

JOURNALS
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SESSION 1984-85

Monday, February 13, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Right Rev. *J. T. Frame*.

This being the first day of the second 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 9th day of February 1984, 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:

I extend greetings to you all, on behalf of our Sovereign, on the opening of this Second Session of the Thirty-third Parliament of British Columbia. May I express the sincere wish that your goals and objectives and the interests of the people you represent will be met fully in the course of your service as individual members and as the Legislature of our magnificent Province.

Since we last met we have learned of the death of Arthur James Turner, Member of this Legislature for Vancouver East from 1941 to 1966. Mr. Turner, who passed away at the ripe age of ninety-five, was the first President of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and, upon his retirement, was Opposition House Leader.

Last month, our Province was honoured by the visit of the Premier of the People's Republic of China — His Excellency Zhao Ziyang. All British Columbians are excited by the vast commercial and cultural opportunities afforded by the most populous nation on earth. None are more so than the 140,000 British Columbians who trace with pride their ancestry to China. I am pleased that in May my First Minister will reciprocate Premier Zhao's visit in an effort to further expand relations between our two peoples.

Last September, my First Minister hosted the Annual Meeting of the Heads of Government of Yukon, Alaska, and British Columbia. Today, the Governor of our

neighbour to the south — The Honourable John Spellman — will visit British Columbia. And, in May, British Columbia will host the Annual Meeting of the Western Premiers. These forums provide a useful opportunity for discussion of matters of mutual interest to those who live in the West.

Plans are now underway for the visit to British Columbia in 1984 of His Holiness — Pope John Paul II. This will be an event of significance not only to British Columbians of the Catholic faith, but to all people in our Province.

In the past three years — buffeted by a global and national tide of recession — our fundamental priorities and character as a people have been severely tested. Difficulties rose and confidence fell. British Columbians have had to redefine who we are and what we can expect. My Government has had to count every dollar and to make every dollar count.

The problems we have been confronting are not the work of one person or of one generation. They are of world-wide scope and long-standing origin. The tendency of government to grow, of taxes to increase, and of regulations to expand is being grappled with all across this land, on several continents, and by governments of diverse political orientation.

British Columbians have met the challenge, have overcome the most serious obstacles and, in a spirit of cautious optimism, face the future with a renewed sense of confidence and purpose.

British Columbians have made progress in getting our house in order. Hope is around and confidence about.

Through my Government's actions, the public sector now has available the necessary tools to restrain spending and minimize to the extent possible the burden on taxpayers. The tendency of government to grow is being reversed and opportunities for those working in the private sector are being expanded.

British Columbians have managed to preserve the most essential services, and can now venture abroad with a conviction that we have done what is right by affirming principle rather than yielding to pressure.

Having come through the worst of times, my Government's Restraint program has set in motion and put in place the fundamentals that through hard effort will permit a return to the best of times. I am advised that over the past two years the rate of inflation in British Columbia has been reduced from 14.3 per cent to 5.5 per cent. In the course of 1983, gains in production were realized for the first time since 1981. Nearly 14,000 new businesses were established in British Columbia. And, by the end of the year, the number of persons employed in our Province was 2.1 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Though much has been accomplished, much remains to be achieved. Too many of our people are still without employment. Interest rates and mortgage rates are still too high — kept high by massive government deficits in North America. All Canadians are paying the hidden tax of excessive interest rates. Interest rates must be lowered if our recovery is to work. My Government believes that expanded international trade and private sector investment are the key elements in fostering new hope for the unemployed.

My Government is providing leadership in restraint to governments across Canada. Members of this Assembly will be asked to approve a budget for the next fiscal year that will demonstrate clearly the results that have been achieved by the stringent application of restraint since 1982.

My Minister of Finance has been assisted in his efforts by extensive consultation with interested parties. Although the process of adjustment has not always been easy,

most British Columbians are prepared to work together and share in pursuit of restraint and recovery. My Government will continue to pursue measures that maintain our financial integrity and enable us to maintain essential services even in times of recession and depressed government revenues.

My Government reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the Compensation Stabilization Program. I am advised that progress continues to be made in moderating public sector wages fairly and equitably. Settlements in the British Columbia public sector are now substantially below those in other Provinces and at the Federal level. The scope for productivity bargaining has been expanded significantly. Our ability to maintain essential services in health and education has been enhanced. And, in contrast to other jurisdictions, collective bargaining continues to operate in the public sector of British Columbia, with all settlements to date having been achieved through the voluntary guidelines.

My Government is concerned over growing indications that the federal government intends to abandon its commitment to public sector wage restraint. While collective bargaining rights should be restored, wage restraint must continue. Furthermore, my Government would urge Ottawa to take steps to reduce staffing levels that actually increased during the recession.

I am advised that significant progress has been achieved in reducing the size of Government — including the number of persons employed in the public service. Organizations have been streamlined and certain functions transferred to the private sector. My Government will continue to search for new ways to achieve economies and efficiencies for the taxpaying public.

To improve the productivity and decrease the overall size and cost of personnel services, my Government is amalgamating the Government Employee Relations Bureau and the Public Service Commission and reducing the number of staff in the personnel departments of all ministries. This restructuring will be a significant step toward our objective of a leaner more responsive public service.

My Government last year achieved an important settlement with its principal union, the BCGEU. This agreement provides a negotiated layoff, recall and termination procedure to achieve reductions in the public service and allows the provincial government to hold the line on payroll costs over the next two years, a crucial period in British Columbia's recovery.

I am advised that many of those in the private sector — the employers and employees who create the wealth in our Province — have demonstrated a new realism through the process of collective bargaining. Most importantly, the partners in enterprise have demonstrated a growing recognition that, whatever their differences, the common interest in productive, competitive, and profitable operations must predominate if employment is to be preserved and new jobs created.

My Government will emphasize economic recovery in 1984 within a context of continuing restraint. I am advised that North American economic growth is likely to continue, and that growth in the Pacific Rim and in Western Europe will strengthen somewhat. Accordingly, British Columbia can expect to achieve accelerated recovery and continuing improvement in labour market conditions.

Nevertheless, I am advised the world economic situation remains uncertain — because of international debt problems, high interest rates caused by massive deficits and the still-too-weak recovery outside of North America. As a Province that is critically dependent on trade and exports for its economic health, we must continue to affirm the

need for our industries to remain competitive — particularly in light of the weak international recovery.

The vitality of British Columbia's economy is directly and inextricably linked to its ability to export goods and services. Over the past twenty years, Canada's exports have increased from a fifth of its output to almost a third. British Columbia's share has consistently been double that of the national average.

