

[Chairman: Mr. Oldring]

[9:06 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We'll call the meeting to order. I want to welcome everyone this morning. We'll just quickly review the procedure that we had agreed to at a previous meeting.

The format for this morning is that we'll give the mover of the recommendation or his designate the opportunity to speak to the recommendation for a maximum of 30 seconds. We're going to try to adhere to that as closely as possible, so I will ask for your co-operation there.

The Chair to this point has not received any consolidated recommendations. I know that some of you were considering grouping your recommendations together and bringing them forward. Up to this point I haven't received any in that format, so I'm assuming that we're still dealing with the 70 recommendations in front of us.

Mr. Gogo has advised me that he is going to be a little late this morning and will be here as quickly as possible. In fairness, then, I think it would be appropriate to begin with recommendation 5, moved by the Member for Pincher Creek-Crowsnest.

MR. BRADLEY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NELSON: Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair will call the question. All those in favour of recommendation 5? Opposed? Carried.

Recommendation 6. Again, I'll recognize the Member for . . .

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to ask -- 44 was related to that. Did you want to go to 44 now? In terms of our discussion . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we'll just -- as I pointed out at the beginning, in the event that there hasn't been any amalgamation of recommendations, we'll just deal with them in order, one at a time, and we'll go through all 70.

Recommendation 6.

MR. BRADLEY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Recommendation 7.

MR. BRADLEY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 7? Opposed? Carried.

Recommendation 8.

MR. PAYNE: It's moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 8? Opposed? Carried. Thank you.

Recommendation 9.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, just before we carry on. Is there some means of recording for those who wish to be marked as opposed to certain resolutions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If someone requests to be recorded, then we'll so note. Otherwise, we'll just show carried or defeated.

MR. CHUMIR: Then it's just neutral as to whether or not any individual member supported it or what the vote would have been.

MR. NELSON: Well, you can't sit on the fence; you'll get blisters, for God's sake.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: We're down here putting up our hands. There's no question about the fact that we're making decisions.

MR. CHUMIR: That's what we're inquiring, as to whether or not that's what the record is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I'll recognize the Member for Calgary Mountain View.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: We're down here voting. It's just that in terms of being sure whether we're being recorded as opposed or in support or whatever, I wonder if that's taking place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will only be noted in the event that someone requests to be recorded.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, considering the

aspects of the motion, I think we'll just move that it be defeated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'll call the question on recommendation 9. All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 10.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, considering the economic circumstances and there not possibly being any avenue for change of the focus on the attention of the moneys being expended to the oil industry, I would again suggest that this also be defeated until economic times may change.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you want to withdraw the motion?

MR. NELSON: If it would be much easier, I'll just withdraw it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion 10 is withdrawn.

Recommendation 11.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, I have discussed this with others — not within the committee, but outside — and I feel that this motion may be more useful being put to another forum. I will do so; I will withdraw it and present it to a more appropriate forum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Recommendation 11 is withdrawn. Agreed?

MR. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, could I just ask the member what other forums he's considering?

MR. NELSON: The Legislature, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 12.

MR. CHUMIR: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 12? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 13.

MR. CHUMIR: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 14.

MR. CHUMIR: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 15.

MR. CHUMIR: Ditto, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 16.

MR. CHUMIR: As with the previous resolution, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated. All those in favour, would you clearly show your hands, please. Opposed?

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I'd liked to be marked in favour.

MR. NELSON: I'd like to be marked in favour, too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Calgary Mountain View will be recorded then as being in favour. The motion was lost.

Recommendation 17.

MR. CHUMIR: Was there anyone else? Did I hear somebody else suggest that they'd like to be marked in favour? Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: Sure.

MR. McEACHERN: Add my name to that list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Calgary McCall as well, and the Member for Edmonton Kingsway.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: If we push and shove, we might get it through.

MR. CHUMIR: This is almost what George Carlin called 'vuja de,' something that's never been seen before: a member of the government supporting an opposition recommendation. I want this to be recorded for posterity.

