raised, the Speaker clearly stated that under the special circumstances of that day, including those of time constraints, he would put the question of leave to the House, and he did so. What the Member failed to bring to the Chair's attention, was that the Speaker *clearly* stated at that time he was prepared to put the question to the House but this was "*not to establish a precedent.*"

The difficulty that arises here is when an Honourable Member of this House extracts only such portions of a previous decision as will support his argument, without quoting the full decision, it has the obvious tendency of misleading the House and the Chair. The *Journals* state clearly that the action taken in 1983 was not to be considered a precedent, yet the Member for Skeena urged the circumstances on the Chair as a precedent. The Chair suggests this shows something less than total candor with this House and the Chair.

All Honourable Members know that if they wish to effect change in relation to the televising of proceedings or any other usage of this House, proper procedures are available. Those procedures do not include selective quotes from previous decisions which, unless quoted in their entirety, can be and often are totally misleading.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

Order called for "Private Members' Statements."

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into Committee of Supply.

The debate continued.

On the motion of the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 1 p.m.

Monday, March 24, 1986

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *G. M. McCarthy* (Provincial Secretary and Minister of Government Services) tabled the following:

Seventeenth Annual Report of the Business Done in Pursuance of the *Pension (College) Act*, year ended August 31, 1985.

Fiftieth Annual Report of the Business Done in Pursuance of the *Pension (Public Service) Act*, year ended March 31, 1985.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) tabled the Statement of Unclaimed Money Deposits for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into Committee of Supply.

The debate continued.

On the motion of the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 5.53 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25, 1986

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Pastor *R. J. Busch*.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into Committee of Supply.

The debate continued.

Mr. *Hanson* moved, seconded by Mr. *Gabelmann*—

That the motion that "Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee of Supply" be amended by adding the following:

"But this House regrets that, in the opinion of the House, the Honourable Minister of Finance, by setting up special funds which can be allocated on a political basis rather than assuring adequate operating budgets for ministries, is jeopardizing the management of natural resources, and the provision of quality services, and undermining the employment and income security of ordinary British Columbians."

The debate on the amendment continued.

On the motion of the Hon. *J. Davis*, the debate on the amendment was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

And then the House adjourned at 11.57 a.m.