

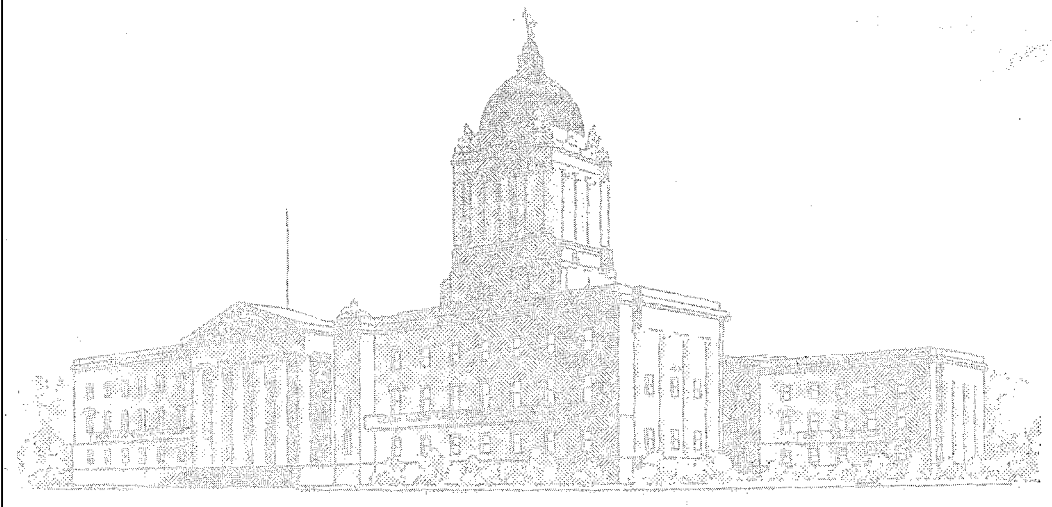


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



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5th Session, 26th Legislature

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

8:00 o'clock, Tuesday, March 6th, 1962.

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed resolution standing in the name of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if before you call the first order, if I might announce to anyone within sound of my voice that car number 2T823 has been left parked at the rear of the building with the lights on and if it's left that way it will probably be dead by the time the person goes out.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave of the House to let this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Proposed resolution standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. RICHARD SEABORN (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia: whereas the vast majority of Manitoba consumers have rejected as repulsive the deep shade of yellow authorized for Margarine in the province, and whereas the compromise has now been tested and has been proved to be of no benefit either for consumers or dairy producers; and whereas the compromise has proved expensive to all those concerned with providing a low-cost spread for the low income groups in the province of Manitoba; and whereas the potential for edible oil crops in Manitoba is steadily improving due to the scientific research of our university people and the generosity of the government in supporting such research; and whereas the federal government has announced that it will shortly present a solution to the problems of the dairy industry by dealing with the price of their product, therefore be it resolved that this Legislature urges the Government of Manitoba to give consideration to removal of the color restriction on Margarine at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. SEABORN: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped, and I'm sure many members hoped with me that it would not be necessary to bring the contentious subject of coloured margarine before this Legislature again. However, because of the mail received from my supporters and from many others in all parts of the province I am compelled once again to seek your serious consideration of the problem. A wise French writer once remarked, "It is much easier to make certain things legal than to make them legitimate", and if we ever need an example to prove that point we have this ridiculous situation created last year. I cannot be convinced--I cannot be convinced that even my most determined opponents will want to continue with the compromise that it has created; such hardship in our community. If some tangible evidence was presented to show that the interests which were intended to gain from the compromise had actually benefited, we could at least see some reasonableness in making margarine such a vivid colour, but no such evidence is in sight. On the contrary, Mr. Cote, speaking for the dairy industry, referred to this type of legislation as only a temporary stop-gap which will not stand the test of time or the courts. He stressed the problem of price as being the main difficulty of the dairy industry, and the same view is confirmed in Ottawa where the authorities are seeking a satisfactory method of placing butter within the price range of wage earners and others without jeopardizing the income of the dairy producer, and in Manitoba, quite some time ago the same conclusion was reached by Dean Waines who investigated the matter at the request of this Legislature.

The Legislature at the last session, Mr. Speaker, at least recognized the principle of free choice. It permitted colouring of margarine by the manufacturers. Had the members known, of course, that the Agriculture Committee was going to make the colour so repulsive they would not have allowed the matter to be placed in its hands. Members had no way of knowing all the difficulties that could be encountered. First, the colour is so deep that cases have been found where the surface colour has deepened to as much as 15 degrees and in one case, at least, to 17 degrees or more than half as much again as legally allowed. I have had many, many complaints about the horrid orange blob that has to be used as a spread by those in the lower income groups, about the discolouration in baking and a general dissatisfaction with the results of its domestic use. Consumers are angry about it, and I could keep members listening for hours reading letters of complaints that I have received, long hand-written letters from

(Mr. Seaborn, cont'd.) Manitoba people who feel deeply about this situation. Secondly, it has made for complication, extra expense in our stores for our retailers. Two types of margarine have to be carried because the yellow margarine is so unsatisfactory to so many. This means that valuable display space is taken up. Two products must be financed and merchandised instead of one. Surely this doesn't make retailers very kindly disposed towards the butter people who have forced this situation on them. The goodwill of retailers has been lost in large measure to the butter manufacturers. Third, it has increased the expense of manufacturing, because two products with two different packages must be made and sold by them in an effort to give the consumer something close to what she wants. Quite a number of consumers are buying a pound of white and a pound of the deep yellow and mixing them together in an effort to get an acceptable colour. This perhaps has increased the sale of margarine a bit but it has not satisfied anyone at all. In brief, the compromise has been--as I think many of us feared it would be--a complete disappointment, and in view of the fact that the federal government is sincerely trying to resolve this problem of surplus butter and may radically reduce the price of butter, it seems unnecessary and unwise for this province to retain our unhappy compromise which is not solving the problem. You did after all allow colouring at the manufacturer's level. It is now suggested that you go the extra mile--the extra mile the consumer is asking you to go and make the compromise a real one. The government might, if you pass this resolution, see fit to drop the restriction completely. It might reduce the restriction to 8.8 degrees which would be a more meaningful compromise. At any rate you would be giving it authority to deal with the situation in an appropriate manner when it can satisfy itself that such a step would not harm the dairy industry, but would be of real and appreciated benefit to consumers, retailers and manufacturers as well as those who are engaged in the growing, processing and marketing of vegetable oil seed crops in the Province of Manitoba. I have tried to be brief, Mr. Speaker, because I know this matter has taken so much time in the past. I do not want you to think that it is any the less serious for those less fortunate than ourselves who must buy the lower priced spread. They feel more deeply about this now than they did before, if that is possible. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion lost.

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed resolution standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. L. HARRIS (Logan): I move, Mr. Chairman, seconded by the Honourable Member from Elmwood; Whereas the Fair Wage Act now sets the rates of pay which must be paid to construction workers in Greater Winnipeg and certain other cities and towns in Manitoba, at rates which are considered equitable after discussion between labour, management and the Government; and whereas some of the largest construction projects in this province are being carried out in areas not now covered by the provisions of the Fair Wage Act; and whereas we believe that workers are entitled to fair wages and proper working conditions wherever they may be working; therefore be it resolved that this House wishes the government to give consideration to the advisability of amending the Fair Wage Act to extend its provisions to cover all construction workers in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. HARRIS: I have spoken before on this Fair Wage Act. I have often wondered why this act should be so complicated, and to some of the people who work under the provisions of the act they must think the same. The answer is so simple. By amending the act to let Zone A apply to all of Manitoba we could do away with a lot of confusion and strife. It may have been all right years ago, but who would have thought of the new areas opened up in the north such as Thompson, Kelsey, Grand Rapids and other projects. When these projects were opened up they did not come under the Fair Wage Act and it has been a constant battle to get decent wages paid to these people who did the brushing and clearing in these sites. We of the Democratic Party have shown since 1959 the various inequities and injustices that were imposed on the people who worked there. The way it is now it only creates abuses. We in the Legislature have an obligation to the people of Manitoba to see that this Fair Wage Act is amended properly for the good of all the people of Manitoba. To give you an example of what is done to some of these people who went out to these sites after answering adverts in the daily newspapers: A firm in the city advertised for carpenters to go framing houses out at Thompson. This carpenter went ahead and answered this advertisement. The going wage at the time was \$2.25 an hour.

