

*Mr Robertson*  
*need not read - just to know*  
CONFIDENTIAL *it exists*

May 26, 1975  
*D*  
*27/5*

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HANEY

Meeting with Alberta Officials  
and others on May 16

-- Attached is a copy of a note from Ms. Susan Green dated May 15, which set out the itinerary for the visit which Mr. Robertson and I made to Alberta on May 15-16. In the event, everything worked out the way the schedule indicates, except that Harry Hobbs was sick, and the lunch was hosted by Chip Collins. In turn, Chip was called to Cabinet and was not able to spend the hour and a half with us which he had planned. He expressed particular disappointment at this, and Mr. Robertson and I promised to spend time with him if he so desired on his next trip to Ottawa. I rather think he will take advantage of that offer. The series of meetings during the morning with the officials of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs was quite fascinating. It was a bit as if we entertained two senior officials from Edmonton by sitting them down with, say, one of the Desk Heads and two or three junior support staff. I suspect it gave the Alberta people the feeling of having had a real chance to show us what sort of a team they had built up. In one way, it was quite naive, but in another way, it was absolutely charming and very much conducive toward feelings of goodwill. Sometime we might think of treating visitors to something of the same here.

Each of the discussions wandered over many areas and rarely got down to serious business. There were, however, several points worth keeping in mind:

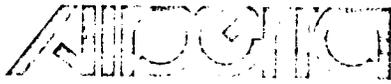
1. Tom Nisbet spoke of Alberta's interest in communications and of its philosophical support for Quebec in seeking provincial control over private broadcasting. There is a pretty strong feeling in Alberta, and probably throughout the West, that Canadian broadcasting in English, both public and private, is a reflection of Toronto, and of nowhere else. We all recognized the limited amount of talent yet available in Canada and the possible need to concentrate it in order to get maximum benefit. Such a concentration, however, soon leads to everything being coloured by the geographical location where the concentration occurs. The problem then is to find the ideal compromise between greater efficiency through concentration and greater regional sensitivity through decentralization. Provincial government broadcasting organizations, like Radio-Quebec, could perhaps perform a vital function in producing programmes with a regional flavour which could be used over the public and private broadcasting systems. One could even have a requirement for all stations to use at least a certain proportion of regional material.
  
2. Mr. Nisbet spoke of a new kind of general agreement which Madame Sauvé is apparently organizing with all provinces pertaining to the environment and covering "structures for working together". Alberta likes the concept and would like to get on with the signing of the agreement, but Madame Sauvé seems to be dragging her feet. It was suggested to us that it is being held up until several provinces are ready to sign. We promised to try to find out what the story was. Mr. Nisbet pointed out that Alberta is anxious to have a working arrangement in place to avoid the sort of problems which arose a few months ago when Madame Sauvé criticized publicly the Alberta government's handling of the environmental aspects of oil sands development.

3. Ken Kyle indicated to us that Alberta would probably be difficult to convince on several aspects of the federal proposals for an income security system. While he did not elaborate, it was quite clear that Alberta will wish to administer the whole system itself. It also seemed that there may be some fundamental differences of view on the definition of who constitutes the working poor.
4. We discovered that Alberta was not making use of and had apparently never heard of the special arrangements we made several years ago for access to the federal government telephone lines. This is a question which Valerie Dufour might pursue. I have not seen a recent report on how the system is working or whether it is working at all. Perhaps someone could let me know.
5. We also learned from Ken Kyle that he is to be married on July 10. I will certainly want to send him something for the occasion. If there are any old timers in the Office who were here when Ken was here and would like to join in to make it a small "office" gift, please let me know.
6. We had only a short time with Peter Meekison and no special problems arose. Later, however, we had a few moments with both Peter and the Honourable Lou Hyndman just after our meeting with Premier Lougheed. We were able to raise the question of the publicity "deal" which was recently concluded with Manitoba. Both expressed an interest and I will be sending a copy of the exchange of correspondence to Peter, so that they can think about it.



F.A.G. Carter

c.c. Mr. Gwyn  
Mr. Gravelle



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May 15, 1975

Mr. F.A.G. Carter,  
Deputy Secretary, Federal Provincial Relations Office,  
Government of Canada.

*Susan Green*

Dear Mr. Carter:

Please be advised that the following meetings have been arranged for you:

9:45 - A car will call at your hotel to take you to your first appointment.

10:00 - Mr. Tom Nisbet, Director of Resources & Development, Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, 5th Floor, Blue Cross Bldg.

*Party 10*

10:45 - Mr. Ken Kyle, Director, Social & Cultural Affairs, Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, 5th Floor, Blue Cross Bldg.

11:15 - Dr. J. Peter Meekison, Director, Research & Planning, Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs, 5th Floor, Blue Cross Bldg.

12:00 - Lunch, hosted by Harry B. Hobbs, Deputy Minister, Executive Council. President's Room, Edmonton Club.

2:00 - A.F. Collins, Deputy Treasurer, Treasury, 5th Floor, Blue Cross Bldg.

3:30 - Premier Lougheed,  
- Honorable L. Hyndman,  
- Dr. J. Peter Meekison  
Premier's Office, Rm. 307, Legislature Bldg.

Evening - free

*Ms. Miss*

*Susan Green*

Susan Green,  
Sr. Intergovernmental Officer.

SG:gr