

JOURNALS

OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SESSION 1975

Tuesday, February 18, 1975

THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

This being the first day of the fifth meeting of the Thirtieth Parliament or Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia for the dispatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation of the Honourable JOHN L. FARRIS, Administrator of the Province, dated the 9th day of January 1975, 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 extend warm greetings and a sincere welcome to each of you to the Fifth Session of the Thirtieth Parliament of this Province.

My Government is pleased to report that much has been accomplished since August 1972 in developing and implementing new policies to improve the economic and social conditions of the citizens of British Columbia. However, there is a renewed sense of commitment to seek out new solutions to emerging problems and to strive for even greater achievements in the future.

During 1974, British Columbia was honoured by official visits of heads of state and distinguished persons, including Their Excellencies Governor General Jules Leger and Madame Leger; His Excellency Chang Wen-chin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Canada, and his wife, Madame Chang Ying; Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Alia of Jordan; His Excellency Sir John Johnston, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., British High Commissioner to Canada, and Lady Johnston; His Excellency Kakuei Tanaka, Prime Minister of Japan; Olof Palme, Prime Minister of Sweden; and later in the year, the Premiers of the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba during their participation in the annual Western Premiers' Conference. On Tuesday, April 9, Governor General Leger, during the course of his visit, officially opened the Lower Causeway Promenade in Victoria Inner Harbour. The causeway development, funded through the Capital Improvement District Commission, is one of the many beautification projects in the capital precinct area initiated by the Commission since its inception in 1956.

My Government wishes to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the gift of land in the Clayoquot District for Provincial park purposes by F. Armour Ford and Helen Jessop Ford, the gift of land in the Yale District for Provincial park purposes by the company, Pope and Talbot Ltd., and the gift of land at Dawson Creek to the Department of Education by F. W. Gardner.

Absent from this Legislative Assembly today is E. K. deBeck, who served this Assembly faithfully and well during his period as Clerk and later as Clerk Consultant. He was beloved by all and will be greatly missed.

My Government was deeply saddened at the news of the passing of Senator Arthur Laing. Senator Laing served this Province and the country with integrity during his distinguished public career.

Notwithstanding the slowdown in economic activity in Canada, the British Columbia economy has performed well, particularly in relationship to other Canadian provinces.

Due to extensive reliance on our export markets, my Government is keenly aware of the problems that down-turns in specific resource sectors can produce and it has already taken action in a number of areas. To create additional employment, my Government is planning the introduction of an employment program in the forestry industry.

Federal-Provincial Relations

My Government is deeply concerned about a number of Federal-Provincial matters. No national comprehensive energy policy is being developed, as reflected both in the Federal-Provincial resource taxation dispute and the recent submissive position taken by the Federal Government in regard to multinational corporations on the Syncrude project.

My Government continues to make strong representations to the Government of Canada to seek alternatives with the United States Government to the proposed Alaska oil-tanker route through the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca.

Financial Institutions

Legislation will be introduced to provide for a British Columbia financial institution responsive to the needs of the people of British Columbia. As opposed to the present eastern-based financial institutions, the new British Columbia financial structure will provide services throughout the Province, particularly in northern and rural areas, and specifically in matters such as mortgages for families.

Status of Women

The year 1975 has been proclaimed by the United Nations as International Women's Year, during which time there will be new and intensified departmental activities to promote equality among men and women. My Government is pleased to join in support of these efforts. Policies will be implemented to continue to improve employment opportunities for women in the British Columbia Public Service and to increase the number of women in management positions. In addition, legislation will be introduced to eliminate existing discriminatory legislative provisions applicable to women.

Electoral Reform

In order to reform our electoral system and provide greater opportunity for people to exercise their rights in a democracy, a new *Provincial Elections Act* will be brought forward which will emphasize, in particular, the areas of election financing and disclosure.

Agriculture

My Government has initiated policies over the past year to stimulate further the agricultural industry of British Columbia.

The Land Commission has furthered, and now virtually completed, the establishment of agricultural land reserves throughout the Province. Continued refinement of these areas and a policy of purchasing farmland, when appropriate, will be followed in 1975, with acquired lands available to farmers on a leasehold basis.

A new dimension to British Columbia farm production was introduced in 1974 with the Income Assurance Program. Commercial operators in the dairy, tree fruits, field tomato, and swine sectors may now confidently plan production and marketing schedules without risking their income levels. Plans for extending coverage to other production areas are under way.

In 1974 my Government initiated innovative financial programs to stabilize market returns for farm products and to make additional credit available to primary producers.

You will be asked to make amendments to the *Farm Products Industry Improvement Act*.

Financial programs will be further expanded to assist in the development of agricultural lands and to help with the credit needs of the agricultural industry and processing facilities.

My Government has assisted a number of our citizens by implementing the Allotment Garden Program and Farm Vacation Program. These programs afford participants the opportunity of getting on the land to grow their own vegetables or visit a working farm operation. These programs will be further expanded in 1975.

My Government is prepared to share our good fortune in the face of present world food shortages. The suffering of peoples in such places as Bangladesh demands both a provincial and national commitment of aid to world areas left in chaos by natural disasters.

British Columbians will be allowed, this year, to express their concern with new proposed legislation.