(Mr. Harris, cont'd.) He, his son and a friend took on this job and they went out there to the job. When they got out there they were met by one of these contractors who told them that they would be charged \$4.50 a day for board and room. Then he took them and got them the board and room. They were around there a day and he came and told them there was no work, so they had to go and get work and monies to carry on. The company had already taken their insurance books, signed their income tax deduction slips. However the men did not have enough money to keep on so they had to go and take this extra work. They found work with a construction company framing, signed a contract purporting to hire them at \$2.00 per hour, to frame a house designated as B18. However their contract allotted them 135 hours in which to complete this job. A firm price of \$270.50 was quoted so in actuality they were piece workers or sub-contractors. As such they had no coverage from the Workmens' Compensation Board and gained no unemployment insurance stamps. The house was 26 by 42; the set rate for framing even in Winnipeg is 31 cents per square foot of floor space. The rate offered by this construction company amounts to fractionally less than 25 cents per square foot. Board and room was going to cost them \$4.50 per day. Being the first house they had framed, it took three of them \$100 apiece. They did not make enough pay to make their way home when all expenses were paid. We have other members who have gone to Thompson in answer to the various recruiting efforts and we are waiting to hear of their stories of the various inequities that are put upon them.

Now Sir, I know myself, I built a home and I got it framed. It cost me three carpenters to frame that house, just bare framing alone. It cost me over \$650.00, three carpenters. Now these men were going out on to a job--that is only one story alone. There are hundreds of stories that are brought back from these various places. Now these men are not covered by anything at all. They're not covered by any agreement of any kind and when they go out to these various places--naturally there is a lot of these people, they have no money, they are on unemployed insurance in town here, so what happens? The man honestly wants to go out to work, but what happens to him? These people are waiting to make a sucker out of him when he comes out to a job like that so I feel in my own heart that we should do something for these people. We should have a good Fair Wage Act in here. We as members here, it should be up to us to see that this thing is done properly and if it is done properly we would have nothing in this province that we need to be ashamed of, but we as legislators should see here that we get something like that. So I thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. CARROLL: Mr. Speaker, before--I would like to ask a question if I could. Were these men properly qualified tradesmen who went up there? The first question. The second is, had there been a Fair Wage Act is there anything under the Fair Wage Act that would have guaranteed these fellows continuous employment after they arrived there? As I understand it the work had run out. Perhaps you could just answer those questions for me if you would.

MR. HARRIS: These men were qualified tradesmen; they were carpenters. Now they might have gone up there, they might not have actually framed a house, not that kind of a job, but they went up there--I presume they had no work--so they went up there to do that kind of work, to get--Now this thing is brought in like this; they were hired; they went up there and this contractor turned them away. These men went and got this work afterwards. Why are these men going up into these various jobs? They're advertised on these jobs and they're not given that type of work when they go up there. So they took this job to make money enough to go back to where they come from, and when they've come back into the place where they come from, what happens? They are promised a day's wage. They are promised what expenses have gone out on this thing. When they go back to these places they have to go into a Civil Court to try and get this money back. So what happens? Do you see an average man, that has monies to go into a Civil Court and to fight an action like that? That's why we are beat; that's why we want things like this brought into effect so that we can forget these people. It's all right for us people here. We are sitting here; sure, I'm okay, but what about the other poor chap? I say let's see that he's all right too, because that's what we're here for, and if we're to make a better Manitoba sure, let's get decent laws. This is outdated now. This is a new era coming in here; so I would say fellow members that we should actually do something in that way. If that answers your question, okay.

MR. W. B. SCARTH, Q. C. (River Heights): May I ask the honourable member a question,

(Mr. Scarth, cont'd.) Mr. Speaker? Would the honourable gentleman kindly tell us what rate of wages he was paying the men who worked on his own home?

MR. HARRIS: On my own home? I went out and I went to these various people and I took contractors and I studied their contract. In one week, three men they got \$650.00--in one week, three men and--(interjection)--no, no, that was straight wages, no material, no material, straight wages.

MR. COWAN: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital that this debate be adjourned.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed resolution standing in the name of the Honourable the Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. A. E. WRIGHT (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fisher, the following resolution: Whereas there are many of our senior citizens whose sole income is derived from either the old age security pension or the old age assistance pension, and whereas there is at the present time no government scheme of comprehensive medical care, and whereas many of those people are not receiving adequate medical attention for the following reasons: 1. The lack of financial resources. 2. The embarrassment of applying for medical assistance. 3. A lack of information as to the procedure necessary to get such assistance. 4. The general feeling of frustration and defeat. Therefore be it resolved that this government consider the advisability of issuing Medicare cards to all citizens over the age of 65 years who can furnish proof that their total income does not exceed \$65.00 per month.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Speaker, in proposing this resolution it is my hope that some consideration will be given to a group of our citizens who, in my opinion, are a forgotten section of our community. I refer, Sir, to many of our older folk, whose sole income is the old age pension and who are able in most cases to find the assistance to carry on without asking for municipal aid. The time comes, however, when illness strikes and their meagre budget does not allow for medical expenses. I know that some will say that no one has to go without medical attention in this day and age and that would be right, but the truth is that many of our senior citizens are denying themselves proper medical attention.

The old age security pension is given as a matter of right without a means test to every citizen over the age of 70. It must be embarrassing for all those members opposite, who so strenuously opposed our resolution last year on the basis that we were proposing to give \$75.00 a month to everyone over 70, to find that now the federal government agreed with us that \$55.00 is not enough, and has increased the pension to \$65.00. The views expressed against our resolution last year were unanimous in that they agreed that any increased assistance should be based on need, and here the Social Allowances Act filled the bill. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's a sad thing to note that it's only in an election year when much attention is given to our senior citizens. Would it not seem proper that we should anticipate that our older folk are going to need medical care at times, and that we should make it available to them without the worry and embarrassment of having to apply through an agency or depending on the generosity of the family doctor. We hear much about government-controlled medical schemes and many tears are being shed about doctor-patient relationships. I know of one elderly lady, 80 years of age, who worried constantly about doctors' bills. Last year when the MMS announced the plan for older folk--this was for the first time in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, that this was available--this lady managed somehow to subscribe but was told that she'd have to wait 12 months before she could receive paid treatments for an arthritic condition. Now this year the rates have increased to \$14.25 a quarter and it's little consolation to her to know that intentionally self-inflicted injuries, venereal disease and alcohol are now covered by the plan in which she is enrolled. These people have been paddling their own canoes. Do we really want to have them declared indigent before they are entitled to government assistance in meeting their medical bills? Would it not be better to invite all those whose sole income is the old age pension to apply for a Medicare card instead of placing the onus on them to fend for themselves? The possession of a Medicare card is a symbol of security, a sign that somebody cares. The First Minister said the other day, in discussing the Social Allowances Act, that the reaction to Medicare was better than the reaction to a cash increase. Oh, we'll hear the old battle cry about abuses and to quote from the MMS pamphlet--the MMS pamphlet, Mr. Speaker, points out the fact that older

(Mr. Wright, cont'd.) people require more medical care and that they use more medical care. I don't know whether the inference is that they use it without really needing it or not, but it's here for anyone to see.

