

JOURNALS

OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SESSION 1977

Thursday, January 13, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *Rex Krepps*.

This being the first day of the second meeting of the Thirty-first Parliament or Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia for the dispatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation of Colonel the Honourable WALTER S. OWEN, Q.C., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, dated the 2nd day of December 1976, the members took their seats.

The Honourable WALTER S. OWEN, Q.C., LL.D., 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:

I welcome all members to this second session of the Thirty-first Parliament of British Columbia, and express my confidence that you will discharge your duties wisely for the lasting benefit of all the citizens of this Province.

As we begin a new year, my government is pleased to report that much progress has been made in developing effective economic and social programs for the people of the Province, while containing the growth and size of government. The program you will be asked to consider at this session continues that policy of positive action through legislation which my government believes will lead over the next decade to the sure and sound development of the Province, providing the desired economic and social benefits. All members will be challenged in terms of time and energy in dealing with legislative matters that will be presented for their consideration.

I note with sadness the death during the past year of William Neelands Chant, who was elected to this Legislative Assembly in 1953 and served as Minister of Public Works from 1956 to 1972. Mr. Chant worked long and hard in public service for his fellow British Columbians.

It is also with regret that I learn of the death of Roy Thomas Cummings on May 25, 1976. Mr. Cummings was a valued and popular member of the 30th Legislative Assembly for Vancouver-Little Mountain.

This Province also suffered a loss in the passing of Mr. Robert Cecil Steele, a member of the Legislature for Omineca from 1949 to 1952.

We also mourn the deaths in 1976 of two notable British Columbians, Mr. T. G. Norris, a former Justice of the British Columbia Court of Appeal, and Mr. Roderick Haig-Brown, author and environmentalist.

During the past year the Province was honored by the visits of many distinguished people.

His Excellency, Governor-General Jules Leger, accompanied by Mme Leger, opened the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver in June last year. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau addressed that assembly. Both the Governor-General and Prime Minister made official visits to Victoria and to Government House. It is worth noting that this Vancouver meeting was the first United Nations conference to be held in a city that is not a national capital. More than 100 countries were represented either by a head of state or by a senior government representative.

Among other visitors to our Province were United States Senator Henry Jackson, Governor Dan Evans of Washington State, Governor Robert Straub of the State of Oregon, and Stefan Olszowski, Foreign Minister for Poland.

A tri-partite meeting was held in Victoria between my first minister, Governor Jay Hammond of the State of Alaska, and Commissioner A. M. Pearson of Yukon Territory.

In all, 15 ambassadors, accompanied by other representatives from their countries, paid official visits during the past year.

My government is pleased to welcome back into this House, after a short absence, the first member for Vancouver East and the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mr. David Barrett, who was successful in a by-election in his constituency on June 3, 1976.

The past year has been one of challenge and difficulty for all of us in British Columbia. It was a year in which my government was required to face serious economic problems and to deal with them decisively. My government established and practised a policy of restraint and accountability, and because of that was able to take a number of positive actions to provide our people with tangible benefits.

During the past year, this Legislature passed an act to provide for the appointment of an Auditor-General, upon the recommendation of a special committee of this Assembly and, during this year, my government introduced, for the first time, the practice of providing quarterly financial reports to keep our people informed on the state of their Province.

Steps were taken to improve the operational efficiency of Crown corporations and agencies. To ensure that government ministries exercise restraint in their use of office space, this Legislature passed the *B.C. Buildings Corporation Act*. To improve ferry service in the Province, the ferry system became the responsibility of a crown corporation under the *British Columbia Ferry Corporation Act*.

My government reports that improved performance has been shown during the year by the Crown corporations. My government believes that much of the credit for this improvement must go to the citizens who have accepted responsibility on the boards of the corporations. While maintaining accountability, my Government has attempted to de-emphasize political influence in the operation of the corporations and rely on people of talent and energy to manage the affairs of the corporations in the best interests of all their fellow citizens. I add my thanks to that of my government for the fine work being performed by these new directors of our Crown corporations.

In regard to direct services to people, I was pleased that the members of this Legislature enacted the *Guaranteed Available Income for Need Act* which greatly

expanded income support for people in genuine need. This legislation, which came into effect in October last year, extends benefits by lowering the qualifying age to 55 and covers single-parent families, single mothers abandoned with children, and certain handicapped persons.

Significant progress has been made in the development of health care. The home-care program has continued to grow and expand its services throughout our Province. My Minister of Health has announced that construction is to begin on a major addition to the medical school at the University of British Columbia to train more doctors for our people.

I am pleased to report that in 1976 eighteen major hospital projects were underway or completed throughout British Columbia at an estimated cost of \$33.5 million. Emphasis has been placed on the need for extended-care beds. At the end of the year, there were 4,320 extended-care beds in British Columbia; more than 1,600 additional extended-care beds were under construction or in the planning stage and, of these, about 500 are expected to be opened by the end of March this year.

My government has over the years moved to decentralize programs for the mentally disabled by making treatment services available at the community level. Out-patient clinics have been opened in Victoria and Vancouver under the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission to assist mentally-disturbed persons. During 1976 there were greatly-increased admissions to the Province's 30 community mental health centres and to the Greater Vancouver Mental Health Service. This increase has been accompanied by a decrease in the patient population at Riverview Hospital. In October, 1976, there were 1,240 patients at Riverview compared with 1,396 a year earlier. This change is making it possible to use Riverview increasingly as a specialized referral centre.

To encourage stability and productivity in the mining and petroleum industries, this Legislature last year approved the *Prospectors Assistance Amendment Act*, the *Mineral Resource Tax Act* and the *Petroleum and Natural Gas (1965) Amendment Act*. I am pleased to report that the petroleum and natural gas industry significantly revived exploration and development within the Province in 1976. For example, the number of wells authorized for drilling as of December 15, 1976, was 173. This contrasts with the corresponding figure of 78 for the same period of 1975.

Mineral exploration in the Province during 1976 has almost tripled over the activity recorded in 1975. My government is hopeful this activity will increase during 1977 and result ultimately in new mining production in British Columbia.

During the first eight months of 1976, the total value of all forest products shipped in British Columbia reached \$2.86 billion, a 28-per-cent increase over the corresponding period of 1975.

My government intends to provide more opportunity to the private sector this year and in the years ahead. The strong, positive action taken by my government in the year just past to restrain demands upon the economy and encourage initiative and enterprise by our citizens has provided a broad base on which to build. It is now the intention to develop investment in the Province by encouraging those who live here to keep their capital at work in British Columbia, and by encouraging those who live outside our borders to invest here. It is my government's firm belief that the Province will develop through investment by people, not through investment by government. My government welcomes the recent announcement by a major forest corporation of a \$125 million capital program in British Columbia.