Northern Affairs

In 1974 my Government appointed a Minister responsible for Northern Affairs. The Minister has since travelled throughout the North, meeting with local government bodies, special interest groups and individuals, and has received excellent co-operation from all departments of government. A series of public workshops have been initiated in northern communities to provide a forum for local residents to outline plans for their communities.

Northern residents have long felt that Government decisions affecting them are made away from the North and their needs and aspirations had been overlooked in the decision-making process. My Government, since receiving its mandate, has adopted a planning approach to resource development in the North and during the

past year has moved to achieve a more significant record of public involvement in the activities of the North.

In the coming year there will be increased efforts to broaden education, health, and social services in the northern areas of the Province.

Labour

The various sections of the new Labour Code which were proclaimed throughout 1974 were successfully tested in a major bargaining year that included a marked increase in the labour force. The number of man-days lost through labour-management disputes declined a dramatic 28 per cent, from a high of 2.1 million in 1972 to 1.5 million in 1974.

To improve and rationalize labour standards legislation, there will be amendments to the *Hours of Work Act*, *Annual and General Holidays Act*, and the *Payment of Wages Act*.

Amendments to the *Workers' Compensation Act* contained in the 1974 legislation that provided for wide-ranging reforms have nearly all been brought into effect and the provisions relating to hearing loss will be completed this year.

A co-operative venture by the Department of Labour, other Provincial departments, the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration, and Babine Forest Products Limited will lead to construction of a sawmill at Burns Lake to be operated by and for the native peoples of the Burns Lake area.

An agreement signed by the Ministers of Education and Labour established a joint Government committee to implement co-ordinated manpower training programs in the Province.

Program plans for public education, developed during the year by the Human Rights Commission, will initially involve a campaign to inform the general public about human rights, and to encourage respect for persons, whatever their race, religion, or sex.

Human Resources

My Government, in 1974, emphasized community involvement and responsibility in the planning and development of social services. At the same time, we have assumed greater financial responsibility by reducing the municipal share of social assistance programs from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.

In recognition of the needs of our citizens, we implemented the first Pharmacare Program in Canada, continued improvements to Mincome (our guaranteed income program for people over 60 years), and provided additional assistance in the areas of day care, special services for children, foster homes, nursing homes, and private hospitals.

A priority area this year will be increased emphasis on the development of community-based services for the mentally retarded.

Amendments will be brought forward this Session to the *Social Assistance Act*.

Health

Seven hundred and thirty-seven new acute and extended-care units were provided in 1974, which, together with renovations, cost approximately \$23,000,000. My Government's increasing concern with the need for intermediate-care facilities has been demonstrated through the provision of 500 new beds for this purpose in Burnaby, Kamloops, and Vancouver.

As of July 1, 1974, residents of the Province became entitled to emergency ground ambulance transportation under the new Emergency Health Services Legislation.

Provision has now been made for Community Human Resources and Health Centres in the Queen Charlotte Islands, Grand Forks-Boundary, Houston-Granisle, and James Bay, Victoria. These locally planned and operated centres will enable doctors, nurses, social workers, and other professional staff to work with the community to provide comprehensive and integrated services. Expansion of these centres and home-care programs are planned for this coming year.

To improve health services in the Province, amendments will be brought forward to the *Medical Services Act*, the *Hospital Act*, and the *Dentistry Act*. In addition, legislation will be brought forward on the *Community Care Facilities Licensing Act*.

Education

My Government last year authorized capital and construction costs totalling \$91 million for public school facilities, \$12 million for community colleges, and nearly \$3 million for vocational and technical training.

The importance of the quality of education has been recognized with the reduction of the pupil-teacher ratio throughout the public school system by 1.74 over the past year.

My Government intends to continue its long-term policy of alleviating the burden of rising educational taxes.

Resources

During 1974, major new ecological reserves were established in the Province and an accelerated search has begun for Crown land suitable as home-building lots in rural, semirural, and suburban areas.

Despite the substantial decline in lumber market prices, the total harvest of forest products in 1974 exceeded 2.5 billion cubic feet.

Although reduced lumber markets put independent sawmills in jeopardy, this situation was greatly eased by the lowering of stumpage rates to their statutory minimum and by the passage in the Legislature of the *Timber Products Stabilization Act*, which is providing the sawmills with higher prices for pulp chips.

My Government is pleased with the reforestation program under which nursery production has exceeded the initial goal of 75 million seedlings established for 1975.

Adjacent tree-farm licences have been awarded to the towns of Smithers and Burns Lake which will enable the local people to develop the licences with due regard for resource potentials and values. Similar community tenures will be pursued this year.

Following a number of studies on the forest industry, my Government will ask that a legislative committee to consider terms of reference for an inquiry into forest-tenure policy in the Province.

My Government is proud of the accomplishments of the British Columbia Petroleum Corporation in the natural gas area and of the dynamic success of Columbia Cellulose Company in the forestry sector.

Industrial Development

Highly successful programs in industrial development have been completed this year by my Government, including the hosting of a number of British Columbia's international customers and the mounting of trade missions to Europe, Malaysia, Australia, Latin America, Japan, and Indonesia. Initial sales attributable to these trade missions are in excess of \$5,000,000.

The British Columbia Development Corporation, established in 1974, is providing financial assistance to smaller business concerns. In addition, the Corporation is active in land assembly, with two major industrial parks being planned through purchases in Delta and Prince Rupert.