MR. NELSON: That was a motion of mine a couple of years ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 17.

MR. CHUMIR: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 18.

MR. CHUMIR: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Carried.

MR. HERON: There, Sheldon; you got it.

MR. CHUMIR: I'm speechless.

MR. PAYNE: That was the strategy.

MR. CHUMIR: For the first time since May 8.
I move resolution 19, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of
recommendation 19? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 20.

MR. CHUMIR: I move recommendation 20, Mr.
Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.

MR. McEACHERN: Can we just have a check
on that again, please? I'd like to see the count.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed?

MR. CHUMIR: Was it 5-4? Could I see who
else is for it?

MR. HERON: 6-4.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 21.

MR. CHUMIR: I move recommendation 21, Mr.
Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 22.

MR. CHUMIR: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 23.

MR. CHERRY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Carried.
Recommendation 24.

MR. KROEGER: So moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.

MR. PAYNE: For the record, I wonder if I
could indicate to the hon. member that I think
there's a lot of merit in the proposal. My
opposition is simply that I think this is the
wrong place for it.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: That would echo my
thoughts as well, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 25.

MR. R. MOORE: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 26. Actually, Mr. Hyland
won't be here.

MR. HERON: On Mr. Hyland's behalf, I'd like to
move number 26.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Stony Plain;
thank you. All those in favour? Opposed?
Defeated.

MR. HERON: The same for 27, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Stony Plain
has moved 27. All those in favour? Opposed?
I'll have to have a . . .

MR. PAYNE: Mine was a mugwump vote that
time.

MR. McEACHERN: We're on 27?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 27. Four

in favour. Opposed?

MR. McEACHERN: Just a minute, and I'll make up my mind.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I think we should call the roll on this one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 27? Four in favour. All those opposed? Five.

MR. McEACHERN: I saw Mr. Moore move his hand.

MR. R. MOORE: I thought we were on 28. I was on the wrong one until he called it.

MR. McEACHERN: I see. So you are opposed. Okay, then that is 5 to 4.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's defeated.
Recommendation 28.

MR. R. MOORE: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

We didn't deal with any of your motions yet, Member for Lethbridge West, and we'll come back to those at the end.

MR. GOGO: Thank you, Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 29.

MR. R. MOORE: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.
Recommendation 30.

MR. PAYNE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 30? Opposed? Carried.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I'd like to be recorded as opposed to that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Calgary Mountain View would like to be recorded, please.

MR. McEACHERN: Also myself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And the Member for Edmonton Kingsway, to number 30.
Recommendation 31.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I spent a little time with regard to both 31 and 32, and it would be my desire to withdraw both, because frankly they should not be in the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund but a matter of government policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there agreeance on that?

MR. McEACHERN: Actually, there's nothing wrong with number 32. It is proposed as a part of the heritage trust fund hearings, so it should not be withdrawn from the point of view of being in an inappropriate forum. The mover has a right to change his mind as to whether he would introduce it in the Assembly to the Treasurer in his capacity as Treasurer rather than to the heritage trust fund. But there's certainly nothing with it in this forum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chairman would note that recommendation 32 has provisions for raising funds, and the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund is not borrowing money at this time.

MR. McEACHERN: He's suggesting that they should.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned last time in the committee, I thought it through in reference to the Member for Calgary Fish Creek and some other suggestions, and it will be the basis of a private Bill in the House next month.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Agreeance, then, for withdrawal of both 31 and 32?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 33.

MR. McEACHERN: This is an attempt to have the heritage trust fund fully reviewed at this stage. After 10 years, and given the changeover from a situation where we've had a surplus every year until this year and now we have a deficit, we think it would be a good idea

at this time. I would like to have incorporated some of the ideas from number 22, Mr. Chumir's, but we didn't get organized to get the little additions put in. I think this is the best of the recommendations -- it's certainly the most detailed -- suggesting a full review of the fund at this stage. So I move number 33.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 33? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 34.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I move resolution 34 in my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 35.