By 1982 our exports were more than triple those of ten years earlier. As we enter 1984, I am advised there is substantial evidence that exports and international trade will lead the economic recovery currently underway.

Historically the United States has been our largest trading partner, but in recent years we have diversified our economy as Japan and other non-traditional markets have become increasingly important.

Our future prospects are immeasurably improved by our favourable location on the eastern edge of the Pacific Basin. While our American friends are still paramount in importance, I am advised our reliance on them has decreased dramatically in the last ten years. In their place British Columbia has sold ever-increasing amounts of pulp, minerals and manufactured goods to Japan and the European Economic Community and to developing countries around the world.

Since 1980, my Government has actively been pursuing the prospect of establishing one or more "duty free zones" in our Province. At present, these zones are established in seventy-seven countries; there are eight Foreign Trade Zones and four Special Purpose Subzones on the west coast of the United States alone. Duty free zones could increase trade flows and foreign investment, and enhance British Columbia activities in manufacturing, assembly, distribution and finance. Major opportunities exist for expansion of deep-seaport capacity in conjunction with duty free zones. My Government welcomes the federal government's recent indication in its Throne Speech of a more positive attitude to such zones, and intends to renew its attempts to have Ottawa give approval to specific locations in our Province.

My Government will conduct a thorough review of the impact of tax legislation on economic development, and will consider innovative vehicles for stimulating investment in job-creating activities in large and small business. My Government will also establish joint task forces with the private sector — management and labour — to seek out new opportunities in finance, manufacture, assembly and other areas that build on our natural advantages.

My Government recognizes that for British Columbia — with its relatively small domestic market — export trade and foreign investment tied to new markets are essential to economic well-being. Governments around the world are becoming increasingly involved in promoting the sale of their goods and services in the international arena. To maintain and strengthen British Columbia's share of world markets, my Government will spearhead an expanded trade program targeted at the major developed and developing countries. My Ministers will lead specific trade missions to the United States, Japan and Korea, Western Europe, the ASEAN countries, China and Latin America. Their task will be the building of harmonious long-term relationships that will ultimately lead to increased jobs, business opportunities and prosperity not only for British Columbians but for all Canadians.

My Government will sponsor missions that include private sector representatives to follow up specific opportunities in these areas as well as to India, Australia, New Zealand and other parts of Canada. My Government will emphasize programs that assist British

Columbia companies to attend trade fairs, undertake market development trips, upgrade their products or processes and sponsor visits by foreign buyers.

A key part of the Government's strategy to build export markets will involve participation in the new Asia-Pacific Foundation to be located in Vancouver. My Government has strongly supported the concept of such a centre from the beginning. Broadening our relationship to include educational, scientific and cultural exchange is essential if we are to maximize our trade with the fastest growing region of the world. As a practical demonstration of our commitment to this institution, my Government will contribute financially towards the centre over the next several years.

The pace of international activities will hasten as British Columbia moves closer to its meeting with the world . . . and as the world moves closer to its meeting with British Columbia. I refer of course to Expo 86 — our Province's international exposition of transportation and communication. British Columbia will be celebrating the centenary of the trans-continental railway's completion — and no theme can be a more fitting symbol of our past and of our future.

By sponsoring Expo 86, my Government believes Canadian unity will be strengthened. Several provinces will participate in the exposition. And the Federal Government's contribution to Expo — the Canada Place pavilion — will later be converted by Ottawa into a trade and convention centre and cruise ship facility.

Members of this House and all British Columbians can look forward with pleasure and anticipation to 1986 when my Government will host the world. The spectacular pavilions and other exciting events will attract about fifteen million visitors to view international, provincial and corporate exhibits — all displaying their contributions to transportation and communications over the ages.

British Columbia will also be the venue for a series of special events and attractions appealing to experts and enthusiasts alike, ranging from space technology, to the golden age of steam locomotion, to the performing arts.

Expo will provide a tremendous stimulus to our economy and will result in over 50,000 person-years of direct employment in British Columbia alone. The construction industry will receive a much needed boost, as will the tourism and industrial sectors, as visitors from around the world come to know people throughout this Province and their industry.

By opening British Columbia's doors to the world, Expo 86 will prove to be of lasting significance to our people and economy. It will be an opportunity to attract investment and new technology. My Government is undertaking this project to demonstrate that British Columbia is a good place to invest and create jobs, and that British Columbia is a reliable trading partner. The eyes of the world will be on British Columbia, and our people will be called upon to demonstrate that we can work together and deliver a product on time.

All British Columbians will be proud to learn that the largest resource development project in Canadian history, the development of the massive North East Coal fields, progressed to the operating stage in 1983. The work on this enormous project has proceeded on schedule and on budget, with the first deliveries of coal loaded aboard ships bound for Japan in January of this year. This project stimulated tremendous economic activity during the recession. It provided more than six thousand direct construction jobs in 1983, representing over twelve per cent of the Province's construction workforce. I am advised the project will result in over three thousand permanent direct jobs.

This world-scale endeavour is a brilliant testimonial to productivity and private and public sector co-operation and performance. Through the multi-product port at Ridley Island, it has provided British Columbia and Canada a second route to the Pacific Rim. The North East Coal and Transportation Project will provide a permanent legacy to future generations of British Columbians.

It is also my pleasure to advise Members that new coal mines in the southeastern region of our Province have begun shipments of metallurgical coal to the steel industry in Far Eastern and Scandinavian countries. British Columbia will continue actively to market coal from all regions of the Province. My Government is pleased that the federal government has brought about changes to the Crow's Nest Pass freight rates — changes that British Columbia has sought for many years. With the removal of rates that discriminate against our commodities, British Columbia can be assured of many additional construction jobs and an adequate transportation system in the future. My Government is pleased that tunneling contracts have already been announced in the southeastern part of the Province.

As our economy emerges from the depths of the recession, the private sector has emerged as the fundamental underpinning of a healthy and resurgent economy. I am pleased to report that the Toyota Motor Corporation began construction in 1983 of an aluminum alloy wheel manufacturing plant that will employ initially one hundred people. The plant will manufacture in British Columbia products for the international market which, given our Province's relatively small population, must be our target if we are to diversify our economy. With the increasing scale of Japanese auto operations south of the border, major opportunities exist for British Columbia to expand its involvement in this sector.

I am advised that proceeds of the Housing and Employment Development Bonds are helping put British Columbians back to work. Through the LIFT initiatives, more than seventy million dollars has been committed to over five hundred manufacturing, processing and high technology projects. This has been accompanied by small business investments of about sixty-six million dollars. Through this vehicle my Government and the private sector have preserved over three thousand jobs, and created almost five thousand new, permanent jobs.