Culture, Recreation, and Conservation

A new *Outdoor Recreation Act* and a *Wild Rivers and Wilderness Act* will be brought forward for your consideration.

The Community Recreational Facilities Fund, established in 1973, has allowed over 50 grants to be made to municipal, cultural, ethnic, and religious nonprofit groups throughout the Province for a total of \$32,000,000.

Through the *Green Belt Protection Fund Act*, 692 acres, representing four key wildlife management areas, were purchased by my Government this year.

The travel industry produced another record year with an estimated revenue of \$759 million as against \$600 million for 1973.

Consumer Services

The *Trades Practices Act*, passed in 1974, is becoming the model in Canadian legislation designed to fight deceptive and unfair practices against consumers of this Province. Amendments to this Act are planned in 1975.

My Government established a Department of Consumer Services in 1974 and, by the end of the year, consumer service centres providing staff for the handling of consumer complaints, mediation, and case investigation were operating in Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, and Prince George.

You will be asked to consider specific legislation on prepaid consumer contracts as well as a *Personal Information Reporting Amendment Act*.

Justice

The B.C. Police Commission, established by legislation since July 1, 1974, has, in co-operation with the Justice Development Commission, introduced a new training program, a new discipline code, 12 Police Boards, and the first Police Committees throughout the Province. Policies regarding police problems in working with other departments and concerned citizens have been developed through a series of public meetings.

Court services are being expanded, integrated, and decentralized in conjunction with careful research and evaluation of facility adequacy and administrative effectiveness.

The *Provincial Court Act* will be revised to bring in line existing procedures and structures of the court.

Amendments are planned under the *Sheriffs Act* and the *Summary Convictions Act*. Legislation will be introduced on a *Legal Services Commission Act*.

My Government will place emphasis on developing more community resources and programs for juveniles on probation through local area management teams consisting of probation officers and social workers.

Following the report by the Honourable Mr. Justice Berger on the Family Law and the Courts, legislation will be brought forward in this area.

A complete revision will also be made of the *Credit Unions Act* and the *Government Liquor Act*. In order to increase protection for property-owners, amendments will soon be introduced to the *Expropriation Act*.

A rentalsman program and a Rent Review Commission has been established to deal with landlord and tenant conflicts and matters of rent control. Further amendments will be forthcoming to the *Landlord and Tenant Act*.

Housing, Urban, and Municipal Affairs

Through aggressive land acquisition and servicing programs, over 3,621 residential lots and 1,127 mobile home pads have been or are being developed. Legislation is to be introduced to provide for the registration of mobile homes.

Substantial projects, such as Burke Mountain land assembly, Victoria Highlands, and major development in the Burnaby Mountain and Riverview areas were also highlighted in this past year.

My Government has assisted in the creation of 2,259 rental and co-operative housing units in 1974, with another 14,823 units in the construction or planning stage.

Home ownership of moderate-income facilities is now possible through the new Leasehold Mortgage Program that carries an interest rate as low as 5 per cent.

Amendments will be brought forward on the *Housing Act*, *Department of Housing Act*, and the *Strata Titles Act*.

Since the passage of the *Sewerage Facilities Assistance Act* in 1974, \$5.5 million has been paid to local governments to assist them in building sewage-treatment plants and gathering systems.

Transport and Communications

Among the host of activities engaging my Government during 1974 was the inception of a universal, nonprofit fund for traffic accident compensation administered by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. Although its first year of operation is not completed yet, it is already apparent that Autoplan has brought benefits to all citizens of this Province that include stabilizing premiums for vehicle-owners, providing a rate structure that is generally the lowest among all the provinces, taking into account traffic densities and vehicular use, and virtually eliminating the severe financial problems of victims of uninsured vehicle accidents.

Further amendments to the Insurance Commission of British Columbia legislation and the *Automobile Insurance Act* will be brought forward this session.

To help curtail the growing number of traffic fatalities, my Government has reduced speed limits on a number of Provincial highways. In addition, highway maintenance programs have been emphasized this past year with an increase of \$29 million in the Department of Highway's maintenance budget.

Notwithstanding substantial increases in traffic demand, the B.C. Ferries continue to provide greater service with the addition of the *Queen of Surrey*. Contracts have been signed for three new vessels to be built in North Vancouver and Victoria yards for delivery early in 1976 at an estimated cost of over \$50 million.

Government aircraft were equipped in 1974 to provide emergency air evacuations when needed. In this first full year of "mercy flights," Provincial Government aircraft logged 40,790 miles in both speeding stricken citizens from outlying areas to our modern hospitals and in transporting emergency supplies of blood plasma. This program will be expanded to provide greater services in the present year.

The Public Accounts and the reports of the departments of my Government will be laid before you, and you will be asked to grant to Her Majesty the ways and means of supply.

To these and all other matters which may come before you, I ask your most careful attention, praying that Divine Providence may guide you.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, I leave you now to the discharge of your legislative duties.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was then pleased to retire.

Prayers by Mr. *Wesley Wakefield*.

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

On the motion of the Hon. *A. B. Macdonald*, Bill (No. 1) intituled *Perpetuities 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.

On the motion of the Hon. *David Barrett*, 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. *Ernest Hall*, 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. *David Barrett*, 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. *A. B. Macdonald*, the Hon. *R. M. Strachan*, and Messrs. *Dent*, *Bennett*, and *D. A. Anderson*.