The MMS came to life with a plan for older folk only last year, and then in less than one year raised the premiums by approximately 14% and then tried to justify this by increased benefits; the only one of which was of any help to our senior citizens was the abolition of the waiting period. By arbitrarily raising the rates the MMS has placed this far out of reach of people living mainly on the old age pension. Is there any wonder there is such a demand for a comprehensive scheme of medical care? And Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to quote briefly from the brief to the Royal Commission on Health Services by this government, and the First Minister himself said, and I quote from Page 10: "The Medical Insurance Scheme available through the Manitoba Medical Service and the various private medical insurance plans are limited in their application, due to the problems of geography and cost. Moreover, coverage is restricted to those families and individuals who are in a position to meet the premiums in effect." It goes on to talk about the population in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, being in excess of 900,000. "The Medicare Scheme under the Social Allowances Act provides coverage for some 20,000 persons, while the services under the Manitoba Medical Service Plan are utilized by approximately 400,000 persons. In addition approximately 125,000 persons are covered by private insurance plans. In total, therefore, various forms of medical insurance coverage are at present utilized by approximately two-thirds of the population in the province. The balance of the citizens, approximately 350,000 have as yet no coverage. These individuals have the same needs and requirements as those covered in the above plans." And the Premier goes on to say, "One might properly ask, why do the present plans not cover this large body of Manitoba citizens? In the case of Medicare the plan is available only to the recipients of Provincial Social Allowance." A little later on he says, "Moreover it is our view that there are many individuals who are subscribing to MMS and other plans who find it difficult to bear the ever-increasing costs."

Mr. Speaker, if this government wishes or wants to provide a real service to our senior citizens who are living solely on the old age pension, and I'm speaking, Mr. Speaker, of people who are living in many cases with friends, or with families, and the only cash they get is this now \$65.00. I suggest that there's no better way to give them this security from the fear of medical bills than to issue them Medicare cards. Now I know Medicare cards are given now to those on social allowances, but before you can get on social allowance you usually apply to your municipality, and I understand that in most cases it's the municipality who applies to the province to have these people placed on social allowances and thereby giving them this Medicare card. Now for these people who are now getting along on their own resources this seems a hard, long road. This would enable these people to call the doctor of their choice when illness strikes with a real feeling of security from fear of these medical bills.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the "Manitoba first" that the MMS brags about could be more properly drawn to the attention of the world by implementation of the intent of this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MRS. THELMA FORBES (Cypress): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for River Heights, that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 8, the Honourable Member for Brandon.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the honourable member, I wonder if the House will allow this item to stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Stand. Second reading of Bill No. 23, the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. O. F. BJORNSON (Lac du Bonnet). presented Bill No. 23, An Act to amend an Act to incorporate The Middlechurch Home of Winnipeg, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. BJORNSON: The Bill itself is, as these bills usually are, self-explanatory. It is to incorporate the Middlechurch Home of Winnipeg, to give it corporate status; to acquire land and properties; to borrow money to carry on the other activities that this home is famous for for many years back; to provide housing for the senior citizens that require this type of service. Thank you.

MR. M. A. GRAY (Inkster): While I'm not opposed to this as a motion and getting second reading, I'm just wondering the need for a corporation. Here's an institution which is doing very nice work for years, getting the Welfare Department's contribution, if I am right, getting their assistance from the Community Chest and other assistance which is usual for an institution like such, getting it, and the reason for being incorporated--I'm afraid to suggest that perhaps they wanted to carry on their own institution without any help from anybody, except the Welfare Department, and have the power to raise money. I'm not suggesting it, but I'd like to find out because I have never heard yet a charitable institution being supported by the government should need the incorporation to give them all the powers which they want themselves. And also I'm afraid--if I'm wrong I'll stand corrected by the Minister of Health, or Minister of Public Welfare--I'm suggesting is because perhaps they wanted to raise their own funds. I'm not objecting to it but I think perhaps when such application for incorporation comes before the House the other members should know the real reason for it.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to say a word or two in connection with this bill, and I want to assure the honourable member who has introduced it for second reading, and also all of those people who are in any way connected with the Middlechurch Home of Winnipeg, that I direct no criticism to them at all. We in this group recognize the invaluable work that the association that is connected with this Home has done in the past and I'm sure will continue to do in the future. But when, Mr. Speaker, we have bills of this nature presented to the Legislature it raises what we think is a very, very valid question as to the direction of our course here in the Province of Manitoba in respect of setting up homes for our aged and homes for our infirm.

Just recently, Mr. Speaker, you may recall, and the members may recall, that the drive in the Greater Winnipeg area in respect of the Community Chest did not reach its quota. If memory serves me correctly, among the institutions covered by the Community Chest is the Middlechurch Home of Winnipeg. I understand that one of the suggestions at the present time--and I would be happy if the mover of the resolution if he has the information would correct me--one of the objects of this bill is to expand the Home and also to more or less chart their course independently of the Community Chest. And this, Sir, I think raises a very great problem. As I said at the outset, no objections whatsoever to the Middlechurch Home--but it does pose the question: "How many more private organizations are going to go their respective ways in providing homes for the care of our aged and infirm?" Does not this pinpoint the negligence of the government of Manitoba in this field? My honourable friend the Minister of Health says, "Not again". I say to him that I think that it does. It is perfectly true, it is perfectly true that the government of Manitoba has taken some steps in this direction, but I think it's equally perfectly true that we're lagging far behind here in the Province of Manitoba in the field of alternative care, and care of this nature for our elder citizens that require it here in the Province of Manitoba.

I think--and I'm using this bill as an illustration--that it is high time for a co-ordinated program given dynamic--which has been lacking--leadership of the government of the Province of Manitoba. And I want to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, in these remarks, I mean no criticism at all of the people who are concerned with this bill. But as I said it gives us an opportunity because of the fact of the necessity of this bill to point out once again the shortcomings in this field of care in the Province of Manitoba. And I assure the sponsor of this bill that it has our united support.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): With respect to some of the remarks of the Leader of the NDP in speaking to the principle of this Bill, I feel he's been allowed to wander a little bit in this area, and I would like to say a few words at this time. Having been in a small community Elderly Persons Hostel which was formed in 1914 and is one of the oldest in the Province of Manitoba, and having seen the evolution of housing and hostel accommodation in rural areas, and having been in the position which I am for some time as in the hospital field or seeing the developments here; having been around the Province of Manitoba and spoken in most communities with respect to housing and accommodation for the aged of hostel type, I think I may be able to contribute a few remarks with respect to the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition. I think we're missing a very great point here in the--I don't know the legal implications of incorporation, etcetera, but I do feel that when voluntary agencies such as the home I have been associated

(Mr. Johnson (Gimli), cont'd.) with in the past in Gimli, the type of home in Middlechurch, in Fairview, in Brandon, for example, these are traditional landmarks in the care of the aged in the Province of Manitoba. These institutions have had many, many years of caring for the aged and have developed patterns of care. Each one of them is a little bit different, but each one of them teaches us a lesson in care of our senior citizens. These people who have spent years and years in the development of homes and care institutions for the aged in this province can do a far better job, in my humble opinion, than the Province of Manitoba per se getting into this business, into the area of running all the care institutions in the province.