The Business Information Centres operated by local Chambers of Commerce in over seventy communities around the Province continue to provide a valuable service to small businesses that do not have ready, direct access to Government services. In 1983 the BIC's assisted over thirty thousand potential or existing entrepreneurs.

My Government will continue its commitment to create an attractive investment climate for the private sector, and to support business and industrial job creation opportunities. A co-ordinated strategy has been developed to market available serviced industrial land, thus encouraging economic development at the local level.

The small business sector, the backbone of the Province's economy, will continue to be assisted through a variety of information, advisory and advocacy services — including the Business Information Centre program which will be modified and enhanced in response to the needs of small business.

To encourage the entrepreneurial spirit among our younger citizens, my Government will support enterprising students who create their own summer jobs. My Ministers will seek to find new ways to facilitate the flow of private risk capital, both foreign and domestic, to sectors that have the potential to thrive, grow and create new employment opportunities.

Employment in British Columbia's third largest resource industry — agriculture — remained strong through 1983. The food sector now employs sixty-two thousand persons distributed throughout all of the regions of the Province.

My Minister of Agriculture and Food visited key agricultural areas of Europe and Great Britain last year. My Government intends to provide encouragement and assistance to enable the agricultural industry to utilize advanced technology in both production and marketing of agricultural products. A replacement program for the expiring Federal/Provincial Agricultural and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement will be negotiated.

Several major initiatives are being pursued to improve the currently depressed markets for British Columbia's natural gas.

My Government is in the process of restructuring the industry's institutional and financial framework, in order to encourage a healthy industry which can create and take full advantage of future market opportunities.

My Government continues to support the proposed Western LNG project which will export liquefied natural gas to Japan. The way is now clear for project sponsors to enter into direct contractual arrangements with gas producers. While my Government will make every effort in conjunction with Japanese and Canadian interests to move the project ahead, the support of the Governments of Alberta and Canada will also have to be forthcoming if the project is to proceed.

An interim natural gas export pricing regime developed in consultation with the Alberta and Federal Governments and industry has contributed to slowing the erosion of gas export sales. British Columbia is continuing to work with these parties to explore alternative pricing options for the future, to increase export sales and expand Provincial and producer revenues from this important resource.

My Government remains committed to the Vancouver Island natural gas pipeline. Terms of Reference have been set and Commissioners appointed to evaluate proposals. Public hearings are in process and the report of the hearing panel is expected later this year. Federal funding — as announced in the National Energy Program and as already undertaken in Quebec and the Maritimes — will be necessary if this project is to proceed.

Federal/Provincial public hearings concerning the environmental impact of petroleum exploration drilling in offshore areas will be held during this session.

My Government has examined various methods of increasing B.C. Hydro's sales so as to reduce surpluses, increase revenue, and minimize rate increases to British Columbia customers. My Government has now approved long-term firm electricity exports by B.C. Hydro. Other measures such as industrial price discounts and private power developments that create jobs have either been implemented or are under review.

Despite the generally depressed conditions in world metal markets, I am advised that over 100,000 mineral claim units were recorded in British Columbia in 1983. This all-time record demonstrates a confidence felt by the British Columbia mining industry in its future. I am further advised that 1984 is expected to be another year of vigorous mineral exploration activity in the Province.

In keeping with my Government's long-standing commitment to encourage new mine development, additional steps will be taken this year to eliminate regulatory roadblocks. The approvals process for mine development will be streamlined by reducing the number of agencies involved.

Late last year, my Government completed studies on the development potential of the northwest, which identified major mineral resource potential in the region par-

ticularly for base metals and coal. My Government has indicated it is prepared to respond to the need for infrastructure in this region when the private sector comes forward with specific development proposals.

During this "Year of Tourism" efforts will be concentrated on encouraging more Canadians, particularly the Province's residents, to vacation in British Columbia. This can be achieved by our hospitality sector offering superior service and by making our transportation, accommodation and food costs more attractive relative to our major competitors south of the border.

The Los Angeles Olympics will be a major competitor this year in all our major markets and my Government is undertaking an aggressive advertising campaign to encourage those attending the Olympics to vacation in British Columbia after the Games.

Despite the recession in our markets, the resulting decline in business travel, the shrinkage of the expense account market, the drop in consumer spending, and the bad weather during June and July, tourism in British Columbia fared better than in 1982. It recorded increases in trips and tourism revenues generated. During 1983, the most difficult year in recent decades, tourism proved its resilience and its role as an economic stabilizer by recording an increase in employment.

Progress has been made in transferring Government functions to the private sector. My Government will complete the privatization of the Cypress Bowl Ski Area, the Manning Park Lodge and the Gibson Ski Area during the coming year. Other potential areas for privatization are still under study. My Government will be announcing additional initiatives in the future.

An increased number of housing starts is anticipated for 1984 and 1985. These will be aided by serviced parcels of Crown land which will be marketed for residential development by the private sector.

In the social housing field there will be special emphasis upon housing for the disabled — including assistance for disabled people leaving institutions for community living.

My Government will introduce new legislation to achieve a better balance between the interests of tenants and landlords as well as an expeditious process of dispute resolution.

My Government recognizes the dominant influence of world markets for forest products on the Provincial economy. Markets for the products produced by the forest industry improved in 1983, after two extraordinarily difficult years. B.C.'s industry suffered unprecedented financial losses in 1982 — losses that resulted in plant closures and widespread layoffs. That experience underscores the importance of the forest industry to the Province's economic well-being.

For lumber producers — especially those in the interior — the recovery of the key U.S. residential construction industry has resulted in increased sales and somewhat better prices. U.S. housing starts in 1983 are estimated to have been 1.7 million, compared to about 1.1 million in both 1981 and 1982. While interior producers now operate at or near full levels, coastal producers have unutilized capacity and await improvements in the Japanese and European markets.

Pulp and paper markets have also strengthened recently. Producers are experiencing firmer prices and will benefit as markets improve in the coming years. Positive industrial relations are essential if these benefits are not to be lost.

My Government recognizes the importance of a strong, competitive forest industry and the necessity for forest management to provide for the future. A record 105 million

trees were planted in B.C. in 1982-83 — marking the first year ever that over 100 million trees have been planted. Consistent with my Government's confidence in the ability of the private sector to carry out a greater share of activities that have been undertaken by the public sector in the past, the Ministry of Forests will be pursuing new initiatives to permit redistribution of forestry functions to the industry.

My Government will continue to work towards reducing driving hazards through enforcement of regulations and legislative initiatives. Special attention will continue to be given to the problem of drunk drivers.

Construction of the major crossing of the Fraser River at Annacis Island will be continued. Projects to be completed during 1984 include first-ever bridge crossings over the Fort Nelson River on the Liard Highway, the North Thompson River at Kamloops and the Nass River at Greenville.