On the motion of Mr. *Gorst*, it was *Ordered*—

That *Hartley Douglas Dent*, Member for Skeena Electoral District, be appointed Deputy Speaker for this Session of the Legislative Assembly.

By leave of the House, on the motion of the Hon. *David Barrett*, the Rules were suspended and 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.

By leave of the House, on the motion of the Hon. *David Barrett*, the Rules were suspended and 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. *Ernest Hall* (Provincial Secretary)—

Nineteenth Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *Members of the Legislative Assembly Superannuation Act* for the year ended March 31, 1974.

Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *Public Service Superannuation Act* for the year ended March 31, 1974.

Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *Municipal Superannuation Act*, for the year ended December 31, 1973.

Sixth Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *College Pension Act* for the year ended August 31, 1974.

Thirty-third Annual Report of the business done in pursuance of the *Teachers' Pensions Act* for the year ended December 31, 1973.

Fourteenth Annual Report of the business done under the *Public Service Group Insurance Act*, policy year, July 1, 1973, to June 30, 1974.

Capital Improvement District Commission Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended March 31, 1974.

Library Development Commission Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 1974.

Royal Commission of Inquiry into the use of Pesticides and Herbicides, Interim Report of the Commissioners, dated November 22, 1973.

Royal Commission of Inquiry into the use of Pesticides and Herbicides, Second Interim Report of the Commissioners, dated December 10, 1974.

Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Jericho Hill School, Report of the Commissioner, dated September 4, 1974.

Royal Commission of Inquiry on Family and Children's Law, Fourth Report of the Commissioners, dated February 12, 1975.

By the Hon. *A. B. Macdonald* (Attorney-General)—

The Fifty-third Annual Report of the Liquor Administration Branch of the Department of the Attorney-General covering the fiscal year ended March 31, 1974.

The Fifty-second Annual Report of the Fire Marshal for the year ended December 31, 1973.

The Annual Report of the British Columbia Racing Commission for 1974.

The Sixty-third Annual Report of the Superintendent of Insurance for the year ended December 31, 1973. (In manuscript form.)

By the Hon. *David Barrett* (Minister of Finance)—

Public Accounts of British Columbia for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1974.

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 1974.

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 1974.

Annual Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1974, Office of the Assessment Commissioner.

Annual Report of the Assessment Appeal Board for the year ended December 31, 1974.

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, 1974.

Thirty-second Annual Report of the Purchasing Commission, January 1, 1974, to December 31, 1974.

Annual Report of the Inspector of Trust Companies to the Minister of Finance under section 75 of the *Trust Companies Act*.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 3 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 3.40 p.m.

Wednesday, February 19, 1975

THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. Canon *C. Hilary Butler*.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

Mr. *Skelly* moved, seconded by Mr. *Rolston*—

That the following Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor:

"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.

During the debate Mr. *Bennett* asked leave of the House to move a motion pursuant to Standing Order 49. Leave of the House was not granted.

The debate continued.

On the motion of Mr. *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.

The Hon. *Eileen E. Dailly* (Minister of Education) presented the One Hundred and Third Report of the Department of Education.

By leave of the House, the Hon. *R. A. Williams* (Minister of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources) presented the 1974 Annual Report of the Secretariat, Environment and Land Use Committee. (In manuscript form.)

The Hon. *D. G. Cocke* (Minister of Health) presented the following:
Report on Vital Statistics for the year 1972.

Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 1974, of the Medical Services Commission of British Columbia.

And then the House adjourned at 5.09 p.m.

Thursday, February 20, 1975

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *C. Barner*.

Mr. Speaker made a statement relating to the proceedings on the prorogation of the Fourth Session of the Thirtieth Parliament, as follows:

Honourable Members,—In view of a patent misunderstanding of the constitutional procedure of prorogation which was evidenced on the part of some members on Monday, and statements that have appeared in the press by one particular writer, I propose to mention the authority upon which prorogation takes place.

It was obvious to me that, perhaps without realizing it and the consequences involved for His Honour, the Leader of the Official Opposition attempted, while the Sergeant-at-Arms with the Mace was going to meet His Honour, to embark upon the routine proceedings of the House.

Last November 26 this House resolved that the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until Mr. Speaker may be advised by the Government that it is desired to prorogue the Fourth Session of the Thirtieth Parliament of the Province of British Columbia. The resolution adds that Mr. Speaker may give notice that he has been

so advised, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

I was so advised by the Deputy Provincial Secretary on January 9 last that it was the desire of the Government to prorogue the Fourth Session of the Thirtieth Parliament of British Columbia at 2 p.m. on February 17, 1975. Any communications from His Honour or the Executive, as defined in sections 3 and 8 of the *Constitution Act*, are conveyed to the Speaker as a representative of the Assembly from the Deputy Provincial Secretary, who acts on the instruction of the Executive Council.

Under the *British North America Act*, section 9, the executive government and authority of and over Canada is declared to continue and be vested in the Queen, and the Royal prerogatives continue under our *Constitution Act*.

In section 17, the Royal prerogative is declared as follows in our Act: "Nothing in the last preceding section alters or abridges the power of the Crown to prorogue or dissolve the Legislative Assembly."

At the same time, the Lieutenant-Governor by Proclamation summoned the Fifth Session of the Thirtieth Parliament.

