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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Alberta | 18e | 3e | Remarques préliminaires à l’étude des crédits du ministère de l’Éducation | 28 avril 1977 | M. Julian G. Koziak | Ministre de l’Éducation | PC |

**Mr. Koziak:** Mr. Chairman, I'll just make some very brief comments. I think information on most of the items dealt with in the budget which are new has been provided to members of this Assembly during the sittings of the spring session in ministerial statements I have made, including the changes to the small school assistance grants, the location allowances, and the second language program.

Information was also provided to members, both in the Budget Address and in announcements I had previously made, in connection with the reduction of the minimum age from three and a half to two and a half for ECS children with hearing handicaps, also the matter of the increase in the number of special education teaching positions that would be recognized over the course of this budget year. The budget provides for an additional 100 special education teaching positions in the area of the mildly handicapped. Of course there's no limit in the area of the severely handicapped; however, we presume the growth in that area wouldn't extend beyond an additional 50 special education teaching positions.

With respect to private schools, hon. members are aware of the increase in the SFPF grants from 40 per cent to 50 per cent, and are also aware that the overall financial assistance to school boards provided for in this budget is 10.2 per cent higher than it was for the previous year. They are also aware that the recommendations of the Minister's Advisory Committee on School Finance, dealing with the weighting between elementary, junior high, and senior high students, have also been implemented so the weighting is now 1 for elementary, 1.1 for junior high, and 1.3 for senior high. It's our ultimate intention to reach the weighting factors of 1, 1.05, and 1.2 respectively for those three categories, either next year or maybe in stages over two years. Our present intention is to do it next year.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could respond to the comments and questions of hon. members.