MR. McEACHERN: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, it should be noted that this particular thing is already being done internally, so this is not anything new.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 36.

MR. McEACHERN: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 37.

MR. McEACHERN: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 38.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move number 38, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 39.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I'll move recommendation 39 in the absence of Mr. Piquette.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Moved by the Member for

Calgary Mountain View. There was an amendment made on the last day. The words "if feasible" were added. All those in favour of recommendation 39? Opposed? Carried.

Recommendation 40.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move recommendation 40, standing in Mr. Piquette's name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Calgary Mountain View has moved recommendation 40. All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 41.

MR. McEACHERN: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 42.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move recommendation 42, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 42? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 43.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move recommendation 43, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? I'll have to have a show of hands again, please. All those in favour of recommendation 43? Opposed? Defeated. All this exercise should be good for you.
Recommendation 44.

MR. McEACHERN: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 45.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move recommendation 45, standing in Mr. Piquette's name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Calgary Mountain View has moved recommendation 45. All those in favour? Opposed? I'll have to have a show of hands again. All those in favour? Three. Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 46.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I move

number 46, standing in my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 47.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move number 47, Mr. Chairman. I'd like a recorded vote on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Four.
Opposed? Defeated. The Member for Calgary Mountain View would like to be recorded on that.

Recommendation 48.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move number 48, standing in my name, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Moved by the Member for Calgary Mountain View. All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 49.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move number 49, standing in my name, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 49? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 50, Member for Calgary Mountain View in the absence of the Member for Athabasca-Lac La Biche.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Four.
Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 51.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move the recommendation by Mr. Piquette in his absence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I'm sorry; what was the vote on that, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four in favour.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: And how many opposed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Six. All those in favour again?

MR. McEACHERN: Is this still number 51?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Three in favour.
Opposed?

MR. CHUMIR: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman; I thought we'd moved on to 52. I'm in favour of 51 as well, so that makes four.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four in favour. Thank you.
Defeated.

Recommendation 52.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move that in the absence of Mr. Piquette.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Moved by the Member for Calgary Mountain View. All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 53.

MR. McEACHERN: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Moved by the Member for Edmonton Kingsway. All those in favour?
Opposed? Carried.

Recommendation 54.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I'll move recommendation 54, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Moved by the Member for Calgary Mountain View. All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 55.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move recommendation 55, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour?
Opposed? Defeated.

MR. GOGO: You're kidding.

MR. McEACHERN: Can we see that again?

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Yes, I saw four.

MR. McEACHERN: I saw four and four. Mind you, some people aren't raising their — I guess I can't see some hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's probably harder for you to see down at that end, but I'll call that

again. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you.

MR. HERON: Even amended you didn't get it through.

MR. GOGO: Can't win for trying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 56.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move motion 56, removing the words "applied arts, visual arts and the performing arts" where they appear in that recommendation.

MR. GOGO: Do you want to reread it then?

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Okay, Mr. Chairman. So it would read:

That the Standing Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees of the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund the establishment of a new category of scholarships to reward the outstanding achievements of postsecondary students in the areas of fine arts, and that the number of scholarships awarded each year be limited and awarded on a competition basis.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That's clear for everybody now? I call the question on recommendation 56. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Recommendation 57.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I'll move number 57, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Moved by the Member for Calgary Mountain View. All those in favour? Is that two and a half or three? Opposed? Defeated. Thank you.

Recommendation 58.

MR. McEACHERN: I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 59.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I move number 59.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 59? Four in favour. Opposed? Defeated. Thank you.

Recommendation 60.

MR. McEACHERN: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 60? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 61.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I move recommendation 61.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 62.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I move 62, Mr. Chairman. This is regarding the rate of return on provincial investments in Kananaskis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 62? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 63.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, I move recommendation 63.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 63? Opposed? Defeated.

Recommendation 64.

MR. GOGO: You should really make a speech on this, Sheldon.