Now Redlich's *Procedure of the House of Commons*, vol. 2, at page 66, states: "Prorogation is a solemn act of the Crown, putting a legal end to the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament. The immediate effect is to put an end to the sittings, to extinguish all the powers given by the House to its Committees and to annul all the legislative stages of a bill which has not yet passed both Houses and received Royal Assent."

The Legislative Assembly follows the laws and customs of the United Kingdom parliaments, so far as they are applicable. The prerogatives of the Crown are set out by our procedural guides which is Erskine May, 18th edition, at pages 255 and 256: "The prorogation of Parliament is a prerogative act of the Crown. Just as Parliament can only commence its deliberation at the time appointed by the Queen, so it cannot continue them any longer than she pleases."

It must be repeated that prorogation is a prerogative act of the Crown. The Crown, as we know, is a legal entity.

Wade and Phillips' *Constitutional Law*, 6th edition, at page 160 states: "The term, the Crown, represents a sum total of governmental powers and is synonymous with the executive. In the exercise of some of the powers of the Crown, the Sovereign may be called upon to exercise a personal discretion, others are exercised by the Sovereign on the sole responsibility of Ministers." The Queen and the Queen-in-Council could, so far as prorogation is concerned, exercise the power through, and on the advice of, the Privy Council in England."

Dawson states in *Democratic Government in Canada*, 4th edition, at page 55: "The executive, through the Governor-General, and sometimes on the initiative of the Prime Minister alone, summons, prorogues, and dissolves the House."

See also: Anson's *Law and Customs of the Constitution*, part 1, pages 68 and 69; O. H. Phillips' *Constitutional and Administrative Law*, page 103; Keith's 6th edition of *Ridges' Constitutional Law of England*, page 43; Cheffins' *Constitutional Process in Canada*, page 98.

The prerogative power to prorogue is, as Cheffins points out, contained in the Letters Patent emanating from the Monarch given to Canada and to British Columbia. When Her Majesty is present at the prorogation of Parliament, Her command is signified by the Lord Chancellor or Speaker of the House of Lords.

As May states at page 57: "The effect of prorogation is at once to suspend all business until Parliament shall be summoned again. Not only are the sittings of Parliament at an end, but all proceedings pending at the time are quashed."

Here in British Columbia in our unicameral House, the Lieutenant-Governor's purpose was indicated by Message on January 9 last to the Speaker from the Government, and that command was discharged by the Speaker calling members together for the purpose of proroguing. The presence of His Honour was signalled last Monday at 2.08 p.m. No delay by the House could impede the due compliance with the command forthwith. That a member supposed he could delay His Honour at his own pleasure does not accord with our concepts of constitutional monarchy.

The Government, to be constitutionally correct, is the Queen and her advisers. Here it is the Lieutenant-Governor and the Executive Council together. It is presumptuous to assume that the advice given to the Speaker "from the Government" means other than from the Crown and its advisers. The House resolution of November 26 last refers to the Government. The Speaker in the Mother of Parliament at Westminster must terminate all proceedings when the House is signalled by Black Rod of the entry of the Sovereign into Parliament. For example, at Westminster on April 13, 1960, Black Rod called when the House was engaged in heated questioning of the Minister of Defence. It was a most unwelcome interruption and uproar ensued. The Speaker, none the less, repaired to the Bar of the House of Lords forthwith on a signal from Black Rod.

As Wade and Phillips say at page 173: "The prerogative powers of the Crown are with very rare exceptions (for example, choice of a Prime Minister) today exercised by the government of the day."

And at page 175: "By virtue of the prerogative of the Sovereign he summons, prorogues, and dissolves Parliament."

When the Sovereign sends Black Rod, the Speaker does not defy the command but complies with the constitutional imperatives. Not having a Black Rod or a Senate or Upper Chamber, the Vice-Regal representative enters our Chamber to deliver his Closing Speech forthwith, escorted by the Mace. I draw your attention to the fact that the Mace was not on the desk. On every occasion in the past when the presence of His Honour has been announced to me I have forthwith complied with the constitutional practice.

G. H. DOWDING, *Speaker*

On the motion of Mr. *Steves* 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. 13) intituled *British Columbia Recycling Corporation Act*.

Bill (No. 14) intituled *British Columbia Coastal Zone Commission Act*.

By leave of the House, the Hon. *Lorne Nicolson* (Minister of Housing) presented the 1974 Annual Report of the Dunhill Development Corporation Ltd.

Order called for "Oral Questions by Members."

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

The debate continued.

Mr. Speaker declared a recess of the House at 3.02 p.m.

The House resumed the sitting at 4.01 p.m.

On the motion of Mr. *Bennett* 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 4.03 p.m.

Friday, February 21, 1975

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *N. K. Archer*.

Mr. *Bennett* rose on a point of order, namely, that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, February 20, 1975, did not contain a verbatim statement of everything said by Mr. Speaker relating to proceedings on prorogation.

Mr. Speaker stated that the purpose of printing Votes and Proceedings is to record what is done in the House and not to record verbatim that which is said in the House, which is the function of Hansard. Mr. Speaker further stated that with particular reference to Speakers' rulings and statements from the Chair made for the immediate guidance of the House, the Votes and Proceedings are intended to record the essential elements of such rulings and statements, which should be available in the Journals as a source of precedent for the future guidance of the House in considering questions of a like nature.