New projects throughout the Province will include vital bridge replacements, repaving and reconstruction of sections of important highways, and the construction of debris catchment basins on Highway 99.

Protection of the environment continues to be an integral part of my Government's program. Construction of a special wastes treatment facility and development of a secure landfill to deal with wastes that require special disposal techniques will be underway this fiscal year. The critical problem of solid waste disposal in the lower mainland has also been recognized and my Government has taken a lead role in co-operation with local authorities to develop a plan to be implemented in the next two years.

The Habitat Conservation Fund is now fully operational providing an opportunity for sportsmen through a surcharge on licences and others through direct contributions to play a direct role in habitat protection and enhancement of our fishery and wildlife resources.

My Ministry of Environment under an agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada will be studying potential wetlands for enhancement of waterfowl. The non-profit organization is committed to spending \$25 million on enhancement projects over the next five years. This will be undertaken in co-operation with other resource users including agricultural interests.

The protection from flooding of the Skagit Valley in British Columbia has been a long-standing concern of my Government. I am pleased to report to this House that over the past year, intensive negotiations toward a mutually satisfactory settlement have borne fruit. My Minister of Environment will be authorized to enter into agreements with the City of Seattle and Canada to preserve the Skagit Valley from flooding. A Treaty between Canada and the U.S.A. is anticipated this year to conclude the non-flooding agreement.

Positive industrial relations are a key element of British Columbia's economic future. My Government has been conducting in the past year an exhaustive review of labour legislation. A Committee of independent experts will provide on-going advice to my Minister of Labour. My Government wishes to ensure that the parties involved in industrial relations and British Columbia's economic development are served by new approaches to industrial relations to be pursued this Session.

British Columbia is entering a new era in Human Rights where a greater emphasis will be placed on individual responsibility for eliminating discrimination. The Government will be introducing legislation supporting this fundamental principle. The legislation will reflect extensive consultation and recognize concerns voiced by experts and citizens alike. Human Rights is a responsibility we all share.

My Government is concerned that appeals of Workers' Compensation Board awards are not being handled in a timely and judicious manner. It is the Government's desire to eliminate the existing backlog of appeals awaiting hearing and remove this injustice to injured workers.

The financial policies of the Workers' Compensation Board and the Board's accumulated unfunded liability are matters which from the view of Government, labour and management require attention.

My Government — through its Restraint program — has managed to preserve the integrity of our most essential service — health care.

All British Columbians — be they in the dawn or the sunset of life — can rightly take pride and feel confidence in the first class quality of health care provided in our Province. Health is, and will continue to be, the number one priority of my Government. It accounts for nearly one-third of our Provincial budget — the highest proportion of any Province in Canada.

The coming year is one of new challenges to our health system. A partnership among those who work in the system in the interest of greater efficiency is absolutely required. To this end, unnecessary duplication will be eliminated and the commitment of medical practitioners towards restraint will be encouraged. The co-operation of those who must use the system is absolutely essential if we are to benefit fully.

Recent legislative initiatives of the Federal Government threaten the quality of health care provided to British Columbians. It is restricting the financial options available to Provinces and, at the same time, reducing its own contribution to what is the largest single item of Provincial spending. My Government believes that Federal-Provincial co-operation in a spirit of sharing is essential if our health services are to be preserved. To this end, my Government will put forward concrete proposals and new legislation to improve our health system.

My Government continues to believe that quality education must be the number one priority of our school system. Children are our greatest hope for the future. We must promote excellence and prepare our young people to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

My Government does not believe that throwing money at problems is the way to enhance quality education. Excessive salary increases and inflated payroll costs detract from quality by competing for scarce dollars available to fund education. My Government believes education is for children, and that investments in education should be directed towards acquiring skills and knowledge that will serve them well in the future.

Educational standards and basic values must be re-affirmed. Discipline must be restored, professionalism stressed and challenging situations promoted. Without challenge, there is no achievement. Without standards, there is no excellence.

Accordingly, final examinations for all Grade 12 students in the Province have been re-introduced. In the coming year, Grade 11 students will be required to write examinations as well.

With the need for British Columbians to become even more competitive in meeting technological change, discussions are proceeding with a view to introducing more challenge to the secondary school curriculum, including increased mathematics and science requirements for all students. Wide distribution of discussion papers regarding curriculum and graduation requirements will invite full participation from all interested sectors.

My Government will consult with interested groups in preparing a revised *School Act*. A re-ordering of responsibilities in education to enhance decision-making at the local level will be proposed.

My Government will continue to direct our colleges and Provincial institutes towards programs and courses which both meet and anticipate the needs of all sectors of business and industry. Private trades training will be encouraged where possible.

British Columbia's ninety recreation and sport associations will be given more scope to set their own performance targets as they assist my Government in stimulating widespread participation in sport and fitness activities and in developing athletic talent.

Special focus will be placed on encouraging volunteers to play an even greater role in the development of sport, while on the playing field, my Government will be reviewing ways of ensuring that the principles of fair play and safety prevail.

The B.C. Games have now been successfully undertaken six consecutive years. During this time, thirty-three thousand athletes have participated in competition. The private sector now provides about thirty per cent of the funding, and volunteers in the communities throughout the Province provide the backbone for the Games. For example, 3,600 volunteers participated in the 1983 Summer Games in Maple Ridge.

This March, the 1984 B.C. Winter Games will bring more than 2,200 young athletes to Fort St. John to excel in an atmosphere of friendly competition. More than two thousand volunteers will make the Games possible. In July, the Summer Games will be held in Burnaby. Together, more than 250,000 athletes will have participated in the playdowns for the Winter and Summer Games. Planning has already begun for the 1985 Winter Games in Osoyoos.

Even in difficult times we cannot forget the role of artists and artisans in enriching the quality of our lives. In the arts, 1984 will be a banner year, as more than 1,500 artists in music, dance, theatre and fine art converge on Penticton for the B.C. Festival of the Arts. This festival will give tomorrow's professional artists an invaluable opportunity to learn and develop through top-level competitions and adjudication, master classes and performances. In addition, it will give them a chance to mix with artists of other disciplines to exchange ideas and to share their common devotion to art.

Members of this Assembly are acutely aware of the need for reform of the legislative process. All Members share in this responsibility, and the public will benefit immensely. British Columbians share an overwhelming interest in expeditious, relevant and dignified Parliamentary proceedings. Accordingly, my Government will place high priority on achieving legislative reform.

A second First Ministers' Conference on native rights will be held in Ottawa in mid-March of this year, in accordance with a Resolution enacted by this Legislature in October. My Government will continue to take an active role in representing British Columbia interests at these conferences.