MR. CHUMIR: I move this outstanding recommendation.

MR. PAYNE: That was an outstanding speech.

MR. CHUMIR: It's the best speech I ever made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 64? Opposed?

MR. McEACHERN: I think we've got a dead heat, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Six to five.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Did you cast your vote with the opposed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kroeger had his hand up.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I couldn't see.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kroeger raised his hand right away. I'll call it again if you want.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 64? Opposed?

MR. HAWKESWORTH: I see you're right, Mr. Chairman. Sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 65.

MR. CHUMIR: I move this progressive recommendation, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, would it be acceptable to the mover of number 65 if it were called in two parts, 65(1) and then 65(2) separately from that, so we could be recorded on each of those two clauses?

MR. NELSON: No, you don't do that.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: It's up to the mover. Would the mover be agreeable?

MR. CHUMIR: Certainly. I would be delighted to divide the resolution into two parts to deal with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A motion to sever the recommendation in two. All those in favour? Opposed? Recommendation 65 in its entirety then.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, you've allowed other members who put resolutions to withdraw their motions if they wished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In agreeance with the committee each time. I think you'll find that if there's a wish to sever a recommendation or motion, the proper procedure requires a motion to sever, which we had. It was voted on and it was defeated.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: That was not clear to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 65 in its entirety.

MR. CHUMIR: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 66.

MR. CHUMIR: Mr. Chairman, I move this recommendation to establish an Alberta income fund.

MR. GOGO: That's one I could support partly, but . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 66? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 67.

MR. CHUMIR: Mr. Chairman, I move recommendation 67, expanding the role of the Auditor General.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 67? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 68.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that we passed Mr. Hawkesworth's motion 56 as amended, I request that 68 be withdrawn, as it achieves the same objective.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A request for withdrawal of 68. Is it agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation 69. I recognize the Member for Edmonton Kingsway.

MR. McEACHERN: Mr. Chairman, a short word on this recommendation. This would make it much easier to keep a direct accounting of the value of some of those Crown corporations, and it would also allow the Treasurer and the Premier much more flexibility in dealing with our present deficit situation. Those kinds of decisions would be made in the House if this recommendation were to go through.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 69? Opposed? Defeated.
Recommendation 70.

MR. McEACHERN: Mr. Chairman, recommendation 70 really goes along with a whole series of suggested changes to Vencap so that it would be more under the control of the government. I'm sorry that the other resolutions all failed, but at least this one would allow us to recoup some of the money that's not being used by that organization. I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 70? Opposed? Defeated.

We'll return to recommendation 1.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I think we have a very great opportunity here to indicate to other parts of Canada as well as Alberta that the deemed assets of the fund frankly don't give a return, and therefore I don't think the annual report is accurate. I move that we adopt number 1, that the deemed assets be shown with a value of \$1.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 1? Opposed?

MR. GOGO: Tied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Six-four.

MR. PAYNE: We have 11 at the table, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Six-five.
Recommendation 2.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, due to the fact that we've now faced a decade of experience with the fund, I think the government has an obligation, really, to review the objectives of the fund. Therefore, I move number 2.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 2? Opposed? Carried.
Recommendation 3.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, as we see by the annual report of the fund, those investments that are invested in ownership as opposed to debt have shown an excellent return. To maintain something of a balance of the fund, although there's no dollar amount stated here, I would certainly move that the commercial investment division be more aggressive by purchasing more common stocks in Canadian

corporations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 3? Opposed? Carried.
Recommendation 4.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, as members know, the Alberta investment division and the energy division came into the fund at different times. It would seem to me that the Alberta Energy Company should be transferred from the Alberta investment division to the energy division of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund. Therefore, I move number 4.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those in favour of recommendation 4? Opposed? Defeated.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: Mr. Chairman, would you be able to run down the list in terms of all those defeated and approved?

MR. NELSON: You got a list.

MR. HERON: You'll get it in Hansard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the committee so desires, I could quickly run down it. Or if you like, we can stay afterwards and I can go over it with you.