By leave of the House, the Hon. *R. A. Williams* (Minister of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources) made a statement relating to the Columbia River Projects Cost Reallocation Studies Committee and, by leave of the House, tabled memoranda relating thereto.

By leave of the House, the Hon. *W. S. King* (Minister of Labour) presented the Final Report of the Research and Planning Branch, Department of Labour—An Evaluation of the Special Provincial Employment Programmes, Careers '74.

The Hon. *G. R. Lea* (Minister of Highways) presented the Annual Report of the Department of Highways for the year ended March 31, 1974.

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:

On the motion of Mr. *Kelly*, Bill (No. 15) intituled *An Act to Amend the Industrial Development Act*.

On the motion of Ms. *Brown*, Bill (No. 16) intituled *The Affirmative Action Plan Act*.

On the motion of Ms. *Brown*, Bill (No. 17) intituled *Tenants' Collective Bargaining Rights Act*.

On the motion of Ms. *Sanford*, Bill (No. 18) intituled *An Act to Amend the Land Registry Act*.

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. *Bennett* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Chabot*—

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 adequate proposals for strengthening the economy of the Province so as to provide work opportunity for our people to alleviate the highest unemployment rate in our history."

The debate continued.

On the motion of Mr. *D. A. Anderson* the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

42 Mr. *Curtis* asked the Hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs the following questions:

With respect to the *Islands Trust Act*—

1. What have been the total expenses incurred by the General Trustees for each of the following purposes to the most recent date for which information is available: (a) Travel, (b) accommodation, (c) *per diem* allowances, and (d) telephone and other communication?

2. What general office expenses have been incurred in terms of staff salaries, equipment, supplies, and incidentals in the offices used for the Islands Trust from the date of establishment to the most recent date for which information is available?

The Hon. *J. G. Lorimer* replied as follows:

"1. (a) \$3,683.59, (b) \$1,899.11, (c) \$28,925, and (d) \$132.10, all expenses to January 31, 1975.

"2. To January 31, 1975, \$9,081.23."

44 Mr. *Curtis* asked the Hon. the Minister of Highways the following questions:

1. Does the Minister of Highways have a personal office on the Queen Charlotte Islands and Prince Rupert?

2. If the answer to No. 1 is yes, what are the total costs to the Provincial Treasury of the offices and what is the staff complement with respect to each office?

The Hon. *G. R. Lea* replied as follows:

"No."

By leave of the House, Mr. Speaker tabled documents relating to refurbishing of the offices of the Opposition parties.

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 12.58 p.m.

Monday, February 24, 1975

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

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

On the motion of Mr. *Curtis*, Bill (No. 21) intituled *The Government Computer Privacy 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."

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—17

<i>Gibson</i>	<i>McClelland</i>	<i>Anderson, D. A.</i>	<i>Phillips</i>
<i>Gardom</i>	<i>Richter</i>	<i>McGeer</i>	<i>Bennett</i>
<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Wallace</i>	<i>Fraser</i>	<i>Smith</i>
<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Williams, L. A.</i>	<i>Chabot</i>	<i>Jordan</i>
<i>Curtis</i>			

NAYS—32

<i>Liden</i>	<i>Dent</i>	<i>Dailly</i>	<i>Nicolson</i>
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Cummings</i>	<i>Barrett</i>	<i>Lauk</i>
<i>Webster</i>	<i>Sanford</i>	<i>Macdonald</i>	<i>Young</i>
<i>Kelly</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>King</i>
<i>Steves</i>	<i>Calder</i>	<i>Gorst</i>	<i>Cocke</i>
<i>Barnes</i>	<i>Hartley</i>	<i>Lockstead</i>	<i>Williams, R. A.</i>
<i>Anderson, G. H.</i>	<i>Stupich</i>	<i>Gabelmann</i>	<i>Lorimer</i>
<i>Rolston</i>	<i>Nimsick</i>	<i>Skelly</i>	<i>Levi</i>

The debate was resumed on the main motion.

Mr. *D. A. Anderson* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *McGeer*—

That the motion in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the Session be amended by adding the words: "but this House regrets that His Honour's speech fails to refer to the problems of marketing agricultural products, quotas, and marketing boards."

The debate continued.

On the motion of Mr. *McGeer* 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 5.55 p.m.

Monday, February 24, 1975

HALF-PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.

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 House divided.

The amendment was negated on the following division:

YEAS—16

<i>Gibson</i>	<i>Curtis</i>	<i>Anderson, D. A.</i>	<i>Phillips</i>
<i>Gardom</i>	<i>McClelland</i>	<i>McGeer</i>	<i>Bennett</i>
<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Richter</i>	<i>Fraser</i>	<i>Smith</i>
<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Wallace</i>	<i>Chabot</i>	<i>Jordan</i>

NAYS—31

<i>Liden</i>	<i>Dent</i>	<i>Barrett</i>	<i>Lauk</i>
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Cummings</i>	<i>Macdonald</i>	<i>Young</i>
<i>Webster</i>	<i>Sanford</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>King</i>
<i>Kelly</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Gorst</i>	<i>Cocke</i>
<i>Steves</i>	<i>Hartley</i>	<i>Lockstead</i>	<i>Williams, R. A.</i>
<i>Barnes</i>	<i>Stupich</i>	<i>Gabelmann</i>	<i>Lorimer</i>
<i>Anderson, G. H.</i>	<i>Nimsick</i>	<i>Skelly</i>	<i>Levi</i>
<i>Rolston</i>	<i>Dailly</i>	<i>Nicolson</i>	

The debate was resumed on the main motion.