As early as 1978 British Columbia put forward a comprehensive set of proposals to reform the central institutions of our federation, including the Senate. Other Governments — most notably those of Ontario, Alberta and Canada — are now pursuing this objective. My Government will continue to press for major changes to the Senate so as to make this body more responsive to the regional needs of British Columbia and indeed to all parts of Canada. Moreover, representation from this Province on many of the major boards and commissions of the Country continues to be insufficient and my Government will continue to seek to redress this imbalance.

In its relations with other governments, my Government will continue to play a constructive role, co-operating in the interests of the people of British Columbia with the Federal Government and with other Provincial Governments. In the defence of those interests with respect to particular issues, such as the effective management of the national health system, my Government will not hesitate to speak up for British Columbians in a forthright manner.

My Government will continue to examine the *Municipal Act*, with the intention of further streamlining and reducing the regulatory features of land use legislation.

The operational review of Regional Districts, initiated by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, will be continued. Implementation of the recommendations will be pursued where it is in the public interest.

Honourable Members, you now begin a most important and demanding Session. Our people are beginning to sense a new confidence, but much yet remains to be achieved. But our people have shown they are strong, and our people have shown they are energetic. I pray that in carrying out your duties, you will reflect fully on the effect of your decisions on the people of our Province and Country.

Through the continued leadership of my Ministers and through the efforts of this Assembly, you must strive to build a stronger British Columbia.

May Divine Providence attend your deliberations.

In our Sovereign's name 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. *G. B. Gardom*, on behalf of the Hon. *B. R. D. Smith*, Bill (No. 1) intitled *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. *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. *J. R. Chabot*, 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* moved—

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;
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 Orders 68 (1) and 72A (1), and by leave the Committee to be composed of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the Hon. *H. W. Schroeder*, Messrs. *Ree*, *Segarty* and *Veitch* and Messrs. *Howard*, *Cocke* and *Hanson*.

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*, it was *Ordered*—

That on each Tuesday and Thursday of this Session there shall be two distinct sittings: one from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and one from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.; and on each Monday and Wednesday one sitting from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and on each Friday there will be one sitting from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., unless otherwise ordered.

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.

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

And then the House adjourned at 2.55 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *D. A. Smith*.

By leave of the House, the Hon. John Spellman, Governor of the State of Washington, addressed the Assembly.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. *Mowat* moved, seconded by Mr. *Reid*—

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.

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

And then the House adjourned at 4.06 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Mr. Speaker.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) tabled the Statement of Unclaimed Money Deposits for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1983, pursuant to the *Unclaimed Money Act*, R.S.B.C. 1979.

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. *Skelly* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Lauk*—

But this House regrets that the Speech of His Honour fails to recognize that policies of the Government have resulted in economic stagnation, and, further, fails to provide proposals for strengthening our economy and enhancing the standard and qualities of life of all our people.

The debate on the amendment continued.

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

On the motion of the Hon. *H. W. Schroeder*, the House adjourned at 11.53 a.m.

Wednesday, February 15, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mrs. *Wallace* rose on a point of order relating to question period.

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

Mr. *Hanson* asked leave, pursuant to Standing Order 35, to move adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, damage to the St. Mungo Indian Village site in the Vancouver area.

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

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 on the amendment continued.

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

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved opinion as follows:

Honourable Members:

Earlier today the Honourable First Member for Victoria sought leave to move adjournment of the House, pursuant to Standing Order 35, to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, damage to the St. Mungo Indian Village site in the Vancouver area.

The House is currently embarked on the consideration of the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the Session, and Order of the Day which was provided a priority position by order of the House on the opening day of the Session and which provides a wide scope of debate. Where an ordinary parliamentary opportunity for debate is available, the application under Standing Order 35 fails.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved decision as follows:

Honourable Members:

At the afternoon sitting today, at the conclusion of question period, the Honourable Member for Cowichan-Malahat rose on a point of order relating to question period, namely, answers given by Ministers to questions which had not been taken on notice.

I have examined the "Blues" relating to the question period on February 14 and find that while the Minister of Transportation and Highways did not appear to take the related questions on notice, the Provincial Secretary and Minister of Government Services, on two occasions, stated that he would "take the question under consideration."

It may be a matter of opinion as to whether or not the Honourable Provincial Secretary and Minister of Government Services was intending to advise the House he was taking the question on notice, but, in any event, it should be clearly stated that unless a Minister has taken a question on notice on an earlier occasion he has no status to answer questions in question period.

There is no uncertainty in this House about the right of a Minister to make a ministerial statement at any time outside question period.

The point has been made that questions taken on notice may, at the Minister's discretion, be answered during question period, or, if the answer is inordinately long or complex, leave may be sought by the Minister to answer the question outside the question period.

The Chair must emphasize, however, that it is at the discretion of the Minister and not the questioner as to when the question should be answered.

Honourable Members have also probably observed themselves that the tone of the question often dictates the style of the answer.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 5.58 p.m.

Thursday, February 16, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Major *A. Swan*.

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 on the amendment continued.

On the motion of the Hon. *P. L. McGeer*, the debate on the amendment was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the House adjourned at 11.57 a.m.

Thursday, February 16, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *K. W. Davidson* (Speaker) tabled the Special Report No. 7 of the Ombudsman (The Shoal Island Case).

Mr. Speaker stated that, with the general assent of the House, the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor would be concluded on Friday next.

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 on the amendment continued.

The House divided.

The amendment was negated on the following division:

YEAS—18

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Blencoe</i> | <i>Lockstead</i> | <i>Sanford</i> | <i>Dailly</i> |
| | <i>Hanson</i> | <i>Nicolson</i> | |
| <i>Passarell</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Lauk</i> | <i>Howard</i> |
| <i>Mitchell</i> | <i>D'Arcy</i> | | <i>Barrett</i> |
| <i>Wallace</i> | | <i>Stupich</i> | <i>Macdonald</i> |
| <i>Barnes</i> | <i>Gabelmann</i> | | |

NAYS—29

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

The debate was resumed on the main motion.

On the motion of Mrs. *Wallace*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

By leave, Mr. *Skelly* made a statement.

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 1982/83.

On the motion of the Hon. J. A. *Nielsen*, the House adjourned at 5.59 p.m.

Friday, February 17, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Rev. C. Barner.

Mr. Skelly asked leave, pursuant to Standing Order 35, to move adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, a matter arising out of the Ombudsman's Special Report No. 7, referred to as The Shoal Island Case.

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.

