

Thursday, December 4, 1997



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 6

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYERS

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

Immediately following Prayers, Hon. Mr. PRAZNIK rose on a matter of privilege and moved:

THAT the Honourable Member for Kildonan apologize to this House and the people of Manitoba for placing inaccurate and false information before the House which caused unnecessary concern and fear about the quality of health care food services in Manitoba.

And Messrs. ASHTON and CHOMIAK having spoken,

WHEREUPON Mr. CHOMIAK apologized to the House for his December 3, 1997 reference to the Health Sciences Centre's use of frozen food items,

And Hon. Messrs. McCRAE and PRAZNIK having spoken,

WHEREUPON Hon. Mr. PRAZNIK withdrew his matter of privilege.

The following petitions were presented:

Ms. McGIFFORD - An Action Plan in Consultation with the Community for the Timely Implementation of Meaningful Change as Outlined in the Lavoie Inquiry, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry and the Pedlar Report (S. Hrynyk, M. Johnson, R. Purvis and others)

Ms. WOWCHUK - An Action Plan in Consultation with the Community for the Timely Implementation of Meaningful Change as Outlined in the Lavoie Inquiry, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry and the Pedlar Report (D. Medwechuk, J. Welsted, D. Caldwell and others)

Hon. Mr. REIMER presented:

Annual Report of the Department of Urban Affairs for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 46)

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Annual Report of the Department of Housing, the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and the Manitoba Housing Authority for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.
(Sessional Paper No. 47)

Also:

Annual Report of the Seniors Directorate for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.
(Sessional Paper No. 48)

Hon. Mrs. VODREY presented:

Annual Report of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1996.
(Sessional Paper No. 49)

Also:

Annual Report of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.
(Sessional Paper No. 50)

Also:

Annual Report of the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.
(Sessional Paper No. 51)

Also:

Annual Report of the Manitoba Centennial Centre Corporation for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.
(Sessional Paper No. 52)

Also:

Annual Report under Section 54 of The Freedom of Information Act for the year ended December 31, 1996.
(Sessional Paper No. 53)

Also:

Annual Report of the Manitoba Arts Council for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.
(Sessional Paper No. 54)

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1997. Annual Report of the Manitoba Women's Directorate for the fiscal year ended March 31,
(Sessional Paper No. 55)

Hon. Mr. NEWMAN presented:

1997. Annual Report of the Department of Energy and Mines for the fiscal year ended March 31,
(Sessional Paper No. 56)

Also:

Financial Statements for the Manitoba Mineral Resources Ltd. for the fiscal year ended
March 31, 1997. (Sessional Paper No. 57)

Also:

1997. Annual Report of the Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board for the fiscal year ended March 31,
(Sessional Paper No. 58)

Also:

1997. Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board, Quarterly Report, Three Months, April 1, 1997 - June 30,
(Sessional Paper No. 59)

Also:

Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board, Quarterly Report, Six Months, April 1, 1997 - September
30, 1997. (Sessional Paper No. 60)

Also:

1997. Annual Report of the Department of Northern Affairs for the fiscal year ended March 31,
(Sessional Paper No. 61)

Also:

Annual Report of the Development Fund for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.
(Sessional Paper No. 62)

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Also:

Communities Economic Development Fund, Quarterly Report, Three Months, April 1997 - June 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 63)

Hon. Mr. DOWNEY presented:

Annual Report of the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 64)

Also:

Annual Report of the Co-operative Loans and Loans Guarantee Board for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 65)

Also:

Annual Report of the Cooperative Promotion Board for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 66)

Also:

Annual Report of the Manitoba Trade and Investment Corporation for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 67)

Also:

Annual Report of the Industrial Technology Centre for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 68)

Also:

Financial Statements for the Manitoba Development Corporation for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 69)

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Hon. Mr. RADCLIFFE presented:

Annual Report under the Trade Practices Inquiry Act for the period ended December 4, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 70)

The following Bills were, by leave, respectively introduced and read a First Time:

(No. 17) - The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative

(Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor)
(Hon. Mr. McCRAE)

(No. 18) - The Registry Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'enregistrement foncier
(Hon. Mr. RADCLIFFE)

Hon. Mr. McCRAE presented:

Message from His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor recommending the disposition of public revenue for Bill (No. 17).