While my government has worked hard for economic and social improvement, it is concerned that the rate of unemployment as this session opens is still unacceptably high. There has been growth in the provincial economy during the year, and the economy has shown an encouraging improvement in its capacity to absorb new people into the work-force. But more jobs must still be provided.

My first minister advises that the need for restraint and the lowering of expectations in all sectors of the provincial economy must continue. This Province, along with all other provinces, joined the anti-inflation program of the Government of Canada in 1976 but believes that British Columbia's restraint in this crucial year should extend beyond the guidelines. Building a strong and productive economy that will pay significant social dividends is slow, steady but painstaking work—and all the citizens of the Province will be challenged in this endeavour.

An exporting province such as British Columbia cannot afford to price itself out of world markets. The major industries involved in producing for the world must continue to make their contribution to government in the form of taxes if social programs are to be maintained and improved.

My government believes this Province must pause and let the rest of the world catch up in terms of costs. If our people can hold down their demands this year and next, my government believes there will be more benefits for all in the years that follow. This period in which we live presents a challenge to all British Columbians for government by itself can only play a part in restoring vitality to the economy. All the people must participate.

For its part, my government has participated actively in discussions on the national scene and has proposed positive measures that will meet the regional and economic realities of today.

I am pleased to report that the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, which is responsible to my first minister, has made it possible for British Columbia to achieve much greater impact on the national and international scene.

This new office, for example, is developing a capacity for a more co-ordinated approach to trade missions. The Canadian Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Bruce Rankin, and the Canadian Ambassador to China, Mr. Arthur Menzies, visited British Columbia in September and October to be briefed on my government's priorities in our relationships with countries on the Pacific Rim.

Across this country today, there are those who would seek a simple solution to some of Canada's problems by breaking up this great confederation. My government believes it can offer a better solution. My government has been arguing for a more flexible union between the regions and the national government to keep Canada strong—and together. My first minister believes that a country as large in area and as small in population as Canada cannot live and grow within a rigid federal system. If it can be recognized that there are five different regions in Canada, that different solutions are required in those different regions, and if a working relationship can be developed between those regions, then my government believes Canada will be a stronger country, not a weaker one.

During the year, my ministers represented British Columbia at various national meetings dealing with the constitution and other matters falling within their jurisdictions.

Apart from making recommendations on the constitution, my government ministers have made other recommendations designed to encourage solutions to pressing economic problems facing Canadians today. My first minister has recommended that various income supplements and equalization payments be rationalized

into a single income program to bring greater equity to all Canadians rather than contribute to the cost of expensive government. My government believes a negative income tax would accomplish what existing programs and equalization payments have failed to do—guarantee a basic standard of living for families and individuals whose incomes are below an established “poverty line.” Current federal studies supplementing the findings of the Special Senate Committee on Poverty should be made available immediately to the provinces to form a basis for federal-provincial discussion on ways of achieving equity in the Canada we know today.

Participation in meetings of the national and provincial governments is a clear sign that my government is not acting in isolation from the national government in the solution of our problems. A new spirit of co-operation exists between my government and that in Ottawa in discussions embracing the coastal ferry system, extended and improved rail transportation and other development in our north, and utilization within our Province of funds from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. My government hopes to conclude new agreements in this regard this year as part of its economic strategy for British Columbia.

In the last year, this Legislature passed the *Government Reorganization Act*. This Act provided for the reorganization of portfolios previously known as “Departments” into “Ministries” and for greater public understanding of the programs for which each ministry is responsible. The Department of Consumer Services became the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs; the Department of Recreation and Travel Industry became the Ministry of Recreation and Conservation; the Department of the Provincial Secretary became the Ministry of the Provincial Secretary and Travel Industry; and the Department of Transport and Communications became the Ministry of Energy, Transport and Communications.

On October 29 last year I was pleased to administer the oath of office to the Honourable James J. Hewitt, who was sworn in as the Minister of Agriculture; to the Honourable James Roland Chabot, who was sworn in as the Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources; and to the Honourable Sam Bawlf, who was sworn in as the Minister of Recreation and Conservation.

All my ministers have applied themselves diligently to the tasks ahead and you will be asked to approve a number of proposals aimed at achieving my government’s goals of economic development leading to greater job opportunities and improved social benefits for our people.

In addition to instituting accountability in financial affairs by establishing the office of Auditor-General, my first minister advises that you will be asked to bring accountability into human affairs by establishing, at this session, the office of ombudsman for British Columbia. This will honour a commitment of my government.

A more adequate “conflict of interest” statute for public officials will be placed before you for your consideration and approval at this session.

Just as my government believes there should be an effective decentralization of powers and responsibilities on the national scene, so does my government believe that this concept should apply to relationships with the local governments within the Province.

At this session you will be asked to approve legislative proposals to provide a formula for sharing between my government and local governments.

My government will propose legislation that will expand the responsibility of local government in the field of community planning.

You will be asked to approve legislation which will give our citizens more direct access to the regulatory process that controls the quality of community development and the use of land.

My Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has advised me that he will introduce an *Urban Transportation Authority Act* which will co-ordinate provincial and local government roles in providing public transportation.

You will be asked to approve legislation for the universal registration of mobile homes in our Province.

My government made a commitment to improve the quality of life for the people of British Columbia and I am pleased to advise you action will be taken on this through a number of proposals which will be placed before you during this session.

My government's continuing concern for the improvement of benefits to senior citizens will be further expressed during the legislative session. My Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has advised me that you will be asked to approve a program which will provide monthly shelter allowances for persons over the age of 65 years.

I am pleased to report that my new Minister of Recreation and Conservation intends to provide senior citizens with the free use of provincial campsites.

I am more than pleased to report to you that my first minister has advised that my government will continue to place health, education and human resources programs at the top of its priority list.

This will include a program of universal pharmacare. As members of the Legislature are aware, previous governments implemented support programs for the provision of necessary prescription drugs to social assistance cases as early as 1933, and to low-income persons in July 1972. In 1974, these two plans, which together served more than 200,000 persons, were amalgamated and benefits extended to those over 65 years of age. This action provided pharmacare to about 450,000 people, or about 25 per cent of the population of this Province. I am pleased to say this plan will be adjusted at this session to provide a more realistic pharmacare program which will assure that all the approximately 2.5 million people in British Columbia have assistance in the purchase of prescription drugs.

My government, through the Ministry of Health, is expanding its services in the treatment of those suffering from alcoholism. Increasing alcoholism is of great concern. Approval was given during the year for the Alcohol and Drug Commission to develop an improved program of services throughout the Province which will ultimately include provision of a residential treatment centre in each of four areas. At the year-end, detailed planning was underway for a detoxification unit in New Westminster and a model residential treatment centre in the Lower Fraser Valley. These are but two examples of new steps which are being taken.

Bearing in mind the great distances and difficult terrain of this Province, my government has taken steps to improve the air ambulance service throughout British Columbia. This service will now be available between the remote areas and major treatment centres without heavy cost to the patient.