I will develop this further, I hope, at the time of my estimates, in sharing with the members some of my experiences in other jurisdictions and the experiences in this province and the government's interpretation of the Willard Survey, which points out a Manitoba pattern which we may have got for the future, in that we have a need for many types of projects. The Middlechurch operation, for instance, has a very enthusiastic Board of energetic volunteers who run a first-class operation of a hostel type where the patients are up and about; where the sick elements are not allowed to accumulate, as has happened in so many of our alternative care institutions in the Province of Manitoba. This has taught us a lesson. This is an example of their philosophy in this home. It is a little different in our other homes, where we have added to their small infirmaries. The enthusiasm of these people to get on and develop larger institution of around \$3/4 million was stimulated and augmented, certainly by my department and my office, in encouraging and advising the government to assist as much as possible this energetic group in developing this first-class facility for our senior citizens. May we also remember that no matter the activities of the Department of Health, the work we do and the money we put into health care is as only as good as the result at the local level. The activities in the Department of Health, in other words, are only meaningful when they do things for people at the local level. Once this voluntary component goes out of the health care field, I say that it'll be a dim day for the Province of Manitoba.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker just at this moment to my honourable friend. I thought that I had made it amply clear that I was not in any way criticizing the Middlechurch institution or the way that it was being operated. I thought that I had made it amply clear, Mr. Speaker, that they have my full and wholehearted support and I admire the job that they are doing. I don't know whether it was by inference but it just appeared to me that my honourable friend the Minister of Health was putting a slightly different connotation on it because I agree most heartily with everything that he has said in respect of the voluntary organizations and in respect of Middlechurch home. My criticism was not directed, Sir--I thought I made it amply clear--at the home or the likes of the home, but at your government.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Yes, Mr. Speaker, and this is the point. I was trying to develop my argument along logical progressive lines. The pattern of care--this is one of the elements in the care of the aged which, where voluntary organizations who are interested in looking after old people, can do a better job. Let's let them do this better job and let's support them, which we have done. The other area is in the interpretation of the Willard Report. Here we have spent a year and a half on this study and Dr. Willard brings out some very--or the Survey Board brings out an interesting pattern for Manitoba which I will share with the honourable members in detail later, but what I am trying to get at is this, that we not only need the elderly persons' housing in the local community, and I am sure the Leader of the NDP agrees with me; we not only need the type of care facility for the frail elderly who occupy the type of facility that Middlechurch is primarily concerned with; we not only need chronic hospital facilities for the aged and infirm who need constant medical and nursing care; we need the acute hospital. This Survey Board points out that in this area of care of the frail elderly, the type of facility that Middlechurch has pioneered in and developed to such a high degree will fill the tremendous need in the community, and this is one of the types of facilities we should be promoting--which we are doing.

I think it is important for the Leader of the NDP to remember that we were active for the last two years with the Director of Housing, and with the department going out to the local communities and trying to bring this picture to the local level, that not only is their housing good; hostel accommodations required; the Frat House type of atmosphere for the frail elderly Manitoban. Our study showed a most interesting thing, that of 1, 118 people we examined

(Mr. Johnson (Gimli), cont'd.) individually in the care institutions, old folks' homes, hostels, etcetera, in rural Manitoba, that 690 of these people required the Middlechurch type of Frat House. About 300 required a minimal type of nursing care and about 10% of the 300 actually required what we would call chronic care in a Manitoba Hospital Service Plan type of chronic facility, which Dr. Willard has visualized as being developed at key centres throughout the province. I think we must hang our hats on a program and pattern of care that we must follow.

At the local level in Rural Manitoba the people say: "If there's an older man in the community or an older lady, and they're up and about, we can usually find accommodation for them at the local level." So despite a generous grant program, despite the availability of CMHC funds in this area, we have been able to create in rural Manitoba really a minimal amount of the housing type of accommodation, but this is the peoples' choice. The hostel type of thing--we've tried to promote a grouping of municipalities to create this type of facility. In the Province of Manitoba we are behind other provinces, frankly because we were a little late getting started in this field--a little late getting started, but we're on the right track and I'd like to enlarge on this later. But I just wanted to draw to the attention of the House as from the remarks of the Leader of the NDP that this government has a pattern of care for Manitoba mapped out, which I'll share with the honourable members in detail at my estimates, that I think is of the highest order. I concur with him that the Middlechurch operation is a first-class facility. It's a pioneer in the care field in this province.

I would share with the honourable members what I was going to say earlier, that of the 1,118 people we examined, the composite person or the average of all these people showed a man 79 years old; slightly forgetful, has to be reminded about certain things; can be up and come to meals; and needs very little in the way of nursing or medical care on a day to day basis, but just this type of care facility. I think this shows that probably the greatest need in the Province of Manitoba today is developing with voluntary organizations such as the Middlechurch Home, church and charitable volunteer groups, this type of care facility for the frail, elderly citizens of this province. I did want to dispel on second reading of this Bill the impression that came to me, as a neutral sitting here listening to the Leader of the NDP, that possibly the Province of Manitoba wasn't on the march in the care field. I hope I have made my point, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just answer the last question of my honourable friend. It wasn't a question of possibly the march, but the degree with which the marchers were travelling, and I think it's very, very slow.

MR. SPEAKER: Did you wish to ask a question?

MR. SCARTH: I just wished to address the House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John's has the floor.

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, I want to say again that members of this group have no desire to delay for one day the disposition of this Bill. We are not questioning the work which has been done by this particular organization. We just wish there were 50 of these organizations instead of just one. We are not questioning that the government has good blueprints for the future, but this is 1962 and this government was elected in 1959. We are wondering how long it is going to take before those blueprints become more than blueprints and begin to be realities. I know that the Honourable Minister comes from a rural constituency, one which I visited. I know something about that home. I don't question his statements about how fine a home it is. I am not even going to argue with him about how well or how poorly we're handling the situation for the old people in the rural areas. I want to tell him, as a member of an urban constituency in the heart of Winnipeg, that I know we're doing a very poor job for the old people who live in the Greater Winnipeg area--a very poor job. I want to know, for one, how long it is going to be before we start moving in this direction. We can have the best Bill--I think the Minister said once several years ago that our Bill is better than the Saskatchewan Bill--well to the people who want housing it doesn't matter who has the best Bill on paper. The important question is, who is moving in the field of housing--and we are not moving in the urban areas. I shouldn't say we're not moving at all, because right in the constituency of my friend from Elmwood we have a number of projects; but in terms of the total picture or in terms of the total need, we are almost not moving at all.

(Mr. Orlikow, cont'd.) It does seem to me, Mr. Speaker, and I want to tell the Minister now that when we get to his estimates, I for one am going to want to know whether the government has made any surveys as to what the needs are in the Province of Manitoba. How many old people are there who are not living in adequate accommodations? What is the total number? What kind of accommodations do they need, of the type which the Minister mentioned--the hostel type, the individual care type, the institution type? What are the plans of the government and when are we going to start meeting the needs? Are we going to do it in a period of 10 years, in a period of 20 years, or at the rate we're going at the present time? Is it going to be 50 years before we get on with the job? Now again I want to say, Mr. Speaker, we are not questioning this particular institution, but we certainly are questioning and protesting the rate at which the Province of Manitoba has moved in the past under the former government, and is still moving at the present under this government, in meeting what is a tremendous need on the part of the elderly citizens of this province.

MR. SCARTH: Mr. Speaker, a very worthwhile institution has applied for an act incorporating it. They want to be able to hold land without the necessity of going to trustees and to borrow money on it, but with the NDP Party, they've got to make a government issue out of it. It seems unfortunate, Sir, that the NDP cannot stick to admitting, at least be just a little relevant about what is going on in the House, and if they are against the Middlechurch home incorporating, let them say so and quit fussing around--

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder, on a point of privilege, may I have a correction made by my honourable friend the Member for River Heights. It has been definitely stated that we have no objections to the incorporation; we have no objection to the passage of this bill.

MR. SCARTH: Well in that case, Mr. Speaker, the honourable the NDP are wasting an awful lot of time of this House.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Speaker, I think they have raised the question here about government policy in the field of elderly persons housing. I think it's fair to point out that this amendment that comes before the House amends the Charter of the Middlechurch Home, which was originally passed in 1884 and subsequently re-amended in 1908 and in 1958. However, these are matters of detail and needn't be discussed at this time.