(Sessional Paper No. 71)

Following Oral Questions, Madam Speaker made the following rulings:

I am ruling on a point of order raised by the Honourable First Minister on November 21, 1996 regarding words spoken by the Opposition House Leader during a matter of privilege. The words were "I guess the government threatened the Speaker, and she did listen."

I am ruling that the Premier did not have a point of order. As the appendix to the Rule Book states, this is a dispute between two members to allegations of facts--the Opposition House Leader made a statement, and the Premier disagreed.

I took under advisement on November 21, 1996 a point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon concerning words he said were spoken by the Premier. The Honourable Member for Flin Flon stated that the Premier called the Member for Dauphin a name that the Member for Flin Flon would not repeat.

A review of the Hansard record relating to the matter does not show any words spoken by the Premier, nor is there anything on the audio tape to indicate words spoken by the First Minister. Therefore I am unable to rule on the point of order.

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On November 25, 1996 the Opposition House Leader raised a point of order which I took under advisement. The point of order concerned an answer provided by the Honourable First Minister to a question posed by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. The question concerned the First Minister's response to a number of petitions which requested a bilingual version of the new Manitoba licence plate and which had been tabled by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. In raising the point of order, the Opposition House Leader contended that the answer supplied by the Premier was not specific to the question asked.

Having reviewed Hansard, I find that the Opposition House Leader did indeed have a point of order. The Honourable First Minister should in replying to questions deal with the matter raised in the question. His answer was essentially a general response about French language services offered in the province, and was not specific to the question posed by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface--that is, would the Premier personally re-examine the matter of bilingual automobile licence plates.

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I am ruling on a point of order raised on November 25, 1996, by the Honourable Member for St. Johns about the relevance of comments made by the then Minister of Government Services, the former member for Portage la Prairie, in his speech on report stage amendments to Bill 67.

Having review Hansard, I find that indeed the Honourable Member for St. Johns did have a point of order. The Minister was not being relevant to the motion which was before the House.

There had been some latitude, I believe, given in the overall debate of the report stage amendments, but the Minister of Government Services' comments had little to do with the Bill or the amendment. He was speaking of the future leadership candidates for the NDP Party.

I remind all Honourable Members when speaking to be relevant to the matter under debate.

Pursuant to Rule 20(1), Mr. McALPINE, Ms. CERILLI and Messrs. HELWER, STRUTHERS and LAMOUREUX made Members' Statements.

The House resumed the Interrupted Debate on the Proposed Motion of Mr. DYCK:

For an Address to His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor in answer to His Speech at the Opening of the Session.

And the Proposed Motion of Mr. DOER in amendment thereto as follows:

THAT the motion be amended by adding to it, after the word "session," the following words:

But this House regrets that this government has failed to meet the goals of Manitobans by:

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- a) failing to provide adequate and timely compensation to Manitobans who were driven from their homes by the Red River flood, while holding the flood victims themselves responsible for the losses they suffered; and
- b) failing to respect the rights of Manitobans victimized by crime, in particular by making it mandatory (as it is in most other provinces) that crime victims be given opportunities to present victim impact statements to the court prior to sentencing; and
- c) forcing Manitobans to bear the costs of privatizing the Manitoba Telephone System, through escalating local phone rates intended to boost the profits of private shareholders; and
- d) failing to respond to Manitoban's frustrations over the lengthy waiting lists for medical procedures and surgeries; and
- e) failing to implement the key recommendations of the Pedlar Commission, many of which were repeated in the recent report of the Lavoie Inquiry; and
- f) failing to implement the key recommendations of its own report on the Health of Manitoba Children; and
- g) failing to prepare Manitoba youth for the 21st Century by committing to stable funding for the public school system; and
- h) failing to support the Canadian Wheat Board as a single desk seller, despite the overwhelming support for the Wheat Board's role among Manitoba producers and its strategic position in the Manitoba economy; and
- i) failing to implement the recommendations of the AJI, while cutting funding to Friendship Centres and to the ACCESS and BUNTEP programs; and

has thereby lost the trust and confidence of the people of Manitoba and this House.

And the debate continuing,

And Mr. TWEED concluding his remarks,

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And Mr. MACKINTOSH, Hon. Mr. FINDLAY and Messrs. SANTOS and SVEINSON having spoken,

And Mr. EVANS (Brandon East) speaking at 6:00 p.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

The House then adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Hon. Louise Dacquay,
Speaker.