My Minister of Health reports to me that this equalized plan will include the provision of escort service to patients where necessary. When this escort service is authorized in advance, there will be no cost to the patient.

Through the newly-structured Ministry of Education, my government has embarked upon a program to emphasize performance in education. School programs will now fall into three categories—that which *must* be learned, that which

should be learned, and that which *may* be learned. The material which *must* be learned will be contained in a core curriculum to be introduced in our schools in September 1977. The goals of a core curriculum, distributed in booklet form by the Ministry of Education, are now being studied by parents, trustees and teachers.

My Minister of Education will introduce legislation that will lead eventually to the provision of financial support for non-public schools for the first time since the introduction of the *Public Schools Act* of 1872.

My Ministry of Human Resources and my Ministry of the Attorney-General have been given the responsibility by my government for a co-ordinated and more effective system of developing programs for children in care.

My government will establish top priorities within these two ministries so that, once again, British Columbia can lead Canada in the provision of services to those children of our Province who are in need of public care.

I wish to report to you that my Attorney-General will be placing before you a substantial number of revisions to various statutes which fall within the jurisdiction of his ministry.

My government will direct considerable attention to enhancing the strength and importance of the family unit in British Columbia society. The family court will continue to provide support and counselling for families experiencing a crisis. However, in those instances where all help has been exhausted and divorce is inevitable, my government proposes to introduce legislation which will ensure that property is shared justly between the partners to the marriage.

My government believes that the treatment of children is a measure of a society's worth. Unfortunately, a very few have generated a great deal of public concern through their continued illegal behaviour. I am advised that my government plans to strengthen our ability to both protect the public and help these youngsters who pose a serious threat to themselves and society. For this reason legislation will be introduced which will permit authorities to contain young offenders under the age of 17 in secure environments. They will be given an opportunity to learn how to live as law-abiding members of society.

My government proposes an aggressive attack on the impaired driving problem. My Attorney-General will be taking special initiatives to co-ordinate and focus government resources to remove the drinking driver from our roads. The people of British Columbia will be called upon to take personal responsibility for reducing this social—and criminal—problem.

Legislation will be introduced updating the present *Land Registry Act*.

My government has a continuing concern for the workers of British Columbia and desires that they should be able to enjoy a high standard of working conditions. My Minister of Labour has reported to me that this Legislature will be asked to approve a new uniform code which will govern the quality of the working place.

One of my government's programs to create more jobs includes a program to improve working opportunities for the young people of British Columbia. My Ministry of Labour has been given the responsibility for co-ordinating with all other ministries and the private sector a more effective summer employment program.

As I have related to you, the priorities of my government are designed to improve the quality of life for the citizens of British Columbia—and not to be ignored is the fundamental fact that the provision of an adequate highway system is an important way in which this objective can be reached.

During the latter part of 1976 the highway reconstruction and resurfacing program was intensified to help stop the deterioration of our existing highway system.

This program will continue during 1977. Traffic counts on all highways, however, continue to grow at astonishing rates. This tends to reduce the desired level of service for our people. The Trans-Canada Highway in the summer months particularly is overcrowded and indications are that it will get worse. My government will continue to add additional passing lanes where practical to temporarily improve the level of service.

In the long run, however, I am advised a new route is needed from the Interior to the coast. The last major new highway route built to the coast in the southern part of the Province was the Hope-Princeton Highway, which was completed 28 years ago, in 1949. For these reasons, my government has directed by Minister of Highways and Public Works to proceed as soon as possible with the design and construction of a highway from Merritt to Hope through the Coquihalla Pass. This will require the construction of 70 miles of new highway.

From the beginning, my government has recognized that maximum benefits and opportunities for our people can only flow from successful resource industry and business development. I have reported on encouraging signs of activity in our forest and mining sectors. In addition, I am pleased to report that the land resources of our Province are to be managed to provide more of our own food. For example, my new Minister of Agriculture advises that programs will be implemented to expand the production of quality forage.

My government recognizes that to achieve the maximum benefit from our resources for the people of this Province it is necessary that a team approach be developed within government itself. Efforts of government must be co-ordinated. For this reason my government has given the Ministry of Economic Development the prime responsibility for advancing a flexible economic strategy and that will involve a number of different ministries. This responsibility includes the development of new markets, the promotion of jointly sponsored programs with the federal government, and the extension of opportunity to the private sector.

My government continues in the belief that government cannot be expected to develop a sound economy on its own. Only with willing and imaginative assistance from thousands of participants in the individual enterprise system can we expect our Province to prosper. My Ministry of Economic Development will have the continuing responsibility of channeling this participation into a united effort for the benefit of us all.

My government continues to recognize the need to improve communication at all levels between its ministries, boards, commissions, and Crown agencies. A comprehensive review of information services within the public service of this Province was conducted in 1976, and it is our intention to continue the process of implementing of those changes which will lead to more effective operation of government, and improve the flow of information to the citizens of British Columbia.

Recognizing that travel is of great economic importance to the people of this Province, new initiatives are being undertaken by my government to further improve tourism in British Columbia.

New programs have been started, and others restructured, to bring about functional improvements. One new program is aimed at British Columbians, creating a greater awareness of the benefits of tourism to the people and the Province. At the same time, a convention division, operating out of Vancouver, will stimulate that side of the industry, further promoting British Columbia as a year-round destination for travellers.

During this session, my government will express its continuing concern for the consumer in our society. My two ministries of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Energy, Transport and Communications have been directed by my government to make major advances on behalf of the consumer.

New legislation will be introduced by my Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to develop an umbrella of protection for consumers through amendments to the *Consumer Protection Act* and the *Motor Dealers Licensing Act*, and in a new *Travel Industry Act*.

I have been informed that the Ministry of Energy, Transport and Communications will place before this Legislature measures to help those consumers in our Province who want to use electricity in areas not now covered under the existing system of rural electrification grants.

As this Legislature knows, my government has been studying the report on gasoline marketing in British Columbia, prepared by the British Columbia Energy Commission. It is looking for ways in which to keep prices down and, at the same time, ensure that the small retailers of gasoline will continue to play an important role in the marketing of gasoline.

As already described, my government's concern for the quality of life for our citizens ranges over all the ministries on which I have reported to you so far.

However, my government wishes me to advise this House that the ministries of the Environment, Recreation and Conservation and the Provincial Secretary and Travel Industry will be placing before you during this session new measures which will further achieve this government's basic objectives of bettering the life of the citizens of British Columbia.

Many of these new measures are interrelated, and they include a new program of grants for community museums.

My Ministry of the Environment and my Ministry of Recreation and Conservation will be working together for the purpose of expanding our inventory of open space.

I have been advised by my Minister of the Environment that this Legislature will be asked to approve a new *Green Belt Act* to protect ecologically sensitive areas and to designate certain areas for environmental purposes.

