review of the operations of the Public Affairs Bureau (PAB), for which he is directly responsible.

The review, conducted by Conservative MLA **Ron Liepert** and presented at the Cold Lake caucus retreat, proposed the virtual elimination of the bureau, redeploying elements under its control like the Queen's Printer and Alberta Connects to the government services department and assigning communications personnel to individual departments. As well, **Liepert** recommended providing strategic communications advice to each of the six Standing Policy Committees (SPCs) by assigning them communications professionals and creating a new deputy minister of communications.

Klein, who has not yet released the report, said he likes some of its recommendations, but has not immediately embraced others.

"We aren't doing anything with the PAB at this time," the premier said. "Some of them I could accept, some of them I can't accept, but we will have to have the administration and the officials go through this with a fine tooth comb and we will have to have it come back to cabinet and caucus to make a final determination."

"I can tell you that, without going into the details of the report because I don't have it in front of me, but they were saying that by and large, the PAB does a pretty good job, but there are some things that I agree with. I will tell you what I agree with. There are some things that should be separated out like the Queen's Printer and Alberta Connects (the old RITE system) and they should be under government services. That I agree with. But the restructuring relative to appointing a whole bunch of directors making them consistent with SPCs, the appointment of a deputy minister (of communications), a lot of these things cause me some reason to think about it."

Sources say **Liepert** is to collate responses to his recommendations from ministers and MLAs then present his findings to a cabinet meeting in a few weeks. That process may be moot. **Klein** didn't seem to have the stomach for significant reform when he talked about the possible PAB changes.

In their retreat the Conservatives apparently concluded this year's surplus is going to be big enough for the government to do it all: save, spend and share the wealth.

Too bad they couldn't communicate that. It's a sign of the **Klein** administration's twilight. ❑

Government Scan...

The following announcements were made this week by the provincial government. The title of the announcement, as written by the government, is in bold. Cabinet decisions, called Orders in Council, are marked with the abbreviation "OC" and the number of the decision. Copies of the full text of the OCs mentioned below are available from the justice department at 780-427-2217.

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