Motion agreed to on the following division:

YEAS—25

| | | | |
|----------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Reid | Fraser, A. V. | Chabot | Richmond |
| Reynolds | McGeer | Strachan | Hewitt |
| Veitch | | Campbell | |
| Segarty | Curtis | Fraser, R. G. | |
| Ree | | Johnston | Schroeder |
| Mowat | Gardom | Pelton | |
| Kempf | Nielsen | Michael | |
| | McCarthy | Ritchie | Waterland |

NAYS—13

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Blencoe | | Sanford | Dailly |
| | Hanson | | |
| | Brown | | |
| Mitchell | | | Barrett |
| Wallace | Skelly | Stupich | Macdonald |
| Barnes | Gabelmann | | |

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved opinion as follows:

Honourable Members:

At the opening of this morning's sitting, the Honourable Member for Alberni rose, under the provisions of Standing Order 35, to request leave to move adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, a matter arising out of the Ombudsman's Special Report No. 7, referred to as The Shoal Island Case.

Let me say initially that the Member's application must fail as we are presently engaged in the Throne debate.

The Chair also points out to Honourable Members that there has been a long-established rule of this House that a Member must not employ the vehicle of a point of order, a matter of privilege, or a motion under Standing Order 35, to use unparliamentary

language or to attribute improper motives to another Honourable Member. An examination of the written statement of the Member for Alberni shows clearly he has offended this latter rule.

Several points of order were raised by various Members and the Chair thanks those Members for their interesting observations.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

On the motion of the Hon. *H. A. Curtis*, it was *Ordered*—

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

On the motion of the Hon. *H. A. Curtis*, 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.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 12.54 p.m.

Monday, February 20, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *R. F. Shepherd*.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. Speaker declared a short recess.

Order for Committee of Supply called.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* (Minister of Finance) presented the Public Accounts of British Columbia for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1983.

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

That the Public Accounts for the fiscal year 1982/83 be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economic Affairs.

Mr. *Skelly* moved in amendment—

By deleting the word "year" and substituting therefore the following: "years 1981/82 and".

A debate arose.

The House divided.

The amendment was negated on the following division:

YEAS—18

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Blencoe</i> | <i>Lockstead</i> | | <i>Dailly</i> |
| | <i>Hanson</i> | | <i>Cocke</i> |
| <i>Passarell</i> | <i>Brown</i> | | <i>Howard</i> |
| <i>Mitchell</i> | <i>D'Arcy</i> | <i>Lea</i> | <i>Barrett</i> |
| <i>Wallace</i> | <i>Skelly</i> | <i>Stupich</i> | <i>Macdonald</i> |
| <i>Barnes</i> | <i>Gabelmann</i> | | |

NAYS—32

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

Motion agreed to.

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

The Comptroller General's Interim Financial Statement for the nine months ended December 31, 1983.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* 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, 1985;

and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 20, 1984.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* 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.

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

Mr. Speaker declared a short recess.

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* 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. 2) intituled *Income Tax (Health Care Maintenance) Amendment Act, 1984* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 20, 1984.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* 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 *Hotel Room Tax Amendment Act, 1984* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 20, 1984.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* 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 *Home Owner Grant Amendment Act, 1984* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 20, 1984.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* 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 *University of Victoria Special Appropriation Act, 1984* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 20, 1984.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* 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 *Resource Revenue Stabilization Fund Act* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 20, 1984.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* 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, 1984* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 20, 1984.

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

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 4.55 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *A. K. Young*.

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. *Stupich*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 11.59 a.m.

Tuesday, February 21, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

The Hon. *B. R. D. Smith* (Attorney General) made a statement relating to Special Report No. 7 of the Ombudsman and tabled copies of correspondence relating to same.

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 Mrs. *Dailly*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *H. M. Hunter*.

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

Mr. Speaker tabled an addendum to the Special Report No. 7 of the Ombudsman.

The Hon. *T. M. Waterland* (Minister of Forests) made a ministerial statement and tabled a letter dated February 22, 1984 from the Ombudsman to the Hon. *T. M. Waterland*.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 5.52 p.m.

Thursday, February 23, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Pastor *R. Wilson*.

Mr. *Howard* rose on a matter of privilege relating to documents issued by the Minister of Finance relating to budget measures.

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

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. *Passarell*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 11.53 a.m.

Thursday, February 23, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. *Parks* rose on a matter of privilege relating to an alleged attempt by the Ombudsman to mislead the House.

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

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved decision as follows:

Honourable Members:

Earlier today the Honourable Member for Skeena rose on what he alleged was a question of privilege.

The Member complained of the circulation of a document by the Minister of Finance and the Member took issue with the content of the document. Differences between members over fact arise frequently and are the subject of debate. However, differences of opinion or any dispute over facts do not in any way impede or interfere with any member to discharge his responsibility in this House. It is to be expected that there will be dispute over facts, but that does not in any way constitute a matter of privilege. Further, the matter

complained of is in a document that is not before this House and, as such, has no status except in debate. I would refer Honourable Members to Citation 19 in the 5th Edition of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, and page 70 of the 20th Edition of May.

The House is presently engaged in a general debate about the budget, and the Member may wish to raise his grievance in that discussion. In short, I can find nothing raised in the matter by the Honourable Member for Skeena which would constitute, even remotely, a valid question of privilege.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

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. *Gabelmann* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Cocke*—

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 the Minister of Finance, by his failure to even mention much less address the most obvious problem of record unemployment, has denied many of our citizens the right to participate in our society and has thereby condemned them to a life of subsistence."

The debate on the amendment continued.

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

The Hon. *T. M. Waterland* (Minister of Forests) tabled the Five-Year Forest and Range Resource Program, 1983–1988 and the Five-Year Forest and Range Resource Program, 1984–1989.

On the motion of the Hon. *T. M. Waterland*, the House adjourned at 5.54 p.m.

Friday, February 24, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Major *K. D. Benner*.

Mr. Speaker tabled the report of the Legislative Library's activities for the year 1983.

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 on the amendment continued.

On the motion of the Hon. *C. H. Richmond*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved decision as follows:

Honourable Members:

At the afternoon sitting yesterday, the Honourable Member for Maillardville-Coquitlam rose on a matter of privilege relating to the Office of Ombudsman.

I have examined the "Blues" and as I understand it, the Honourable Member has suggested that the Ombudsman has attempted to mislead the House and in support of this allegation he quotes a press report which attributes certain words to the Ombudsman.

It has been stated many times in this House that a charge of breach of privilege or contempt is a serious matter and should only be embarked upon by an Honourable Member after the most careful consideration. There may be, in some cases, legitimate matters of privilege which can never be dealt with by this Legislature by virtue of the fact that a member raising the matter failed to observe the traditional and necessary forms.