For the first time, the outdoor and indoor leisure services of government have become the responsibility of a single ministry. This will implement the commitment of this government to broaden support for recreational activities of all kinds and to make them more effective.

My Minister of Recreation and Conservation has also advised me of new programs designed to consolidate the planning and presentation of historic and archaeological sites and heritage buildings. An important part of this program will be the provision to communities of technical assistance in the heritage field. In addition, under this ministry, my government will be able to provide a more broadly based service to our citizens who seek to maintain fitness and participation in life-time sports.

Of great interest is my advice from this new ministry that this assembly will be asked to approve legislation which will enable this Province to participate with Canada, Alaska, and the Yukon in establishing the "Klondike Gold Rush International Park."

This assembly will also be asked to approve legislation which will establish a "B.C. Heritage Trust" to assist the many people in our Province who are seeking to preserve our unique history.

Together, my Ministry of the Environment and my Ministry of Recreation and Conservation will give special attention to the management of the new 200-mile coastal economic zone in relation to the ongoing salmonid enhancement program.

In summary, my first minister assures me that all our ministries will enjoy a broad mandate for developing and furthering programs which will improve the quality of life for all the citizens of British Columbia.

My government is approaching this session and the year 1977 in a spirit of cautious optimism. My ministers believe they have prepared the Province through a program of restraint and prudent management for the economic recovery that shows signs of getting under way. The programs which will be laid before you for consideration are, in the opinion of my government, logical and desirable, and are an indication of the benefits that can be earned by a people devoted to restraint and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, I leave you now with the confidence that all matters which may come before you will receive your most careful attention, and I pray that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations. I leave you now to the discharge of your legislative duties.

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. G. B. Gardom, Bill (No. 1) intituled *Survivorship and Presumption of Death Amendment Act, 1977* 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. B. Gardom, it was *Ordered*—

That the appointment of Ian D. Izard of Victoria, as Law Clerk and Clerk Assistant of the Legislative Assembly, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor by and with the advice of His Executive Council on the 2nd day of December 1976, and effective on the 1st day of January 1977, be now ratified pursuant to the provisions of section 44 of the *Constitution Act*, being chapter 71 of the *Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1960*.

On the motion of the Hon. W. R. Bennett, it was *Ordered*—

That the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the House, and that this Order have precedence over all other business, except Introduction of Bills, until disposed of.

On the motion of the Hon. Grace McCarthy, 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.

On the motion of the Hon. W. R. Bennett, it was *Ordered*—

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

1. On Standing Orders and Private Bills;
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;

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), said Committee to be composed of the Hon. *Grace McCarthy*, the Hon. *R. H. McClelland*, Mrs. *Jordan*, and Messrs. *King* and *Gibson*.

On the motion of Mr. *Strongman*, seconded by Mr. *King*, it was *Ordered*—

That *Harvey Wilfred Schroeder*, Esquire, Member for Chilliwack Electoral District, be appointed Deputy Speaker for this Session of the Legislative Assembly.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom* it was *Ordered*—

That Report No. 9 of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, adopted by this House on February 27, 1973, relating to Oral Questions, be adopted by this House for the present Session.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom* it was *Ordered*—

That on each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this Session there will be two distinct sittings on each day: One from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and one from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m., and on each Friday there will be one sitting from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., unless otherwise ordered.

The following papers were presented:

By the Hon. *Grace McCarthy* (Provincial Secretary)—

Twenty-first Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *Members of the Legislative Assembly Superannuation Act* for the year ended March 31, 1976.

Forty-first Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *Public Service Superannuation Act* for the year ended March 31, 1976.

Thirty-seventh Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *Municipal Superannuation Act* for the year ended December 31, 1975.

Eighth Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *College Pension Act* for the year ended August 31, 1976.

Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *Teachers' Pensions Act* for the year ended December 31, 1975.

Sixteenth Annual Report of the business done under the *Public Service Benefit Plans Act*, policy year, July 1, 1975, to June 30, 1976—Group Life Insurance Programs.

Capital Improvement District Commission Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended March 31, 1976.

By the Hon. *G. B. Gardom* (Attorney-General)—
Law Reform Commission of British Columbia Report on *The Rule in Bain v. Fothergill* (LRC 28).

By the Hon. *R. H. McClelland* (Minister of Health)—
The Annual Report of the Department of Health for the year 1975.

By the Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* (Minister of Finance)—
Public Accounts of British Columbia for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1976.
Return submitted in accordance with section 46 (2) of the *Revenue Act, Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1960*: Refunds and remissions made under section 46 (1) of the *Revenue Act, Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1960*, during the calendar year 1976.

Statement of Unclaimed Money Deposits, under authority of *Unclaimed Money Deposits Act, Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1960*, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1976.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 3.13 p.m.

Friday, January 14, 1977

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Pastor *Norman K. Archer*.

Mr. Kahl moved, seconded by *Mr. Lloyd*—

"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. Barrett* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 11.31 a.m.

Monday, January 17, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Pastor *D. L. McMillan*.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

During question period, by leave of the House, the Hon. *G. B. Gardom* (Attorney-General) tabled a copy of a letter dated December 6, 1976, from David H. Vickers, Deputy Attorney-General, addressed to all Regional Crown Counsel, all District Crown Counsel, and Senior Prosecutor, Vancouver, *re* trial delay.

During question period, by leave of the House, the Hon. *W. R. Bennett* (Premier) tabled a letter dated January 17, 1977, from Mr. J. W. Fraine, Chairman of the Board, British Columbia Railway, to the Hon. *D. M. Phillips*, Minister of Economic Development, outlining the reasons for the board's decision to settle the litigation with M.E.L. Paving Ltd.

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.

Mr. *Barrett* moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. *Lea*—

That the motion in reply to the Opening Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be amended by adding the following words: "but this House regrets that the Government actions in regard to conflict of interest are incomplete and ineffectual in that it has failed to appoint a new Minister of Economic Development to carry on the many confidential duties of the said Ministry pending the outcome of the work of the Commission of Public Inquiry."

Mr. Speaker declared a recess to consider the amendment.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and made the following ruling:

Honourable Members,—A long-established rule of the House is that nothing may be done indirectly which, by the Rules of the House, may not be done directly. May's 18th edition at page 361, referring to those matters which can only be dealt with by substantive motion, includes therein matters involving the conduct of the members of either House of Parliament and, at page 362, May further states that such a matter "cannot therefore be questioned by way of an amendment". The substance of the proposed amendment suggests the appointment of a new Minister of Economic Development and thereby in the context of the proposed amendment seeks indirectly to call into question the conduct of the present Minister.

Mr. Speaker ruled the proposed amendment out of order.

Mr. *King* rose on a point of order seeking the opinion of the Chair on what further amendment might be in order.

Mr. Speaker ruled that the Chair could not respond to hypothetical situations but could only rule on the amendment which had been previously moved.

The debate continued.

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

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

Tuesday, January 18, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *Joseph Senkiw*.

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.