The Member from St. John and the Member from Transcona indicated very strongly that we had no policy and we're not doing anything in the field of elderly persons housing. I think, Sir, that some facts should be brought to their attention. They haven't been driving around the country lately and they haven't seen any of the construction going on in this field. It's very unfortunate, because as of December 31st, 1961, a total of 2,379 beds have been constructed under the policies of this government as enacted by The Elderly Persons Housing Act in 1959. So far in 1961, a total of \$257,000 has actually been paid in grants and a further \$361,000 has been committed, to a total of \$629,000, which will result in the completion of 531 beds in hostel and in senior citizens housing in this province. I would say, Sir, that these things are going up in all parts of the country. There's one recently opened in Swan River; there's one under construction in Notre Dame; there's another one down at Altona; there's one in Portage la Prairie; there's one in Neepawa; there's one in Middlechurch and there's two or three in the outskirts of Winnipeg. I have been getting some representation from municipalities who have constructed these homes in the past and they are expressing concern because they are not able to keep their hostels full to capacity, that is, that with the continued construction in the rural areas, the hostels that have been constructed sometime ago are now running at less than capacity; and this is being reflected in increased rates.

So I would point out to the members that their statement that nothing is being done in this field are entirely misleading, because there is tremendous activity in this field in Manitoba. I would say further, Sir, that we welcome the kind of public support and the kind of public help that this housing is getting from the interested people of the province. In the case of this home, the Provincial Government contribution is something on the order of \$180,000 direct; the public subscription is on the order of \$90,000; and the balance was raised through loans. So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to correct the impression that was left by some of the members opposite that there was nothing being done. I assure you, Sir, there is.

MR. PETERS: Mr. Speaker, I take strong exception to the remarks made by the Honourable Member from River Heights when he said the NDP are wasting time when we are discussing

(Mr. Peters, cont'd.) housing of elderly persons. If we're wasting time, you go and tell that to the people and the voters--when we are discussing that situation. We're not wasting time. I think that the honourable member should withdraw those remarks.

MR. HILLHOUSE: going into a store and asking for a malted milk. They told me they didn't have any, but they had nice cheese sandwiches. Now I think the answer that I got from the store was just about as relevant to my question as the discussion which has taken place here tonight is relevant to the Bill.

MR. CORBETT: Mr. Speaker, when I hear the name of that wonderful constituency of Swan River mentioned in any of the debates, I am forced to get up on my feet and add a little to it. I listened with some pleasure and some pain to the speech of the Honourable Member for St. John's--don't go away, I want to talk to you. He mentioned the fact that there was nothing being done, that it has been done in a very haphazard and slow manner by the government, regarding the housing conditions in Winnipeg. Well I happen to come from a constituency which is peopled by people who realize their responsibilities, and when we saw the need for obtaining proper housing for our senior citizens, the municipalities up in that country banded together; issued debentures; raised some money; and with the government's assistance we built a 50 bed hostel; and if we need more, we will do more. So I would pass out a hint to this 20 elected representatives, that's all over the House of the City of Winnipeg, if you can't stir up enough enthusiasm among your own people to raise voluntary funds and such like or municipal funds to look after your needy people in this country, it's just too bad. Thank you.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, at the risk of appearing rather unique, I should like to return to the subject matter of this Bill for a moment. I was rather intrigued by the notation in the amending act that this was originally an act which was passed in 1884, and my reference to the statutes of 1884 you can see where this Bill, incorporating as it then was the Christian Women's Union of Winnipeg, was passed by this Legislature 78 years ago. It has been amended subsequently on a number of occasions by this House, as the honourable member mentioned, in 1908, 1921, 1931 and 1958. On a number of occasions this Bill has come before the House for consideration. I think the preamble to it was rather interesting. "Whereas for some time past an institution has existed in the City of Winnipeg in the Province of Manitoba, under the name of the Christian Women's Union, for providing a temporary home for female immigrants and servants who are out of place and who have no home to go to, and for children, and also for carrying on a lying-in or maternity hospital; and whereas the management of the same has been under the ladies hereinafter mentioned, and the said ladies have, by their petitions, prayed that the said institution may be incorporated by the name of "The Christian Women's Union of Winnipeg", and it is expedient to grant their prayer"--and then the enactment goes on. If you look at the Bill that we have before us today, Mr. Speaker, you find that what is intended very simply is a second replacement of one of the sections of the Bill which originally gave this corporation the power to hold land the same as any other corporation, except that in the original provision they couldn't have in their possession any land that exceeded in whole at any one time, the value of \$5,000. Then a subsequent amendment that was put in, in 1931, it was said that they could hold land but they could hold it only for 10 years. They had to dispose of it at the end of 10 years if they weren't using it actually for the purposes of the Middlechurch Home. Of course the sections that are referred to in the Act, as has been pointed out by the Honourable Member for River Heights and I am sure is concurred in by the Honourable Member for Selkirk, are quite ordinary--nothing much to them. They confer ordinary corporate powers upon this group, substituting certain corporate powers that were there with certain inhibitions prior to it. How, Mr. Speaker, we were projected, or should I say stamped, or trapezed into a discussion of elderly persons care in Manitoba when we could have discussed this very interesting historical document that I have brought to the attention of the House, I don't know. I can only suggest, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps the Honourable Leader of the NDP Party and some of his followers should avail themselves of the facilities they are offered in this original incorporating act, because it seems to me that they are persons who are out of place and who apparently have no home to go to.

MR. PAULLEY: Sir, may I make a suggestion to my honourable friend the Attorney-General? Not dealing with the Act itself, but that he acquaints himself of a chap by the name of Beauschesne which governs the rules dealing with matters of this nature, and he'll find that

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd) ... we were quite within our rights to raise this question.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, before this debate is closed, this most interesting debate, I would just like to say that insofar as our group is concerned we welcome the move by the Middlechurch Home. If this group who is doing a great work for the aged feels that they can do this work better by incorporation, our group isn't standing on both sides of the issue, our group is standing squarely behind them and we support the bill

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I don't know how one would draw the conclusion that we are standing on both sides of some issue. I think all members realize full well that on second reading of a bill we're supposed to deal with the principle. It would follow --(interjection) -- yes, of the bill. It would follow then that every bill has a principle and every private bill has a principle. I don't think anyone would dispute that. Anything of public interest that emanates from the principle of the private bill under discussion is a topic that can properly be discussed here. If one will take the trouble to refer to Federal Hansards, he will find that it is a common practice in the House of Commons for members to discuss, on the second reading of private bills, topics of a general public nature. Just because it hasn't been done here is no indication that we've gone off on some flap. We're merely trying to do our part of the work in conducting the business of the province, and it's sour grapes for anyone to get up and say that this discussion has been off the point. I would like to simply say, Mr. Speaker, that the remarks of the honourable member, the PCP member for River Heights I guess it is, his remarks were entirely uncalled for because he misconstrued, not we, but he in fact misconstrued what can be properly discussed on second reading of a private bill.

MR. HUTTON: Mr. Speaker, everybody pretty well in the House has had something to say about this bill, and since the Middlechurch Home lies in the wonderful constituency of Rockwood-Iberville which I have the honour to represent, I think it would seem passing strange if I remained silent. I would just like to say that these people, despite the fact that the NDP have pointed out all the obstacles that they have had to overcome, the board and the directors and the people that over the years have been associated and responsible for the operations of this home have done a tremendous job. I think that we can be happy that due to a new policy in respect of this elderly persons' housing it has been a little easier for them to do maybe a little better job, maybe not in respect of quality, but they have been able to expand their facilities. I am very happy to support along with all the other members in the House their endeavours to put themselves in the position where they can better carry out this service to the community. Thank you.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the honourable members that Manitoba takes the lead in one respect with regard to housing construction. Of all the provinces of Canada, particularly with regard to elderly persons housing, in Manitoba the local organization or the municipality only has to put up the serviced land and 5 percent of the cost and the Provincial Government gives a donation of 1/3 of the cost up to a maximum unit -- up to \$1,667 a unit for couples and \$1,400 a unit for single persons. In no other province in Canada can a local municipality or a local organization build such a project as this with such a small contribution, and no other province of Canada does the province give so much as in Manitoba, so that in this province we take the lead. Surely the local organizations and local municipalities, if they feel there's a need there, they can make application and find that comparatively small percentage of the cost -- just 5 percent.

