

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTATitle: **Thursday, November 19, 1981 2:30 p.m.**

[The House met at 2:30 p.m.]

PRAYERS

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS****Bill 100****Chartered Accountants Amendment Act, 1981**

MR. HYNDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to introduce Bill No. 100, the Chartered Accountants Amendment Act, 1981.

The purpose of this short Bill is to clarify the existing authority of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta to effectively conduct mandatory practice reviews of the work of its members. The Bill does not change the existing situation respecting fields of practice of the various accounting bodies of the province of Alberta.

[Motion carried; Bill 100 read a first time]

head: **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

MR. STROMBERG: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you 36 students from the Edberg school, located in the Camrose constituency. They are represented by grades 7, 8, and 9, and their teachers Mr. Rowswell and Mr. MacKenzie. In discussions with the students, they informed me that they hope to come here again next year and be able to drive on pavement on the new 956. They are seated in the visitors gallery, and I ask them to rise and be recognized by this Assembly.

MR. ISLEY: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to introduce to you, and through you to the members of the House, a group of distinguished gentlemen from the municipal district of Bonnyville. With us today, and not mentioning any roads, are reeve Stanley Baik from the MD of Bonnyville, councillor George Hutskal, who also serves on the provincial agricultural development board, councillor Don Sinclair, councillor Nick Kalinsky, municipal administrator Roy Doonanco, and assistant administrator Ray Compo. They are seated in the members gallery, and I ask that they rise and receive the welcome of the House.

MR. L. CLARK: Mr. Speaker, it's a real pleasure for me today to introduce to you, and through you to this Assembly, a group of 35 grade 9 students from Samuel Crowther high school in Strathmore. Strathmore, in the heart of the Big Country, is the fastest growing area in the Drumheller constituency, and one of the fastest growing in the province. They are accompanied by their group leader Mr. William Murray, Mrs. Shirley Aschenbrenner, and Kathy Fullerton. Kathy, I might add, is a new teacher who has just come to Alberta from Ontario to

make her home here. I ask them to rise now and receive the welcome of the House.

MR. BRADLEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, on the third try perhaps I'll be successful. It's a distinct pleasure today for me to introduce to members of the Assembly some visitors from the constituency of Pincher Creek-Crowsnest who are visiting the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties meeting in Edmonton. They are the reeve of the municipality Mr. Hilton Pharis, councillor Tom Ferguson, councillor Joyce McFarland, and her husband Ken. I ask them to rise and receive the welcome of the members of the Assembly.

head: **ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****Constitution — Aboriginal Rights**

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. It is with regard to the process the Alberta government will use in dealing with aboriginal and treaty rights of the Indian, Inuit, and Metis people. Could the Premier indicate at this time what steps are going to be put in place so full consultation and discussion can take place between now and the proposed constitutional conference next year with regard to this matter?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, we're in the process of having some discussions with representatives of the Metis Association of Alberta and, tomorrow, with the Metis Settlements. We would welcome discussions with other native groups. The process is to attempt to consider the provisions discussed within a newly revised Canadian constitution, to clarify and understand the nature of the requests and, at the same time, to identify what's involved pursuant to the answers I've previously given in this Legislature.

Perhaps while I'm on my feet, for filing with the legislative office and hence for the availability of the members of the Legislature, I could table two copies of the notice of motion given by the Minister of Justice yesterday in the federal House of Commons with regard to this revised constitution.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Premier with regard to financial support for the discussions and representations, specifically by the Metis people, because they are the responsibility of the province. Has any consideration been given toward financial assistance in that area to assure that full discussion goes on and that a financial barrier doesn't prevent those discussions? Is the government considering some financial help?

MR. LOUGHEED: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Previously, on Monday of this week, we gave that financial undertaking. We may not be able to come to an understanding, although I'm encouraged by the nature of the discussions. We have made it absolutely clear that the discussions should not in any way be subject to any financial limitations the Metis Association of Alberta may have. As the hon. Leader of the Opposition quite correctly put it, under our constitution, the basic responsibility for treaty Indians lies with the federal government. But with regard to the Metis people within this province, there's a clear responsibility on the government of Alberta.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary question in this area with regard to the Alberta government's position on aboriginal rights. Will the government be putting together an in-house type of task force? What will the structure of the body be that will try to define aboriginal rights from a provincial point of view?