By leave, Mr. *Gibson* tabled a statement intituled A Liberal Opening Speech.

The debate continued.

On the motion of the Hon. *K. R. Mair* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 8.30 o'clock p.m. today.

The Hon. *D. M. Phillips* (Minister of Economic Development) presented the Second Annual Report of the British Columbia Development Corporation for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1976.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* (Minister of Finance) presented the Annual Report of the Purchasing Commission, January 1, 1976, to December 31, 1976.

1 Mr. *Rogers* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following question:
Who were the purchasers of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority Series EJ bonds, dated July 15, 1976, marketed in the United States?

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* stated in his opinion the reply should be in the form of a Return and that he had no objection to laying such Return upon the table of the House, and thereupon presented such Return.

And then the House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

Tuesday, January 18, 1977

HALF-PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:

WALTER S. OWEN
Lieutenant-Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 4) intituled *British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (1964) Amendment Act, 1977*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
January 18, 1977.

By leave of the House, Bill introduced and read a first time.
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

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.

Upon a point of order being raised by the Attorney-General, Mr. Speaker stated that members should refrain from discussing in debate any circumstances or delve into evidence relating to a matter referred to a Royal Commission or Public Inquiry and quoted in part from a ruling of Mr. Speaker Lamoureux as follows: "we would not want to have a parallel inquiry going in the House at the same time as that now being carried out in another forum."

Mr. *Lea* moved an amendment, seconded by Ms. *Sanford*—

That the motion in reply to the Opening Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be amended by adding the words: "but this House regrets that the Speech of His Honour fails to provide any adequate proposals to meet the critical state of unemployment in the Province affecting many thousands of our citizens and their families and fails to deal with the impact of widespread unemployment upon the social and economic life of the Province."

The debate continued.

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

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

Wednesday, January 19, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. *George Patrickson*.

Mr. *Macdonald* rose on a matter of privilege relating to a newspaper article in regards to M.E.L. Paving Ltd. and British Columbia Railway.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

During the question period, by leave, the Hon. *W. R. Bennett* (Premier) tabled a copy press release dated December 10, 1976, in reply to a question asked by the First Member for Vancouver East on January 18, regarding construction of a pipeline and processing facilities in the Sukunka/Grizzly Valley.

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

The debate continued.

The House divided.

The amendment was negatived on the following division:

YEAS—15

<i>Barber</i>	<i>Sanford</i>	<i>Nicolson</i>	<i>King</i>
<i>Barnes</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>Lea</i>	<i>Barrett</i>
<i>Lockstead</i>	<i>Wallace, G. S.</i>	<i>Cocke</i>	<i>Macdonald</i>
<i>D'Arcy</i>	<i>Lauk</i>	<i>Dailly</i>	

NAYS—29

<i>Veitch</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Kerster</i>	<i>Bawlf</i>
<i>Strongman</i>	<i>Chabot</i>	<i>Kempf</i>	<i>Mair</i>
<i>Rogers</i>	<i>McGeer</i>	<i>Kahl</i>	<i>Williams</i>
<i>Mussallem</i>	<i>Wolfe</i>	<i>Haddad</i>	<i>McClelland</i>
<i>Bawtree</i>	<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Davidson</i>	<i>Hewitt</i>
<i>Shelford</i>	<i>Phillips</i>	<i>Vander Zalm</i>	<i>Davis</i>
<i>Calder</i>	<i>Lloyd</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>	<i>Waterland</i>
<i>Fraser</i>			

On the motion of the Hon. *R. H. McClelland* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 8.30 o'clock p.m. today.

And then the House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

Wednesday, January 19, 1977

HALF-PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.

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. *P. L. McGeer* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

Thursday, January 20, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *Robert F. McPherson*.

By leave, the Hon. *W. R. Bennett* (Premier) made a statement relating to a telegram sent to Washington, D.C., on the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter.

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.

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

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* (Minister of Finance) presented the Annual Report of the Assessment Appeal Board for the year ended December 31, 1976.

The Hon. *R. H. McClelland* (Minister of Health) presented the Annual Report of the Emergency Health Services Commission for the fiscal year 1975/76.

The Hon. *J. A. Nielsen* (Minister of the Environment) presented the Third Annual Report of the Provincial Land Commission for the year ended March 31, 1976.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5.56 p.m.

Friday, January 21, 1977

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Pastor *John Stone*.

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.

Motion agreed to on the following division:

YEAS—28

<i>Veitch</i>	<i>Calder</i>	<i>Gardom</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>
<i>Rogers</i>	<i>Fraser</i>	<i>McCarthy</i>	<i>Bawlf</i>
<i>Mussallem</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Kempf</i>	<i>Mair</i>
<i>Loewen</i>	<i>Chabot</i>	<i>Kahl</i>	<i>Williams</i>
<i>Bawtree</i>	<i>McGeer</i>	<i>Haddad</i>	<i>McClelland</i>
<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Wolfe</i>	<i>Davidson</i>	<i>Hewitt</i>
<i>Jordan</i>	<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Vander Zalm</i>	<i>Davis</i>

NAYS—16

<i>Wallace, B.</i>	<i>Skelly</i>	<i>Nicolson</i>	<i>Stupich</i>
<i>Barber</i>	<i>Sanford</i>	<i>Lea</i>	<i>King</i>
<i>Barnes</i>	<i>Wallace, G. S.</i>	<i>Cocke</i>	<i>Barrett</i>
<i>Lockstead</i>	<i>Gibson</i>	<i>Dailly</i>	<i>Macdonald</i>

On the motion of the Hon. *E. M. Wolfe*, it was *Ordered*—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and that this Order have precedence over all other business, except introduction of Bills, until disposed of.

On the motion of the Hon. *E. M. Wolfe*, it was *Ordered*—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee to consider the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. on Monday next.

The Hon. *J. A. Nielsen* (Minister of the Environment) presented the following:

Observations on the oil spill from the tanker *Urquiola* at La Coruna, Spain, May 12, 1976.

Olympic Games oil spill.

And then the House adjourned at 12.50 p.m.

Monday, January 24, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Capt. *G. Cassell*.

Mr. *Cocke* asked leave of the House to dispense with the oral question period. Leave was not granted.

On the motion of the Hon. *K. R. Mair*, Bill (No. 13) intituled *Liquor Distribution Amendment Act, 1977* 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. *J. A. Nielsen* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:

WALTER S. OWEN
Lieutenant-Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 5) intituled *Pollution Control (1967) Amendment Act, 1977*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
January 20, 1977

By leave of the House, Bill introduced and read a first time.
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

By leave, the Hon. *W. R. Bennett* (Premier) tabled copy correspondence from the Prime Minister of Canada relating to the Constitution of Canada.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. Speaker declared a recess.