In this instance the Chair is unable to comment on the substance of the Honourable Member's matter of privilege for two obvious reasons: one, he has failed to table a copy of the offending article, which is a basic requirement, and secondly, the Honourable Member has also failed to present the Chair with a copy of the motion he would propose to move should a *prima facie* matter of privilege be found to exist. I refer all Honourable Members to two decisions of this House dealing with the same issues and recorded in the 1982 Journals, pages 142 and 174, and therefore the motion must fail.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

On the motion of the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the House adjourned at 12.45 p.m.

Monday, February 27, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Captain *H. Moore*.

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 on the amendment continued.

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

On the motion of the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the House adjourned at 5.56 p.m.

Tuesday, February 28, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by Father *D. W. Widdicombe*.

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 on the amendment continued.

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

On the motion of the Hon. *H. W. Schroeder*, the House adjourned at 11.55 a.m.

Tuesday, February 28, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

The Hon. *R. H. McClelland* (Minister of Labour) tabled the Labour Relations Board of B.C. Annual Report, 1983.

By leave, Mr. *Blencoe* tabled copies of Notices of Rent Increase referred to during question period.

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 on the amendment continued.

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

On the motion of the Hon. *H. W. Schroeder*, the House adjourned at 5.58 p.m.

Wednesday, February 29, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Father *P. Kravchuk*.

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 on the amendment continued.

The House divided.

The amendment was negated on the following division:

YEAS—16

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>Blencoe</i> | <i>Lockstead</i> | <i>Sanford</i> | <i>Dailly</i> |
| <i>Rose</i> | <i>Hanson</i> | <i>Nicolson</i> | <i>Cocke</i> |
| <i>Passarell</i> | <i>Brown</i> | | <i>Howard</i> |
| <i>Mitchell</i> | | | |
| <i>Wallace</i> | | <i>Stupich</i> | |
| <i>Barnes</i> | <i>Gabelmann</i> | | |

NAYS—26

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Parks</i> | <i>Fraser, A. V.</i> | <i>Chabot</i> | <i>Richmond</i> |
| <i>Reid</i> | <i>McGeer</i> | <i>Strachan</i> | <i>Hewitt</i> |
| <i>Reynolds</i> | <i>Phillips</i> | <i>Campbell</i> | <i>Heinrich</i> |
| <i>Veitch</i> | <i>Curtis</i> | <i>Fraser, R. G.</i> | <i>McClelland</i> |
| <i>Segarty</i> | | <i>Johnston</i> | <i>Schroeder</i> |
| <i>Ree</i> | | <i>Pelton</i> | |
| <i>Mowat</i> | | | <i>Brummet</i> |
| <i>Kempf</i> | | <i>Ritchie</i> | |
| | <i>McCarthy</i> | | |

The debate was resumed on the main motion.

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

The Hon. *H. A. Curtis* 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. 13) intituled *Hydro and Power Authority Amendment Act, 1984* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 28, 1984.

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

On the motion of the Hon. *H. W. Schroeder*, the House adjourned at 5.49 p.m.

Thursday, March 1, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *H. Bickel*.

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 Ms. *Sanford*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 11.55 a.m.

Thursday, March 1, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

The Hon. *G. M. McCarthy* 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 *British Columbia Transit Amendment Act, 1984* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 23, 1984.

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

The Hon. *J. J. Hewitt* (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) tabled the Annual Report of the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, 1983.

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. *H. W. Schroeder*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 5.52 p.m.

Friday, March 2, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *G. Patterson*.

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.

Motion agreed to on the following division:

YEAS—26

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Parks</i> | <i>Fraser, A. V.</i> | <i>Strachan</i> | <i>Hewitt</i> |
| <i>Reid</i> | <i>McGeer</i> | <i>Campbell</i> | <i>Heinrich</i> |
| <i>Reynolds</i> | <i>Phillips</i> | <i>Fraser, R. G.</i> | <i>McClelland</i> |
| <i>Veitch</i> | <i>Curtis</i> | <i>Johnston</i> | <i>Schroeder</i> |
| | | <i>Pelton</i> | <i>Rogers</i> |
| <i>Ree</i> | | | |
| <i>Mowat</i> | <i>Gardom</i> | | |
| <i>Kempf</i> | <i>Nielsen</i> | <i>Ritchie</i> | |
| <i>Davis</i> | <i>McCarthy</i> | | |

NAYS—16

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Blencoe</i> | | <i>Sanford</i> | <i>Dailly</i> |
| <i>Rose</i> | <i>Hanson</i> | | <i>Cocke</i> |
| | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Lauk</i> | |
| <i>Mitchell</i> | <i>D'Arcy</i> | <i>Lea</i> | <i>Barrett</i> |
| <i>Wallace</i> | | <i>Stupich</i> | <i>Macdonald</i> |
| | <i>Gabelmann</i> | | |

Order for Committee of Supply.

(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.

On the motion of the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the House adjourned at 12.01 p.m.

Monday, March 5, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by Captain *R. Moulton*.

The Hon. *J. J. Hewitt* 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 *Partnership Amendment Act, 1984* and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 23, 1984.

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."

Mr. *Skelly* asked leave, pursuant to Standing Order 35, to move adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the Cruise missile test about to be conducted over Canadian soil.

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

The Hon. *B. R. D. Smith* (Attorney General) made a ministerial statement relating to the investigation by the RCMP concerning scaling practices at Shoal Island.

Mr. *Barrett* made a statement relating to the same matter.

Mr. *Gabelmann* tabled documents referred to during question period.

Order for Committee of Supply called.

Pursuant to Order, the House again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(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.

The Hon. *J. R. Chabot* tabled the Applications Pertaining to the *Public Service Labour Relations Act Dealt With* by the Labour Relations Board of British Columbia in 1983.

Mr. Speaker delivered his reserved opinion as follows:

Honourable Members:

Earlier today, the Honourable Member for Alberni sought, pursuant to Standing Order 35, to move a motion for adjournment of the House on a matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the testing of the Cruise missile over Canadian soil."

In order to qualify under the provisions of Standing Order 35, matters raised thereunder must involve the administrative responsibility of the Government. Matters for which another authority is immediately responsible cannot properly be raised under this Order (May, 16th Edition, page 373).

Clearly international agreements relating to the testing in question are solely within the ambit of Federal jurisdiction and therefore offend the limitations prescribed by the authority quoted.

K. W. DAVIDSON, *Speaker*

8 Mr. *Reynolds* asked the Hon. the Minister of Human Resources the following questions:

1. On July 27, did any members of the Public Service in the Ministry of Human Resources leave their positions to attend a rally at the Parliament Buildings, and if so, how many?