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, at this stage, there has been a task force involving the Attorney General and representatives from his department, the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, the caucus committee chairman, the MLA from Edmonton Mill Woods, and solicitors from the Department of the Attorney General. That has formed the task force that has been working during the course of this week. I may be able to expand upon that further, depending upon developments, during the course of the question period tomorrow.

Rights of Disabled Persons

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, the other question area I wish to cover today is with regard to some of the frustrations of handicapped Albertans. I would like to direct these questions as well to the Premier. I understand there was a request to the Premier from some disabled groups to appoint an independent task force to study the issues of concern of disabled persons. I wonder if the Premier has considered that matter and is prepared to respond.

MR. LOUGHEED: Mr. Speaker, I'd have to refer that question to the Minister of Social Services and Community Health.

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, on October 22, I believe, a letter was received in the Premier's office from four groups representing disabled Albertans which requested a task force and made a number of other points. Because of the complexities of the letter and the other departments involved in terms of responding to its contents, the letter has not yet been responded to. But I might mention that that should be done within the next week to 10 days.

MR. R. SPEAKER: A further question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. One concern of the groups was the communication with government, a government cabinet committee or beyond the minister. Has any consideration been given to re-establishing the joint MLA/handicapped committee to look at various concerns and problems, so there is a communication system between the Legislature and handicapped groups in the province?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, the hon. leader is referring to another piece of correspondence by the Alberta Action Groups for the Disabled, who have requested the re-establishment of the old MLA task force committee. A response recently went to that organization advising them that that would not be done. The process we encourage all groups to follow is to meet with members of the various opposition parties in this Assembly from time to time and with the government caucus, in this particular case the caucus committee on health and social services, which is very ably chaired by the Member for Calgary North West.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the minister. One of the requests in that letter of October 28 was to meet with the Premier and the cabinet

of the province. Is the minister, on behalf of those consumer groups, arranging that meeting so that communication can be brought forward to the government?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, in the response I forwarded to the president of the organization, I indicated that I would certainly be prepared to meet with the organization, as I have in the past.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, the request was to have a meeting prior to November 30 with the Premier and the cabinet. Is the minister saying that the meeting will be with the minister only, or will it take into consideration a meeting with the Premier and other members of cabinet?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, no specific request has been made by the group in terms of other ministers they might like to meet with. It would not be practical to expect the Premier to be involved in such a meeting on that kind of notice. Certainly we would want to ensure that (a) there's a recognition that the caucus committee route is open to all provincial organizations within this province, and we encourage groups to use that route, and (b) when organizations have a request to meet with specific ministers — and in this particular case, meetings in the past have involved my colleague the Minister of Labour, as well as the Minister of Education, on one occasion I believe, because of the nature of the agenda to be discussed — once we receive the agenda proposed by the Action Groups for the Disabled, we'll better be able to assess which ministers and MLAs should be involved in such a meeting.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Could the minister take on a commitment that the meeting will be arranged prior to mid-December of this year and not held over until early 1982?

MR. BOGLE: Mr. Speaker, I certainly will commit that once a specific request is made with a proposed agenda, it will be responded to immediately.

Tax Incentives for Farmers

MR. MANDEVILLE: Mr. Chairman, my question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture is with regard to changes made in the capital gains tax when the federal budget came down. Has the minister had any representation from farm groups with regard to the capital gains, where now they can't spread their payments over a number of years? I'm thinking of farmers especially.

MR. SCHMIDT: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MANDEVILLE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. This capital gains is going to create a serious problem with fathers selling to their sons. Will the minister be meeting with officials of ADC to see if anything can be worked out in this area, as far as spreading the capital gains over a number of years?

MR. SCHMIDT: Mr. Speaker, we've made a request for documentation so we may have the opportunity to study how the implications would affect the future land transactions between father and son.