On the motion of the Hon. *E. M. Wolfe*, it was *Ordered*—

That the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 1975/76 be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economic Affairs.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* (Minister of Finance) presented the Report of the Comptroller-General pursuant to the provisions of the *Audit Act*, chapter 22, R.S.B.C. 1960.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:

WALTER S. OWEN
Lieutenant-Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith:
Estimates of sums required for the service of the Province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1978;

Schedule A. Sums required by Her Majesty to make good certain sums expended for the public service for the period ended March 31, 1976, and to indemnify the several officers and persons for making such expenditure;

and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,
January 21, 1977*

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

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* moved, seconded by the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into Committee of Supply.

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

Mr. Speaker declared a short recess.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:

WALTER S. OWEN
Lieutenant-Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 8) intituled *Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 1977*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,
January 21, 1977*

By leave of the House, Bill introduced and read a first time.
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:

WALTER S. OWEN
Lieutenant-Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 10) intituled *British Columbia Payment to Canada of Federal Income Tax on Behalf of Natural Gas Producers Repeal Act*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,
January 21, 1977*

By leave of the House, Bill introduced and read a first time.
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:

WALTER S. OWEN
Lieutenant-Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 11) intituled *Gift Tax Repeal Act*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
January 21, 1977

By leave of the House, Bill introduced and read a first time.
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:

WALTER S. OWEN
Lieutenant-Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 12) intituled *Succession Duty Repeal Act*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
January 21, 1977

By leave of the House, Bill introduced and read a first time.
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* (Minister of Finance) presented the Return submitted in accordance with section 85 (4) of the *Taxation Act*: Remissions and refunds made under authority of section 85 (1), (2), and (3) of the *Taxation Act*, *Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1960*, during the calendar year 1976.

And then the House adjourned at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, January 25, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Canon *H. Butler*.

On the motion of the Hon. *R. H. McClelland* the following Bills were 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:

Bill (No. 3) intituled *Change of Name Amendment Act, 1977*.

Bill (No. 16) intituled *Psychologists Act*.

The Hon. *E. M. Wolfe* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which read as follows:

WALTER S. OWEN
Lieutenant-Governor

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 6) intituled *Assessment Amendment Act, 1977*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
January 18, 1977

By leave of the House, Bill introduced and read a first time.
Second reading at the next sitting after today.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *Grace McCarthy* (Provincial Secretary) presented the following:
Annual Reports of the British Columbia Lotteries Branch for the periods July 2, 1974, to March 31, 1975, and April 1, 1975, to March 31, 1976.

Commission of Inquiry on Property Assessment and Taxation; Preliminary Report of the Commissioners dated July 30, 1976.

The 58th Annual Report of the Public Service Commission, January 1 to December 31, 1976.

Report of the Royal Commission on Forest Resources; Timber Rights and Forest Policy in British Columbia, 1976, Volumes 1 and 2.

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 Mr. *Wallace* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 8 o'clock p.m. today.

By leave of the House, on the motion of the Hon. *L. A. Williams*, on behalf of the Hon. *R. H. McClelland*, the Order for introduction, first and second readings of the Bill intituled *Psychologists Act*, was discharged.

And then the House adjourned at 5.53 p.m.

Tuesday, January 25, 1977

EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing) presented the following:

Report on the Administration of the *Transit Services Act* for the fiscal year 1975/76.

Auditor's Report of T.S. Holdings Ltd., dated July 21, 1976.

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. *Sam Bawlf* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

By leave of the House, Mr. *Cocke* withdrew the following Notice of Question standing in his name on the Order Paper.

7 Mr. *Cocke* to ask the Hon. the Minister of Education the following questions:

1. Were any bond issues authorized by the Government in 1975 for school construction?
2. If the answer to No. 1 is yes, (a) what was the total amount of those bonds floated, (b) when were they issued, (c) what was the amount of each issue, and (d) what was the interest rate of each issue?

And then the House adjourned at 11.03 p.m.

Wednesday, January 26, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Rev. *D. Fuller*.

On the motion of Mr. *Rogers*, Bill (No. M201) intituled *Floating Homes Regulation 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."

Mr. Speaker, quoting *Campion* at page 129, stated that "a matter referred to a Royal Commission is not subject to a question on the floor of the House" and further stated that the same rule is applicable to a matter referred to a Commission of Inquiry.

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. *L. A. Williams*, on behalf of the Hon. *W. N. Vander Zalm*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 8 o'clock p.m. today.

11 Mr. *Cocke* asked the Hon. the Minister of Education the following questions:

1. Were any borrowings made by ICBC in 1976 and to date in 1977?
2. If the answer to No. 1 is yes, what were the amounts, dates, source, and interest rate paid on each loan?

The Hon. *P. L. McGeer* replied as follows:

"1. Yes.

"2. All borrowings were from the Royal Bank of Canada, as follows:

Date	Amount \$	Rate Per Cent
December 1975	2,162,000	9.75
January 1976	25,955,000	9.75
February 1976	354,000	9.75
	28,471,000	9.75"

16 Mr. *Lockstead* asked the Hon. the Minister of Energy, Transport and Communications the following question:

What were the total numbers of vehicles and passengers (on a monthly basis) using the British Columbia ferry service in (a) 1975, (b) 1976, and (c) to date in 1977?

The Hon. *Jack Davis* replied as follows:

"The total numbers of vehicles and passengers, all routes combined, were as follows:

	1976		1975	
	Vehicles	Passengers	Vehicles	Passengers
January	225,441	541,694	194,778	475,244
February	224,757	540,309	190,553	454,736
March	262,333	650,275	269,878	699,572
April	305,598	803,164	285,031	719,000
May	311,749	828,832	328,161	865,400
June	239,602	698,808	363,890	990,017
July	351,486	1,050,113	447,308	1,319,625
August	363,884	1,123,152	467,419	1,427,603
September	273,729	733,007	351,985	882,713
October	232,183	607,600	297,602	715,170
November	198,542	500,370	251,526	602,279
December	213,045	570,528	248,415	587,344

Figures for January 1977, are not available as yet."

17 Mr. *Lockstead* asked the Hon. the Minister of Energy, Transport and Communications the following question:

What is the average total cost, including amortization of capital costs, per passenger mile on (a) Route 1 and (b) Route 2 of the British Columbia ferry service?

The Hon. *Jack Davis* replied as follows:

"We are unable to provide the information requested.

"1. We cannot separate passenger and vehicle costs.

"2. In accord with normal Government practice, we do not amortize capital costs."

And then the House adjourned at 5.28 p.m.

Wednesday, January 26, 1977

EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.

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.

By leave, the Hon. *K. R. Mair* (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) tabled a copy press release dated December 3, 1976, relating to new liquor legislations and regulations.

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

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 10.42 p.m.

Thursday, January 27, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *A. J. Mowatt*.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. *Gibson* asked leave to move adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the policy of the Government of British Columbia relating to national unity and separatism.