The debate continued.

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

41 Mr. *Curtis* asked the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture the following questions: With respect to “garden plots” established in the Greater Victoria area and elsewhere—

1. How many “plots” were made available in the 1974 growing-season?
2. What was the rental charge to each individual user?
3. What was the total cost of the program to the Provincial Treasury during 1974?

The Hon. *D. D. Stupich* replied as follows:

- “1. 368.
- “2. \$10.
- “3. \$47,000, exclusive of wages (\$39,892 for installation of permanent improvements such as fencing, water lines, etc., plus \$7,108 in annual operating costs).”

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

And then the House adjourned at 10.54 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25, 1975

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

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

On the motion of Mr. *Liden*, Bill (No. 22) intituled *Highland Water Control 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.

Mr. *Phillips* rose on a point of order relating to the oral question period.

Mr. Speaker stated that he would take the matter raised by the honourable member under advisement.

By leave of the House, the Hon. *Lorne Nicolson* (Minister of Housing) made a statement relating to a matter raised during the oral question period on February 24.

Mr. *Bennett* asked leave to make a statement. Leave was not granted.

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 Mr. *Schroeder* 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 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25, 1975

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 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.

By leave of the House, Mr. Speaker stated that his reserved decision on the point of order raised earlier today by Mr. *Phillips* would be printed in the Votes and Proceedings, as follows:

Honourable Members,—The Honourable Member for South Peace River raises as a point of order that answers deferred on oral question time should be submitted to the House as “Ministerial Statements” and he cites the Order of Business in the Westminster House set out at page 312 of the 18th edition of May.

It is a practice of our House that any statements by members, including Ministers of the Crown, are only permitted upon unanimous leave being obtained from the House. It is a usual courtesy that upon matters of urgent Provincial interest, for example, a major tragedy, a natural calamity, or an occasion of diplomatic or social consequence, the House indulges the making of statements from party leaders or indeed other members as well without any debate thereon ensuing.

These statements have usually occurred before the Clerk reads the Orders of the Day and after prayers but no provision has been adopted in our Standing Orders for such statements as of right. In some Houses, such as Westminster, Ottawa, and Ontario, the rules provide for ministerial statements on the Orders, but such statements are quite unrelated to question time.

By order on February 18 last the House adopted the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills' report of February 27, 1973, providing for oral questions.

At Westminster, Ottawa, or Ontario, the Orders of the Day include ministerial statements as part of the Orders, but these are intended for policy statements or announcements.

The Order of Business in our House is set out in our Standing Order 25 but altered by the Sessional Order which stipulates oral questions “commencing at the opening of each day's Session except Friday's.”

May, 18th edition, at page 312, sets out the Order of Business for the British House and questions for oral answer are taken before ministerial statements.

One can see that were we to agree to adopt a course of Ministers or members answering questions by statements in such a manner as argued, it would deny to members the right of supplementary questions flowing from a Minister's answers.

As matters stand, oral answers are given in Britain to “starred” questions on the Order Paper, and under their Standing Orders, questions for oral answer are submitted at the latest two days before they are answered and in practice at least a week before time. The need to take oral questions “on notice” is obviated by their written notice and the Speaker merely calls the number of the “starred” question and name of member asking. The Minister rises to answer without the question being read out. Supplementary questions then are put to the Minister answering.

Since we presently permit oral questions without notice, Ministers may choose to answer on occasion on a subsequent day. It is not done by tabling an answer, but orally. This enables supplementary questions to be asked at that time at the discretion of the Chair (*see* Sessional Order aforesaid).

Our practice looks to the "usages and customs" of the Westminster House but not to its Standing Orders or Order of Business as set out on page 312 of May.

Were it otherwise, every time the British Standing Orders alter, ours would too, which is not consonant with the present status of the British Columbia Legislature and its privileges, immunities, and powers as set out in the *Constitution Act*, chapter 71 in section 74.

Our Standing Orders have altered from time to time but no evidence of either an oral question time or the allowance of ministerial statements having been adopted is available in House records.

The rules of the British House in 1871 are found in the 7th edition of Sir Erskine May's treatise and the practice of questions to Ministers is therein set out at pages 319-320 and statements to the House without question put or debate are permitted by indulgence of the House only and not under any Order of Business.

It is clear that the 1871 practice provides no precedent for the argument raised by the honourable member and subsequent Standing Orders such as the present British Orders are no binding guide we are obliged to accept. "Customs and usages of parliament" must be differentiated from the British Standing Orders of today, revised in 1970.

In the result, questions asked and taken on notice may be answered in a succeeding question period but, as indicated above, should not be the subject of ministerial statements, save with leave of the House.

G. H. DOWDING, *Speaker*

48 Mr. *Curtis* asked the Hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs the following questions:

1. Did the Minister of Municipal Affairs travel to Europe in 1974 for the purpose of reviewing the operation of urban transit systems?

2. If the answer to No. 1 is yes, how many persons accompanied the Minister on this visit and who were those persons?

3. What was the total cost to the Provincial Government of the trip referred to above?

The Hon. *J. G. Lorimer* replied as follows:

"1. Yes.