Now in some other provinces the province has gone ahead and built them without seeing just what the need was. In Alberta they built a number of boarding homes and they had difficulty in filling them. In Saskatchewan I know of one place near Swan River, near the Manitoba border, where in Saskatchewan they couldn't find people to fill their home and they had to get people that weren't elderly -- low income persons to occupy them. I think it is a good policy that we build them in Manitoba where we need them; where the local organization or the local municipality applies; and we don't have the homes built where they are not required. We find in Winnipeg that there's quite a need for them, but perhaps the demand isn't quite so great as one would think. I was associated with one that built a project last summer in Elmwood. We sent out application forms to quite a large number of persons who had indicated an interest in the project, and along comes August 1st and it's ready for occupation. Some tenants moved in on August 1st but we didn't have enough tenants to fill the 29 suites. The Free Press wrote a story at that time, it was part of a story that took up a whole page in the Free Press last August, and

(Mr. Cowan, cont'd)they included in the story the fact that there were still vacancies and application forms could be obtained by writing Box 65, Winnipeg. About 12 people replied and about half of those weren't within the group we were looking for. They were single people, but the other half filed application forms. Since then we've had more applications and we have unfilled applications on hand.

There are many people who are fairly well housed today. There are many, of course, who would like to get cheap rents and have perhaps quite a good income. We have found that the greatest demand is for single person's accommodation and we certainly hope that more organizations in Winnipeg would build some more accommodation for elderly single persons. Many people here, members of this House, belong to various organizations; belong to trade unions; belong to churches, and so on; and any of these organizations can sponsor these housing projects, so it is up to us, along with other citizens in this province, if we want to build these projects. The money is available from the Provincial Government and from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and it's up to us to get ahead with them.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member is closing the debate.

MR. BJORNSON: Mr. Speaker, in closing the debate on this bill, anything that the mover may say now will be an anti-climax. I do know somewhat of this home as I have visited it many times in the past years. I thought this was a very proud and happy duty that I was performing and it's turning out to be so, believe me. It seems that I have the unanimous support of everyone in this House. It must be a wonderful thing for the people of Manitoba to know that even when we're unanimous on a subject, we have the fullest possible discussion of it. I want to thank every member in this House for the support that they have given me today and I thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

..... continued on next page.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 24, an Act to Amend an Act respecting the Western Savings. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. COWAN presented Bill No. 24, an Act to Amend an Act respecting the Western Savings and Loan Association for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, this bill is simply to amend the Act of the Association to make it clear that Part 2 of the Company's Act applies to the Association and Parts 11 and 13 do not apply. The bill also sets out in considerable detail and amplifications its purposes, objects and powers, particularly with regard to powers of investment.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Speaker, is it in order to discuss the estimates of the Treasury Department under this bill?

MR. GRAY: Mr. Speaker, in order to get unanimous approval of a bill in this House, all you have to do is for me to get up and ask a question. I would like to direct a question to the mover of the bill. No. 1, Has it ever been incorporated before? No. 2, What is the necessity of the incorporation? Is it a new firm, or is it one that has been in the business. Have they had an incorporation before, because after all here we are not dealing with human beings we are dealing with cold dollars, and there are so many coming out day after day. I don't think I'll oppose it because I don't know anything about it, but at the same time I think there's no harm done to ask a question and be enlightened a little bit on all the private bills that are coming up here.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, this is

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member is closing the debate.

MR. COWAN: This is simply a bill

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, possibly there may be someone else wanting to say a few words on this bill. As far as I'm concerned I'd just like to ask the honourable member who is sponsoring the bill: If in closing the debate he would deal with the question of the extent of which the amalgamation between this organization and another large organization that has its head office in Manitoba, is responsible for the changes that are being asked for.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, it is quite true that this association is now controlled by Investors Syndicate Limited, I understand they are attempting here to have the powers for this association the same as Investors Syndicate Limited, and that is one of the reasons that this bill is before this House. The Western Savings and Loan Association is an old established Manitoba firm and you'll notice in Section 1 it recites that it is referring to Chapter 119 of the Statutes of Manitoba, 1931, so it has been in existence for at least 31 years.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 25. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. SMELLIE: Mr. Speaker, may I have the indulgence of the House to allow this matter to stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Adjourned debate proposed by the Honourable the Minister of Welfare. The Honourable Member for St. George.

MR. E. GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, may I have the indulgence of the House to let this matter stand please.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. This brings us to the motion that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few remarks concerning the urgency of the agricultural situation in Manitoba. I was quite surprised this afternoon when the government, particularly the Minister of Agriculture, resented the suggestion that we thought the effects of the 1961 drought on the farm situation in Manitoba at the present time was an urgent matter.

MR. LYON: I think my honourable friend is carrying things a bit too far when he alleges that the government, or any member of this House for that matter, is responsible for a ruling that Your Honour made with respect to a motion that was made this afternoon, it was the ruling of Mr. Speaker which said that the motion was out of order. I would be much obliged, Mr.

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd) Speaker, if you could

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker,

MR. LYON: I'm speaking on a point of privilege of the House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOLGAT: I don't believe that there is any point of order here.

MR. LYON: Oh yes, oh yes. I would be very much obliged, Mr. Speaker, and I'll be through in a minute.

MR. MOLGAT: Well I would like Mr. Speaker to rule whether my honourable friend is in order or not.

MR. LYON: I would be much obliged, Mr. Speaker, just to conclude.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, the rules of the House aren't made just for the sake of my honourable friend the Attorney-General and people on that side of the House. The rules of the House are for everyone in the House and he's got to obey them like everyone else. If you'll allow Mr. Speaker to rule whether you're in order or not, keep quiet in the meantime and we'll get ahead with the business.

MR. LYON: I'm quite happy to allow Mr. Speaker to rule at any time.

MR. SPEAKER: I might say that I was looking over this paper here that has to do with the ruling I was supposed to make in connection with members speaking and I did not hear what the Honourable the Attorney-General said, so if you'll inform me I'll

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I was merely raising the point of privilege to the attention of yourself. My honourable friend the Member for LaVerendrye in the first few sentences that he addressed to the House, speaking on his motion, made reference to the fact that the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, and generally members of the government, had in some mysterious way been responsible for the fact that Your Honour made a ruling this afternoon to the effect that a motion proposed to adjourn the House was out of order. I was merely pointing out, Sir, to the honourable member on this question of privilege that that was not the case, that the ruling was made by Your Honour, not by the government, not by the members of the NDP Party or anybody else. I would appreciate it, Mr. Speaker; if I could be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Order.

MR. MOLGAT: My honourable friend has no point of privilege in this matter. If he wants to make a speech, he's quite allowed to make a speech on this debate. I don't think he's spoken yet. At the moment he's not making a point of privilege.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I can well understand how my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition would not appreciate a point of privilege with respect to the House, because he offends the privileges of this House too often to know what the rules are, but I would suggest to you, Sir, that the point that I make with respect to the Member from LaVerendrye --(interjection) -- and I would ask that you give some ruling upon it, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. As I understand the question now, it is in connection with the ruling that I made this afternoon, is it not? I don't get the import of what this is all about yet.

MR. ROBERTS: If you'd let me carry on until someone interrupts me again, Mr. Speaker, I was pointing out that the government very strongly resisted --(interjection)-- Can I carry on, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to hear the charge that he intends to make.

MR. ROBERTS: If you'd let me complete my statement, then let them battle it out afterwards. What I was saying was that the government did very strongly resist our contention that the matter which we wish to bring up today was urgent. The Leader of the House immediately arose upon the Leader of the Opposition having introduced the subject matter and said that this matter, in his opinion, was not of urgent public importance at this time.

MR. EVANS: That's not true, Mr. Speaker, I said no such thing. I said the urgency of debate was not sufficient to bring it forward in the manner in which it was brought forward.