MR. CHUMIR: Could I make a brilliant suggestion? Why don't you just advise which ones were carried? That will take about three seconds.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: That would be easiest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can do it from my notes, and perhaps Miss Conroy can check as I go through, just to confirm.

Recommendation 2 was passed.
Recommendation 3 was passed.
Recommendation 5 was passed. Number 6 was passed. Seven, 8, 18, 23, 28, 35 . . .

MR. McEACHERN: How about 29?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry; 29, 30, 35, 39, 53, and 56. Good. All that healthy, hearty, and at times lengthy debate and discussion proved to be fruitful in that we were able to proceed through the recommendations in a very timely fashion this morning. I appreciate everybody's

assistance, co-operation, and understanding with the Chair throughout the deliberations we've had.

It would now be the chairman's hope to complete the final report within the next four to six weeks, at which time I hope to have at least a draft copy. I will forward it to all members with a week to 10 days' notice for another meeting of the trust fund, at which time we can finalize the report.

It is the Chair's intention to follow very closely the format that was utilized last year. I would certainly welcome any suggestions members might want to offer the chairman during the next four weeks. I'd certainly be happy to take them under advisement.

MR. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman, would it be your intention to table the report early in the spring sittings?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. McEACHERN: I just want to say I'm a little disappointed in the final report here. The number passed was very, very small, and a lot of those other resolutions — some of them were not big and important ones, just sort of mundane things like making sure we got the information we need before this committee. The idea that we needed to have some kind of review of the fund, like in number 2 — the more specific suggestions were rejected. I don't think we've really changed anything. The heritage trust fund is going to go on the same next year as it did this year. Nor did we even set up a review process that will indicate changes for the future, as far as I can see.

I just have to say that I'm rather disappointed in all the work we've done and the fact that we've gone nowhere. I want to be on record as saying that.

MR. GOGO: Two points, Mr. Chairman. I'd be interested in the wishes of the committee members and yourself with regard to whether or not this is the conclusion, with the exception of publishing the report. Would it be the wish of members that we visit the Pine Ridge nursery? Would it be the wish of the committee that we view our investment in Syncrude? I'm kind of curious about the wishes of the committee between now and the time this report is tabled.

MR. CHERRY: Also irrigation.

MR. GOGO: Irrigation is perhaps difficult, due to last night's snow.

I would be interested in what members of this committee want to do prior to either the House opening or the publishing of the report. Perhaps you have some views; I don't know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The chairman doesn't have any specific project tours lined up at this time. I would certainly welcome suggestions or proposals from committee members. I think we've said that right from the beginning. If there's a strong desire amongst the members — perhaps I can take some consensus of the membership betweentimes — I'd be happy to arrange for the necessary tours.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I have never toured the urban park at Fish Creek, for example, or any other urban park. That to me would be of great interest. It may be difficult due to the winter conditions; that's all. We have substantial investments in those parks. I very much would like to see them, particularly in Fish Creek park. I don't know how other members feel.

MR. HERON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say how much I enjoyed touring some of the facilities and our larger investments to get a firsthand view. That said, however, I do not feel that it's practical to visit all of them. We have to make some trade-offs, especially given the fiscal condition that the province is facing. I think we have to be satisfied with what we have seen, and for that reason I couldn't recommend any further trips this year.

MR. BRADLEY: I would express a similar sentiment in terms of the mandate of this committee. I think we've had a fairly exhaustive review of the trust fund. We've visited several of the capital projects investments, and given that we've really concluded at this point, I don't think we should embark on further tours at this point in time. But that's something that . . . There are things the committee hasn't visited in this review. Perhaps in the next annual review the committee, whatever its membership may be, may wish to visit some of the other very worthwhile projects and see where we're at.

But I would like to see the work of this committee concluded, given some of the reasons the Member for Stony Plain said in terms of restraint. In terms of my personal schedule, I just don't have any time between now and when the House goes in that I can further offer in terms of being able to attend those types of functions.