"2. Thirteen persons: Mrs. James G. Lorimer; Miss L. Lorimer; Miss Y. Lorimer; Mr. D. Jantzen, Executive Assistant to Minister; Mrs. D. Jantzen; Mr. V. J. Parker, Director of Transit Services; Mrs. V. J. Parker; Mr. B. Sullivan, Assistant Director of Transit Services; Mr. James Campbell, Chairman, Capital Regional District; Mrs. James Campbell; Mayor W. N. Vander Zalm, representing Greater Vancouver Regional District; Alderman W. Hardwick, representing Greater Vancouver Regional District and City of Vancouver; and Mr. B. Wallace, staff of City of Vancouver.

"3. Total cost to Provincial Government, \$7,642.84. Mrs. James G. Lorimer, Miss L. Lorimer, Miss Y. Lorimer, Mrs. D. Jantzen, Mrs. V. J. Parker paid their own expenses. The Provincial Government has no record of the expenses of Mr. James Campbell, Mrs. James Campbell, Mayor W. N. Vander Zalm, Alderman W. Hardwick, Mr. B. Wallace, nor of how they were paid."

And then the House adjourned at 11.02 p.m.

Wednesday, February 26, 1975

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *C. Parker*.

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 Ms. *Sanford* 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.

The Hon. *D. G. Cocks* (Minister of Health) presented the First Annual Report of the British Columbia Medical Centre.

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

75 Mr. *Curtis* to ask the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:

With respect to the acquisition of shares of (a) the Bank of British Columbia, (b) B.C. Telephone Company, and (c) Westcoast Transmission by or on behalf of the Government of the Province or any of its departments, agencies, or enterprises—

1. At the most recent date for which information is available, how many shares in each company have been acquired?

2. How much money has been expended in acquiring the shares mentioned in No. 1?

3. What average price per share was paid for the shares of each company referred to above?

And then the House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

Thursday, February 27, 1975

TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *C. Klassen*.

Mr. *Gibson* rose on a matter of privilege relating to the release of settlement figures arising out of wage negotiations between the Public Service Union and the Government.

Mr. Speaker stated that he would reserve his decision on the matter raised by the honourable member.

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.

Motion agreed to on the following division:

YEAS—30

<i>Liden</i>	<i>Sanford</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Young</i>
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>Hartley</i>	<i>Gorst</i>	<i>Lea</i>
<i>Webster</i>	<i>Stupich</i>	<i>Lockstead</i>	<i>King</i>
<i>Kelly</i>	<i>Nimsick</i>	<i>Gabelmann</i>	<i>Cocke</i>
<i>Steves</i>	<i>Strachan</i>	<i>Skelly</i>	<i>Williams, R. A.</i>
<i>Anderson, G. H.</i>	<i>Dailly</i>	<i>Nicolson</i>	<i>Lorimer</i>
<i>Dent</i>	<i>Barrett</i>	<i>Radford</i>	<i>Levi</i>
<i>Cummings</i>	<i>Macdonald</i>		

NAYS—17

<i>Gibson</i>	<i>McClelland</i>	<i>Anderson, D. A.</i>	<i>Phillips</i>
<i>Gardom</i>	<i>Richter</i>	<i>McGeer</i>	<i>Bennett</i>
<i>Schroeder</i>	<i>Wallace</i>	<i>Fraser</i>	<i>Smith</i>
<i>Morrison</i>	<i>Williams, L. A.</i>	<i>Chabot</i>	<i>Jordan</i>
<i>Curtis</i>			

On the motion of the Hon. *David Barrett* 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. *David Barrett* 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.

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

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

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until 1 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.

Friday, February 28, 1975

ONE O'CLOCK P.M.

Prayers by the Rev. *R. J. Norsworthy*.

On the motion of the Hon. *David Barrett* it was *Ordered*—

That the Public Accounts for the Fiscal Year 1973/74 be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Economic Affairs.

The Hon. *David Barrett* (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. *David Barrett* 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 public service of the Province for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1976;

Schedule A. Sums required by Her Majesty to make good certain sums expended for the public service for the period ended March 31, 1974, and to indemnify the several officers and persons for making such expenditure;

and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 27, 1975

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* moved, seconded by the Hon. *A. B. Macdonald*, "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. *Bennett*, adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 23) intituled *Special Funds Appropriation Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 27, 1975

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 24) intituled *Succession Duty Amendment Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 27, 1975

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 25) intituled *British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (1964) Amendment Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 27, 1975

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 26) intituled *School Tax Removal Act*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 27, 1975

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 27) intituled *British Columbia Railway Company Construction Loan Amendment Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,
February 27, 1975*

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 28) intituled *Assessment Authority of British Columbia Amendment Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,
February 27, 1975*

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 29) intituled *Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,
February 27, 1975*

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 30) intituled *Gasoline Tax (1958) Amendment Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

*Government House,
February 27, 1975*

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 31) intituled *Gasoline Tax (1948) Amendment Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 27, 1975

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 32) intituled *Motive-fuel Use Tax Amendment Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 27, 1975

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

The Hon. *David Barrett* 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. 33) intituled *Coloured Gasoline Tax Amendment Act, 1975*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
February 27, 1975

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

By leave of the House, the Hon. *David Barrett* (Minister of Finance) presented the following:

Prospectus, British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority 10¼ % Bonds, Series DN, Due 1999.

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority Financial Statements for nine months ended December 31, 1974.

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 3.38 p.m.