Mr. Speaker stated that one of the requirements of Standing Order 35 is that the matter must be raised at the earliest opportunity, and that earliest opportunity occurred following the question period yesterday (Beauchesne, 4th edition at page 39; May, 16th edition at page 369; Journals of the House, 1955 and 1959; the ruling of Mr. Speaker Shantz, Journals of the House, 1959, at page 64).

Mr. Speaker observed, that in fairness, there may have been too short an interval for the member to have prepared his statement of the matter at the conclusion of question period. Mr. Speaker noted, however, that there was another opportunity last evening before the budget debate was entered upon, and the member having failed to avail himself of that opportunity, he could not now pursue the matter.

The Hon. *Jack Davis* (Minister of Energy, Transport and Communications) presented the 36th Annual Report, pursuant to the provisions of section 35 of the *Motor Carrier Act*, covering the licence-year ended February 29, 1976.

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. *H. A. Curtis* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.

The House proceeded to the Order "Reading and Receiving Petitions."

Mr. *Shelford* presented the petition of the Vancouver Stock Exchange for leave to introduce a Private Bill intituled *An Act to Amend the Vancouver Stock Exchange Act, 1907*.

On the motion of Mr. *Shelford* the Rules were suspended and the petition of the Vancouver Stock Exchange was received.

Mr. *Strongman* presented the petition of the City of Vancouver for leave to introduce a Private Bill intituled *An Act to Amend the Vancouver Charter*.

On the motion of Mr. *Strongman* the Rules were suspended and the petition of the City of Vancouver was received.

Mr. *Veitch* presented the petition of the Society of Industrial Accountants of British Columbia for leave to introduce a Private Bill intituled *Society of Industrial Accountants of British Columbia Amendment Act, 1977*.

On the motion of Mr. *Veitch* the Rules were suspended and the petition of the Society of Industrial Accountants of British Columbia was received.

Mr. *Veitch* presented the petition of The Institute of Accredited Public Accountants of British Columbia for leave to introduce a Private Bill intituled *An Act to Incorporate the Institute of Accredited Public Accountants of British Columbia*.

On the motion of Mr. *Veitch* the Rules were suspended and the petition of The Institute of Accredited Public Accountants of British Columbia was received.

And then the House adjourned at 5.47 p.m.

Friday, January 28, 1977

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *R. D. Holmes*.

The Hon. *Jack Davis* (Minister of Energy, Transport and Communications) presented the British Columbia Steamship Company (1975) Ltd. Consolidated Financial Statements for the period ended December 31, 1976.

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 Mr. *Mussallem* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 12.39 p.m.

Monday, January 31, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Mr. *J. W. Robertson*.

On the motion of Mr. *Wallace*, Bill (No. M 202) intituled *Freedom of Information 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."

Mr. *Barrett* rose on a point of order, namely, the practice of the House with reference to the tabling of letters and documents cited by Ministers.

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

By leave of the House, the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen* (Minister of the Environment) tabled a copy memorandum, dated January 12, 1977, from A. G. Richardson, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, to Deputy Minister B. E. Marr, Ministry of the Environment, relating to R. M. Bierman.

Mr. *Cocke* asked leave to move adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the impending closure of Cedarhurst Private Hospital, Surrey.

Mr. Speaker stated he would reserve his opinion.

The Hon. *P. L. McGeer* (Minister of Education) presented the following:
One Hundred and Fifth Annual Report of the Department of Education.

Second Annual Report of the Universities Council of British Columbia for the period October 1, 1975, to March 31, 1976 (in manuscript form).

The Hon. *K. R. Mair* (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) presented the following:

Annual Report of the Debtor Assistance Program for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976, pursuant to the provisions of the *Debtor Assistance Act*.

Annual Report of the Trade Practice Activities for the year ending December 31, 1976, pursuant to the provisions of the *Trade Practices Act*.

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.

Ms. *Sanford* moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. *Nicolson*—

"That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" for the House to go into Committee of Supply be amended by adding the following words: "but this House regrets that in the opinion of this House the Hon. the Minister of Finance has failed to make provision for the fiscal and human betterment of the majority of the people of the Province, particularly in respect to taxation, investor confidence, and employment opportunities, and does not protect senior citizens and the handicapped from the effects of inflation."

The debate continued.

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

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved opinion as follows:

Honourable Members,—I have now had an opportunity to consider the matter raised earlier today by the Member for New Westminster pursuant to Standing Order 35. Before proceeding further, however, I would like to commend to the House an earlier ruling appearing in the Journals of 1975, at page 225, wherein the Speaker stated "it is desirable, and according to accepted practice, that the Member ask the opinion of the Speaker before raising the matter in the House as the Speaker should be apprised of the proposed proceedings."

However, on the merits of the present application, I note that the statement offered by the Honourable Member refers to information received that a certain private hospital will be closed as of March 4 (the year is not stated, but I presume it would be the year 1977). The statement goes on to allege "The Government has found it beyond its ability to care for the needs of senior citizens" and "the trend that is growing in the Province and the closure of other hospitals may be imminent".

May, 16th edition, at pages 369-71, sets forth a number of special restrictions on adjournment motions. Among these restrictions are that the issue must be a single *specific* matter, must not involve hypothetical circumstances, and must not impart an argument. The present matter fails because these special restrictions have not been avoided. Furthermore, the motion is refused when an ordinary parliamentary opportunity for debate will occur shortly or in time. The House has not yet completed the Budget debate, during which the matter raised may be discussed, nor the Estimates, which will provide a further opportunity for discussion (*see* Journals of the House, 1975, at page 225).

Thus the matter raised does not comply with the prerequisites indicated and accordingly the scheduled business of the House may not be set aside pursuant to Standing Order 35.

And then the House adjourned at 6.02 p.m.

Tuesday, February 1, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *B. Hale*.

By leave of the House, the Hon. *Grace McCarthy* (Provincial Secretary) made a statement relating to R. M. Bierman.

By leave of the House, the Hon. *Grace McCarthy* tabled a copy letter, dated January 26, 1977, from R. M. Bierman to the Public Service Commission, and copy memorandum, dated February 1, 1977, from Deputy Minister B. E. Marr, Ministry of the Environment, to A. G. Richardson, Chairman, Public Service Commission.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the amendment to 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 Mr. *King* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 8.30 o'clock p.m. today.

By leave of the House, Mr. *Cocke* tabled a copy letter, dated January 27, 1977, from Rev. Art Griffin, First United Church, Vancouver.

The Hon. *R. H. McClelland* (Minister of Health) tabled the Annual Report of the British Columbia Medical Centre for the year 1976.

Mr. Speaker made the following statement:

Honourable Members,—The Honourable Leader of the Opposition yesterday rose on a point of order and requested that the Honourable Minister of the Environment table a memorandum from a member of his department to which he had referred in answering a question during the oral question period. The Honourable Minister later tabled the report, but it is appropriate to clarify the practice in such cases.