MR. McEACHERN: I was going to say I'm not really interested in more travel at this time, both for economic reasons from the point of view of expenditures and also the time factor. I think we should go ahead with this report. If one is looking to the future, I think we should keep those kinds of expenditures to a bare minimum. One that I would consider to be probably worth while for some members of this committee, myself certainly included, would be something in the irrigation districts. It's quite fundamental and very important, but perhaps for another year.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I don't think it's really prudent at this point in time to facilitate any further travel, but if people wish to have a look at and visit irrigation, that's probably a summer trip. I think the Pine Ridge nursery is also a trip when conditions are more appropriate. Both those activities would be well worth while for members. Of course, I would probably not attend those trips myself, because I've seen them and I don't think it would be useful for me to go a second time. But I think those are two of the finest investments the government has ever made with the fund.

I think the general deliberations have been quite fruitful. Maybe in another year we should take one or two items and focus a little more attention on them. For example, Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation is one that we should . . .

MR. HERON: It lost, Stan.

MR. NELSON: No. I withdrew that, Mr. Heron, so don't giggle too fast.

The point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, is that there are activities being done outside, and I think that to some degree we have our hands tied as to how far we can go in investigating some of those activities. I think Alberta housing is a horror show. I believe that

sincerely, and I believe it's in the best interests of all of us to ensure that there is further examination of that corporation. I would hope that in the future we might take one or two specific items and do an exhaustive investigation in some way, shape, or form to ensure that we are reasonably comfortable with the investments that are made through the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, more so than what I feel in one specific instance, as I've already identified at this time.

Other than that, Mr. Chairman, I think you've handled yourself very well. I think the committee has done a reasonably good job. I think the recommendations that have been passed are fairly good ones. Some that weren't may have been, but in general terms I think the committee has functioned very well.

MR. CHUMIR: In terms of the travel issue, Mr. Chairman, I've made it clear throughout the hearings and by some of the major recommendations that I've made that I believe we are in error in the way we are using large portions of the heritage trust fund, particularly in relation to the capital fund. If we are going to continue under the present format, and it appears that the majority on this committee do not feel that we're ready for a fundamental review, then I have many reservations about the value of the travel that has been undertaken under the present format.

I went on neither of the trips, and they probably would have been very nice. But in terms of making decisions for this investment committee, the primary issues are policy and financial, and we have very little policy and financial information presented to this committee in a depth which would enable us to make any kind of decision on the merits of the investment. I just don't think it's worth while to go and kick the walls of a grain terminal or to see water moving through an irrigation project without the base information, which there is very little attempt to provide this committee with. In tandem it makes some sense, but in isolation I think the travel is a waste of money.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I want to comment on the Member for Calgary Buffalo's comments. His comments are not new. How often I've heard comments from people who, for example, make judgments on Quebec and have never been to Quebec. If people had not taken

the time to have the interests of the agricultural sector of Alberta and gone to Prince Rupert and investigated and looked at the potential there, perhaps we wouldn't have Ridley Island as it exists today. With that type of money involved — and we're dealing with a fund, depending on your judgment, of \$15 billion — the amount spent on travel is insignificant. I think it's crucially important to members of this Assembly that the committee they've selected, namely this committee, has to be in a position to advise members of the House firsthand on what they've seen in terms of the investment. So I certainly don't concur with the comments of Mr. Chumir with regard to travel.

MR. HAWKESWORTH: My only comment, Mr. Chairman, is that in terms of travel — I'm not going to question that people learn from that. But if you're going to be cutting the budgets in the offices of the opposition, we have suggested that there might be some areas that ought to be cut first in terms of travel budgets, and we've made that very recommendation to the Members' Services Committee. So we're not going to support any increased travel by MLAs at the same time as that's going on.

MR. KROEGER: Mr. Chairman, given the fact that the structure of the committee may change before the next round of hearings — and there was reference here a number of times to doing a tour of the irrigation system — it seems to me that it would be useful to have this committee as it exists make that tour in either July or August of this year to see what the operation is. What you will see is not water running around in ditches or canals or rivers. What you will see is the result of the management of a resource.