A MEMBER: At that time you used the rules for your own petty political purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: This afternoon I gave a ruling on that particular question and the matter is now closed and cannot be raised again.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I was not referring to your ruling of course. I agreed with your ruling as we always do. I was disagreeing with the attitude of the government when they rose on a point of order at the time. I wasn't referring to your ruling, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The debate is closed on the ruling.

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Speaker, this is not a debate on your ruling. At the time you made your ruling this afternoon, if my memory serves me right, you said that in your opinion the motion was out of order and you so ruled, but you made a qualifying statement that this particular matter could be raised when the present motion was before the House, that is a motion to go into Supply, and the Honourable Member from La Verendrye is speaking to that motion and he is in order.

MR. SPEAKER: He is in order.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, involved with that at all. All I'm merely trying to point out, Sir, on a point of order

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order, order.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order I merely say that my honourable friend is quite free to make his speech, as I know he shall on the feed grain situation, but I merely point out that he is out of order when he tries to blame the government or anybody else in this House for a ruling made by Your Honour. If he didn't know it before he knows it now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has a right to make a speech.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to, on a point of order, point out to the Attorney-General that, even though such an august personage as himself is on the floor, that the rules say that when Mr. Speaker rises from his chair for the purposes of deciding a point of order, that the honourable member on the floor shall sit down. Now would you see to it that the honourable gentleman does that the next time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for LaVerendrye has the floor.

MR. ROBERTS: I would like to impress upon the House the urgency of the subject which we introduced into the House this afternoon. We have

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to point out to the Honourable Member for LaVerendrye that in his opinion it may be an urgent matter of public importance, but we ruled this afternoon that that was not so, but he has the right to make a speech if he wishes to.

MR. ROBERTS: The Minister of Agriculture has very little difficulty finding subject matter on which to speak in this House. It matters not whether we are on the subject of the Middlechurch Home or on pension plans or fairy tales, the Minister of Agriculture rises often and regularly in his seat. However, when it comes to discussing the greatest problem affecting the farmers in Manitoba at the present time, that is the effect of the 1961 drought, we have heard, as far as I know, not one word from the Minister of Agriculture this year. It seems peculiar that from the thousands upon thousands of words that the Minister of Agriculture speaks on subjects which are entirely irrelevant to his department, that he could at least spend some time discussing this matter of urgent public importance -- the matter of the drought and the effect of the 1961 drought.

Now during the Speech from the Throne we had some back-slapping or self-congratulations from the government, stressing or referring to what great things they had done during the actual period of the drought. However, there too, there was not one mention of what this government planned to do for the same people who were affected by this drought. During the debate on the Throne Speech I myself brought the matter up twice; other members of the House have brought this matter up; and still we have received no words from the Minister of Agriculture as to any plan or program which he intends to bring in. The effect of the 1961 drought has not yet been fully felt, this is true. There is still an extreme feed hay shortage in Manitoba -- hay shortage; feed shortage. We are operating in Manitoba at the present time on a hand-to-mouth basis as far as hay is concerned, and yet the government policy at the present time, so far as I know, is that on March 31st they intend to end the freight assistance policy towards feed. There is no, as far as I know, no plan which gives freight assistance or assistance in providing feed grain into feed grain shortage areas. There are many cases in Manitoba where feed grain is being used to replace or to offset the fact that there is a shortage of hay -- a shortage of good fodder. There is a need for a policy to help get feed grain into some of these areas, but yet we have no policy there either.

We have -- within six weeks from now we will, in Manitoba, probably be seeding a new crop; and yet here in a province where there is a shortage of seed grain because of the 1961 drought, so far as I know, the Government of Manitoba has introduced no policy whatsoever towards providing any seed grain, any oats or barley particularly which are in short supply, any

(Mr. Roberts, cont'd) means of making it available to the farmers in Manitoba. We are, as I said, suffering now -- the farmers of Manitoba are suffering now and will be suffering throughout 1962 the effects of the 1961 drought; and yet from what we can gather from the remarks of the Minister of Agriculture and from what we can gather from the reference to this subject in the Speech from the Throne, the government has done what it intends to do and feels that there is no longer any need for a drought policy.

I hope that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will take advantage of this opportunity in this debate, at this time, to tell us what he plans to do. He has had a very great amount of warning. We have spoken on this subject three weeks ago. We spoke on it two weeks ago. We spoke on it a week ago. We introduced it this afternoon and the government didn't think it was urgent. However, I hope that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will take advantage of this situation now to advise us as to what plans this government has towards easing the effect of the 1961 drought and the effect it is having on the farmers at the present time.

MR. WAGNER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a few words to the Honourable Member from LaVerendrye. But first I would like to say that when I stood up here when the Speaker was challenged on his ruling, I was chided by some of the Liberal members that I overlooked the farmer; that it isn't of urgent importance to the farmer. It wasn't so. I just upheld the speaker's ruling. However, since I make this point clear, I very well recognize the shortage of feed and of seed and of fodder, and if you will recollect when I was speaking briefly in my speech from the Throne, I even reminded and requested from the Minister of Agriculture that such policies should be taken and taken in the early stages because there is a shortage of feed and seed and fodder. That's as far as I want to go. I don't need to dwell on what shortages there is because the PFA assistance was granted throughout the Province of Manitoba, not concretely but in the most parts, and that in itself proves that there is shortages. So at this time all I have to say is call upon the Minister of Agriculture that he takes steps to alleviate the situation as it has been done in the past.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I too join in because this matter is of great importance -- and things that are going on today. Members of this House probably don't know that right now thousands of bushels of grain are being brought in from the United States as feed by the people in southern Manitoba. This does not extend just to the immediate area next to the border, people 100 miles away or so are coming into the United States and picking up feed. Some of the towns nearer to the border are cleaned out. They have to go farther in to pick up these feed grains, and I think it should be properly discussed here at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. HUTTON: Mr. Speaker, I expect all the questions have been raised by the opposition that they can think of on the spur of the moment. In spite of the fact that they have laid claim to have had great concern about this for a great number of weeks, there was really very little said in the Throne Speech debate or otherwise about conditions. There was a passing reference to it, but there was really a great deal more talk about things that weren't quite relevant to the fact that the farmers in Manitoba are in difficult times. I kind of appreciate the fact that a great deal of what we have listened to from the Opposition has been in the way of plagiarism. The basis for a lot of their speeches have been those made by members of the government throughout the province and have read it someplace in the newspaper, and then like parrots they speak it back to us.

I'll admit we didn't say too much about our plan for meeting the emergency. There was a very good reason for that. We met the emergency last summer when it existed; we met it last fall; we met it this winter just a month ago. We extended the freight assistance program on hay to the end of March because we realized that due to the heavy winter, both in terms of cold and the amount of snow, that many people have failed to get hay moved in time and they were facing difficulties in getting this hay moved around in the province so it could be utilized to the fullest. We extended this freight assistance program. I think possibly one of the basic reasons for not speaking on this problem up until now is the fact that last summer when we faced one of the worst crises in the history of the province, the Premier of Manitoba called together a drought committee, which was made up of representatives of farm organizations and co-operatives, with representatives from the University, the municipal people, whom we felt were in every way best qualified to know how we should use the resources of the province to the best

(Mr. Hutton, cont'd) advantage in meeting the crisis. Mr. Speaker, this Drought Committee is still operating. We met in 1962 toward the end of January and we have discussed the problem in respect of seed grain. We have just carried out a survey of both feed and seed supplies in Manitoba, across the province -- a survey carried out by the ag reps, so we have our finger on the pulse of Manitoba. We do know what sort of problems we're up against. We haven't as yet finalized a program for the spring to the point where the government can announce it, but I am hoping that any day now we can make some announcement in respect of especially seed oats.