2. In reference to No. 1, how many of these public servants will be paid for: (a) the whole day and (b) for part of the day?

3. Will any money be saved by Government as a result of No. 2, and if so, how much?

The Hon. *G. M. McCarthy* replied as follows:

"1. It is not known how many employees of the Ministry of Human Resources actually attended the rally at the Parliament Buildings on July 27, 1983. However, 368 employees of the Ministry of Human Resources were away from work without authorization for part or all of the day in question.

"2. (a) None of these employees were paid for the whole day and (b) 231 of these employees were paid for part of the day.

"3. \$19,273.72 in salaries were not paid to Ministry of Human Resources employees for July 27, 1983."

20 Mr. *Reynolds* asked the Hon. the Minister of Human Resources the following questions:

1. On August 10, did any members of the Public Service in the Ministry of Human Resources leave their positions to attend a rally at Empire Stadium, and if so, how many?
2. In reference to No. 1, how many of these public servants will be paid for: (a) the whole day and (b) for part of the day?
3. Will any money be saved by Government as a result of No. 2, and if so, how much?

The Hon. *G. M. McCarthy* replied as follows:

"1. It is not known how many employees of the Ministry of Human Resources actually attended the rally at Empire Stadium on August 10, 1983. However, 775 employees of the Ministry of Human Resources were away from work without authorization for part or all of the day in question.

"2. (a) None of these employees were paid for the whole day and (b) 20 of these employees were paid for part of the day.

"3. \$72,051.28 in salaries were not paid to Ministry of Human Resources employees for August 10, 1983."

On the motion of the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the House adjourned at 5.52 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6, 1984

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by the Right Rev. *J. T. Frame*.

The Hon. *B. R. D. Smith* (Attorney General) made a ministerial statement relating to the transfer of 12,750 acres of Provincial Crown land to five British Columbia Indian bands in settlement of the cutoff land claims.

Mr. *Howard* made a statement relating to the same matter.

Order for Committee of Supply called.

Pursuant to Order, the House again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(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.

On the motion of the Hon. *H. W. Schroeder*, the House adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6, 1984

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. *Lockstead* tabled documents referred to during question period.

Order for Committee of Supply called.

Pursuant to Order, the House again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(IN THE COMMITTEE)

27. *Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding \$185,567 be granted to Her Majesty to defray the expenses of Ministry of Finance, Minister's Office, to 31st March 1985.

28. *Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding \$57,619,011 be granted to Her Majesty to defray the expenses of Ministry of Finance, Government Financial Support, to 31st March 1985.

29. *Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding \$256,500 be granted to Her Majesty to defray the expenses of Ministry of Finance, Provincial Capital Commission, to 31st March 1985.

30. *Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding \$798,725 be granted to Her Majesty to defray the expenses of Ministry of Finance, Compensation Stabilization Program, to 31st March 1985.

77. *Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding \$237,600,000 be granted to Her Majesty to defray the expenses of Other Voted Appropriations (Minister of Finance), Interest on the Public Debt, to 31st March 1985.

78. *Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding \$50,000,000 be granted to Her Majesty to defray the expenses of Other Voted Appropriations (Minister of Finance), Contingencies (All Ministries), to 31st March 1985.

The Committee reported the Resolutions.
Report to be considered at the next sitting.
Committee to sit again at the next sitting.

Pursuant to Order, Mr. *Ree* presented the following report:

REPORT

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,

March 6, 1984

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Special Committee appointed on February 13, 1984, to prepare and report lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees of this House for the present Session begs to report that the following are the lists of members to compose the Select Standing Committees for the present Session.

STANDING ORDERS AND PRIVATE BILLS—Messrs. *Pelton* (Convener), *Strachan*, *Veitch*, the Hon. *G. B. Gardom*, the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the Hon. *H. W. Schroeder*, Messrs. *Howard*, *Nicolson* and *Rose*.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS—Messrs. *Blencoe* (Convener), *Campbell*, *Reid*, *Reynolds*, the Hon. *J. R. Chabot*, the Hon. *A. V. Fraser*, the Hon. *J. J. Hewitt*, the Hon. *P. L. McGeer*, the Hon. *W. S. Ritchie*, Messrs. *Cocke*, *Hanson* and *Nicolson*.

AGRICULTURE—Messrs. *Campbell* (Convener), *Michael*, *Reynolds*, *Segarty*, the Hon. *J. R. Chabot*, the Hon. *H. W. Schroeder*, Ms. *Sanford*, Mr. *Stupich* and Mrs. *Wallace*.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING—Mr. *R. G. Fraser* (Convener), Mrs. *Johnston*, Messrs. *Mowat*, *Parks*, *Pelton*, the Hon. *W. S. Ritchie*, Messrs. *Blencoe*, *Rose* and Mrs. *Dailly*.

LABOUR AND JUSTICE—Messrs. *Michael* (Convener), *R. G. Fraser*, *Parks*, *Reid*, the Hon. *R. H. McClelland*, the Hon. *B. R. D. Smith*, Mrs. *Brown*, Messrs. *Gabelmann* and *Lauk*.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES—Messrs. *Mowat* (Convener), *Reynolds*, *Segarty*, the Hon. *J. H. Heinrich*, the Hon. *G. M. McCarthy*, the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, Mr. *Barnes*, Mrs. *Dailly* and Mr. *Rose*.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS—Mrs. *Johnston* (Convener), the Hon. *J. Davis*, Messrs. *R. G. Fraser*, *Ree*, *Reid*, the Hon. *A. V. Fraser*, Messrs. *Lockstead*, *Mitchell* and *Passarell*.

ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES—Mr. *Segarty* (Convener), the Hon. *J. Davis*, Mr. *R. G. Fraser*, the Hon. *A. J. Brummet*, the Hon. *C. S. Rogers*, the Hon. *T. M. Waterland*, Messrs. *Lea*, *Skelly* and Mrs. *Wallace*.

CROWN CORPORATIONS—Messrs. *Ree* (Convener), *Campbell*, *Michael*, *Reynolds*, *Strachan*, *Veitch*, *Howard*, *Lockstead* and *Nicolson*.

Respectfully submitted.

ANGUS REE, *Chairman*

The report was taken as read and received.

By leave of the House, Mr. *Ree* moved that the report be adopted.

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

That the motion be amended by deleting the word “adopted” and substituting therefore the following: “re-committed to the said Special Committee with instructions that the Standing Orders and Private Bills Committee be restructured so as to have an equal number of members thereon from the Government side and from the Opposition side of the House.”

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

On the motion of the Hon. *J. A. Nielsen*, the House adjourned at 6 p.m.