Given the fact that we're now working against very difficult world markets, and you're looking at an enhancement of production of something that you may or may not agree ought to be enhanced, I would seriously recommend that this committee make that one trip, because next year again you'll be into the frozen time of the year when this committee meets, whoever is on it, and the same comments will come again. Particularly, I think it's more important for the urban members than it is for rural members to have a firsthand look at what's going on, because the amount of money being spent on that sort of development

is major, and I think making a judgment on it requires on-site inspection. So I recommend that we plan now to do this in either late July or early August of this year.

MR. CHUMIR: I'm surprised that Mr. Gogo could misconstrue my comments to reflect a lack of interest in viewing the irrigation and agriculture projects. I certainly am interested. I had hoped he would recognize a *cri de coeur*, a lament, with respect to the paucity of information and analysis which is presented to this committee. That's what we should be concerned about foremost. Without that, we're going to be wasting our time on these trips. That's what we've been trying to get at in some of these recommendations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair would note that he's certainly sensitive to some of the concerns over restraint that have been expressed to me by members of this committee from all parties. I would point out that our year is coming to a close, but our total expenditures are approximately \$58,000 out of a budget approved last year of \$151,000. So I think we're demonstrating some leadership at this particular committee level. I'd also pass on for the members' information that in the recommendations I put forward in reference to budgeting for next year, we've reduced our budget to a proposed \$124,000 from the \$151,800 this year. I think it's fair to say that the Chair is aware of the concerns over restraint and has applied the process accordingly.

I also note that a substantial reduction in our budget proposal for next year was made through cutbacks in travel expense, but there are still provisions for the committee to tour or visit appropriate sites and projects next year.

MR. CHUMIR: I would perhaps throw out a thought for the members of the committee to chew on if we do have excess amounts remaining in the budget: that we not strain to add travel but add some staff or process of independent review to do a lot of the background work on [inaudible] on behalf of the committee, which members of the committee per se, by the very nature of their other duties, don't have the time to do thoroughly. Perhaps we might chew on that as an aspect of what we spend our money on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Certainly that was one of the recommendations that came up for considerable debate at this table not too many days ago.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, in terms of the response of the hon. member, is there some way we, even as members of the committee, could notify some of these departments at an earlier time; for example, the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I know there's a number of things I would like. Would there be any benefit in, say, itemizing those things at one of our first meetings and saying, "Here are some specific things we would like to ask"? Maybe each member could submit a list of questions that would go to those ministers or directors prior to their coming here. I know some of them come in cold, and they're not sure where the questions are coming from. We might get a better response from them. They do have research personnel to dig up all that background information. I'd hate to see our hiring more people to do some things somebody has already done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Member for Little Bow has an excellent suggestion. I'm sure any of the ministers or various personnel would welcome any advance notice of something that might be important to you as a member of this committee. Certainly I would encourage all members to proceed and make those kinds of requests, either through me as chairman or directly through the various departments.

Any further discussion at this time?

MR. GOGO: Chairman, this is an administrative matter. I believe you spent some time in preparation for this final meeting, and you as chairman will be compiling the report. I move that the chairman be allowed up to 14 working days in terms of expenses and honoraria in the preparation of the final report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a recommendation brought forward by the Member for Lethbridge West. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. Thank you.

I think that's pretty close to being in line with last year. I noticed that Mr. Kowalski made a request for 12 days, I think, to write the report, but it didn't take into consideration the other administrative parts to date.

Any further discussion?

MR. R. MOORE: I move we adjourn.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The chairman would note that we weren't sure how long this meeting would take, and you've once again amazed me with your efficiency and co-operation. Lunch is still being brought in at 11:30. I think it's too late to cancel that, but I'd certainly invite the members back at 11:30 for some informal discussions and debate.

[The committee adjourned at 10:04 a.m.]