At page 421 of the 18th edition of *May* the rule regarding the citing of documents is stated as follows:

A Minister of the Crown is not at liberty to read or quote from a dispatch or other State paper not before the House, unless he be prepared to lay it upon the table;

and also:

The rule for the laying of cited documents cannot be held to apply to private letters or memoranda.

This rule has been held to apply to public documents only (*Parliamentary Debates* (1865) 179, c. 489), and confidential documents or documents of a private nature passing between officers of a department and the department are not necessarily laid on the Table of the House, especially if the Minister declares that they are of a confidential nature.

In a Speaker's ruling of December 11, 1957, cited in *May*, at page 421, it was said as follows:

For the House to be able to demand that documents should be laid upon the Table, three conditions must be fulfilled.

In the first place, the Minister must have quoted from the document; it is not sufficient that he should have referred to it or even to have summarised or paraphrased it in part or in whole.

Secondly, the document must be a "dispatch or other State paper"; the rule cannot be applied to private documents.

Thirdly, the rule cannot be applied to documents which are stated by the Minister to be of such a nature that their disclosure would be inconsistent with the public interest.

I have examined the Speaker's decisions referred to in the footnotes in *May* and would point out to the Members that the following documents have been held to be not public documents and therefore not subject to the rule:

1. A transcript of a B.B.C. radio broadcast.
2. A letter from an Ambassador to his Minister.
3. A memorandum prepared by departmental staff for a Minister to assist in the answer to a question.
4. A report declared by a Minister to contain confidential material.
5. Briefs to be used by another government department marked "Confidential" circulated to heads of departments.

These examples are not exhaustive, but should serve to illustrate the nature of a confidential or private document.

The only Speaker's ruling in this Assembly, that I have found, is that of Mr. Speaker Pooley (*Speakers' Decisions*, Vol. 1, p. 86) wherein it was said "There is no rule requiring the production to the House of any private letters, memoranda, or documents which have been cited or quoted from during debate."

The general practice of this House, at least in recent years, has been less strict in that any papers or documents whether they are technically "public documents" or not, cited in debate, have been laid upon the Table when a request for tabling has been made. Whether this is to continue or not is for the House to decide.

This practice does not preclude a claim of privilege where, as May indicates, a Minister has stated that a document is of such a nature its disclosure would be "inconsistent with the public interest".

D. E. SMITH, *Speaker*

10 Mr. *Cocke* asked the Hon. the Minister of Education the following question:
What are the investment holdings of ICBC to the latest date available?

The Hon. *P. L. McGeer* replied as follows:

"On December 31, 1976, the latest date available, the investment holdings of ICBC were \$272,481,286.08 (at cost)."

And then the House adjourned at 6.06 p.m.

Tuesday, February 1, 1977

HALF-PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.

Pursuant to Order, the House resumed the adjourned debate on the amendment to 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. *W. R. Bennett* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 11.01 p.m.

Wednesday, February 2, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *J. C. Johnson*.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

By leave of the House, Mr. *King* made a statement and tabled documents relating to personnel of the Ministry of the Environment.

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

The debate continued.

Mr. *Lauk* rose on a point of order, namely, that the question on the amendment presently before the House must be put at 5.30 o'clock p.m., that hour being 30 minutes before the ordinary time of daily adjournment.

Mr. Speaker ruled that by reason of the hours fixed by Standing Orders and a previous Order of the House, the ordinary time of daily adjournment is 11 o'clock p.m., and accordingly the question must be put not later than 10.30 o'clock p.m.

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

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 8.30 o'clock p.m. today.

By leave of the House, the Hon. *W. R. Bennett* (Premier) made a statement relating to documents tabled earlier today.

By leave, Mr. *Veitch* presented the petition of Trinity Western College for leave to introduce a Private Bill intituled *An Act to Amend the Trinity Western College Act*.

On the motion of Mr. *Veitch* the Rules were suspended and the petition of Trinity Western College was received.

And then the House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.

Wednesday, February 2, 1977

HALF-PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.

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

The debate continued.

The House divided.

The amendment was negatived on the following division:

YEAS—16

Wallace, B.
Barber
Brown
Barnes

Lockstead
D'Arcy
Skelly
Sanford

Levi
Wallace, G. S.
Lauk
Nicolson

Lea
Cocke
Dailly
King

NAYS—26

<i>Veitch</i>	<i>Calder</i>	<i>Lloyd</i>	<i>Bawlf</i>
<i>Strongman</i>	<i>Fraser</i>	<i>Kahl</i>	<i>Williams</i>
<i>Mussallem</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Haddad</i>	<i>McClelland</i>
<i>Loewen</i>	<i>Chabor</i>	<i>Davidson</i>	<i>Hewitt</i>
<i>Bawtree</i>	<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Vander Zalm</i>	<i>Davis</i>
<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Phillips</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>	<i>Waterland</i>
<i>Shelford</i>	<i>McCarthy</i>		

The debate was resumed on the main motion.

The debate continued.

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

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 10.57 p.m.

Thursday, February 3, 1977

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *J. S. Clarke*.

On the motion of Mr. *Gibson*, Bill (No. M 203) intituled *An Act to Amend The Human Rights Code of British Columbia* 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 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. *A. V. Fraser* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 6 p.m.

Friday, February 4, 1977

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by the Rev. C. Barber.

The Hon. P. L. McGeer (Minister of Education) presented The State of Research and Research Funding in British Columbia report by Roger Gaudry.

By leave, the Hon. W. R. Bennett (Premier) made a statement proclaiming the week, February 6 to 12, 1977, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and tabled a telegram of congratulations.

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.

The motion was agreed to on the following division:

YEAS—27

<i>Veitch</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Lloyd</i>	<i>Bawlf</i>
<i>Rogers</i>	<i>Chabot</i>	<i>Kerster</i>	<i>Mair</i>
<i>Mussallem</i>	<i>McGeer</i>	<i>Kempf</i>	<i>Williams</i>
<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Wolfe</i>	<i>Kahl</i>	<i>McClelland</i>
<i>Jordan</i>	<i>Bennett</i>	<i>Haddad</i>	<i>Davis</i>
<i>Calder</i>	<i>Gardom</i>	<i>Davidson</i>	<i>Waterland</i>
<i>Fraser</i>	<i>Phillips</i>	<i>Nielsen</i>	

NAYS—16

<i>Wallace, B.</i>	<i>Lockstead</i>	<i>Wallace, G. S.</i>	<i>Cocke</i>
<i>Barber</i>	<i>Skelly</i>	<i>Gibson</i>	<i>Dailly</i>
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Sanford</i>	<i>Lauk</i>	<i>Stupich</i>
<i>Barnes</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>Lea</i>	<i>Macdonald</i>

Order for Committee of Supply called.

(IN THE COMMITTEE)

The Committee rose and reported progress.
Report to be considered at the next sitting.
Committee to sit again at the next sitting.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. on Monday next.

And the House adjourned at 12.55 p.m.