Now I indicated, Mr. Speaker, some time ago in the press, that the Drought Committee had met and that we had considered the problems that our farmers would have to face, and that we hoped to work out some programs that would be helpful. I recognize too, that if we're going to be short of hay, and this shortage of fodder has developed or become more acute during the past months because of the very severe weather that we have experienced and if we're going to face the crisis in the fodder situation, then we're going to have to rely on feed grain because there just isn't any fodder to be had. I'd like to remind the Opposition, with all their plagiarism on this situation, that the situation would have been a great deal worse if it hadn't been for the steps that were taken last summer. I frankly feel badly when I think of some of the fields of straw that were worked into the land. I know that they had to travel many a mile to get 10 or 15 bales of straw last fall, but those bales look mighty good today. We couldn't afford to waste any, and I don't think there was too much wasted. There was in some cases, some straw that went to waste that might have been baled and might have come in handy, it most certainly would have come in handy the way the winter has turned out, but I know the situation would have been a lot worse if it hadn't been for the program that we had.

I frankly can't tell the House tonight the extent of the program that we will have this Spring. I do know that under The Municipal Act we have as good a machinery set up for the extension of credit to farmers as this House could devise under an emergency situation of this kind. All the machinery is there for extending credit for seed and fodder through the municipalities and to the people in the local government districts. There is means also for the repayment of these advances to the farmers. It may not be dramatic to say we have a program under the legislation that existed in The Municipal Act at the present time, but nevertheless it doesn't affect the effectiveness of this legislation when it is implemented. Under the legislation there, quite a number of the municipalities have requested authority by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to make advances to the farmers, to supply feed and fodder, and probably more will as the picture crystallizes and we see the need a little more clearly. I would pin-point the great need this way: No. 1, For seed oats in the Province of Manitoba. We made, as I have said, a survey and we had men like Mr. Parker and Mr. Driscoll of the United Grain Growers; we had a representative from the Line Elevators; we had a representative, Mr. Knowles from the Stock Yards; we had Mr. Usick from the MFU and a representative from the MFA -- I forget some of the others -- all these people representing the various aspects of rural life in Manitoba. It was the feeling at that meeting that we should have to find some way of making seed oats available in Manitoba at an acceptable or reasonable price. Frankly it was felt that if we could find some way of reducing the freight rate on these oats coming in from out of the province, that this would be a large assistance to the farmers. As you know, Mr. Speaker, cereal grains that do not travel through the Lakehead, travel at local freight rate tariffs, and this is extremely high. It runs in excess of 60¢ a bushel, 60¢ a hundred for oats; whereas the Crows Nest rate is 14¢ a hundred, so it would be a big benefit to farmers if we can get this freight tariff reduced. This is what we're trying to do. Now of course, as in the case of our other freight assistance, we are negotiating with the Federal Government and the railways in an effort to get them to share this program with us, but we haven't solved this problem as yet. I expect it won't be long until we will.

Another matter that we've given some attention to is the fact that there are supplies of feed grain available in the USA at prices which are somewhat lower than the existing prices in Manitoba. These feed grains are available to areas in Southern Manitoba at some saving over Canadian supplies. This matter is being looked into. Now I am quite confident that whatever program we have will meet the needs of the majority of the farmers. What gives me this confidence is the fact that I have been able to turn to the wise counsel of the leaders of the farm

(Mr. Hutton, cont'd)community in Manitoba. I think that as Minister of Agriculture and that as the government of the province, that we on this side would do well to heed the advice of people who have had a long and distinguished record of service to the farm community. We have followed this policy up to now in facing this crisis and we will continue to follow it until we have seen our way through.

I do not for a minute differ with the opinion that the long hard road for the farmer is still ahead. Anyone who has financed in farming knows that the period from Christmas till harvest time is always the longest period, and it is especially so when you have lost your crop, or the greater part of it. I think we are aware of the fact that there is little grain in the granaries on the farm in Manitoba at the present time. It's all been sold. This is contrary to the recent pattern to which we have become accustomed, of delivering the majority of their grain between the New Year -- or Christmas and the new crop year the beginning of August. So I think we are apprised of the fact that there are difficulties ahead.

I do notice that the Federal Government, too, is endeavouring to speed up their payments so that they're going to hit the farmer at a time of year when he's going to need money. You can argue that it's his money and he's got it coming -- and this is true. But it is going to help to get it at a time when he's feeling the pinch, when he's in a real squeeze. These efforts are being made to get this money, his money, in his hands at a time when he needs it. Now as I say, together with this help and the help that we have given; and the fact that we are keeping a very close eye on the situation; and the fact that we have, we can turn, have turned, can turn and are turning for advice and guidance to people whom we must all agree are the best qualified to give advice on this matter, I'm confident that we will be able to meet the crisis that undoubtedly is going to face us within the next few months.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I've exhausted my right to speak in this debate, but could I ask the Minister some questions? Does he agree that there is an imminent danger of a shortage of feed within the next while? -- He does?

MR. HUTTON: Yes, within about one month.

MR. MOLGAT: Does he agree that there is also a grave danger of the shortage of seed grain, particularly in the coarse grains field for spring?

MR. HUTTON: Just in the case of oats. Not in the case of wheat or barley.

MR. MOLGAT: Does the Minister have a policy at the moment for assistance on the transportation of feed grains?

MR. HUTTON: No, we do not have a policy that is perfected, but we are looking at one because, as I pointed out earlier in my remarks, if a real crisis should materialize, as we see danger of materializing, if it materializes then I expect we'll have to meet it with feed grains or some substitute for fodder because I can't see where we're going to get fodder at this time of the year. This is the reason we are working on something that might be useful.

MR. MOLGAT: A subsequent question -- does the Minister have a policy for the procurement and transportation of feed grains from other areas?

MR. HUTTON: We are in the process of negotiating with the federal government, as I said, to have a program which will in effect reduce the cost of procuring seed oats to the farmers.

MR. DOW: Mr. Speaker, one question please. The Minister made the remark that the financing of feed and fodder through the municipalities was still, in effect, the same as it was back in the '30's. Has there been any indication from the municipalities that they wish to continue on this basis?

MR. HUTTON: Mr. Speaker, the best indication is the request by the municipalities to be authorized to do this. I expect you know that they might wish that this thing would get up and fly away -- just as you and I do. It means a lot of extra work to them. But as I say, under the provisions of The Municipal Act there is provision for the municipalities to make these advances; there is provision for the provincial government to guarantee their debentures if necessary; there is provision for the provincial government to buy their debentures where necessary; and then all the machinery exists by which these advances can be repaid. So even if we didn't have an Act today, I suspect that any assistance that was given in the form of credit advances to the farmer could most feasibly be done through the municipalities. I suggest that we do work through the municipal people at the present time and I expect our programs in the spring will be directed toward the farmers through the municipal offices.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Speaker, I've probably exhausted the right to speak in this debate. I just would like to ask the Minister a question. That question is: Is the Minister satisfied that the present legislation under The Municipal Act would be sufficient to take care of the coming emergency with respect to seed and fodder?

MR. HUTTON: It is a very flexible type of legislation and I think that as far as advancing credit to the farmers is concerned, that this is the way to do it, through the municipality.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister. Has this government explored the possibility of the Federal Government exempting feed grain that's being imported from the United States from duty?

MR. HUTTON: That matter is under discussion between my department and members of the Federal Department of Agriculture at the present time.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable the Minister a question. Could he advise the House as to the situation with regard to Pembina wheat?

MR. HUTTON: I don't understand what you want to know about Pembina wheat.

MR. CAMPBELL: Is there a good supply of Pembina wheat for seed?

MR. HUTTON: That I cannot answer right now -- what the supplies are relative to the demand. I understand that the demand for Canadian registered seed is very good. The prices are substantially higher this winter than they have been in the past. I understand that supplies are moving out well. What the eventual situation will be is hard to say right now. I would expect those that have supplies will get rid of them readily at good prices. I do know from the standpoint of at least a month ago, it was considered that there was no problem, however, in Manitoba with respect to farmers acquiring supplies of wheat and barley.

MR. CAMPBELL: I wonder if the Honourable the Minister would agree to check on this matter, because is there not a danger in the very fact that he mentions that supplies are moving out well, and out in that case can mean into the neighbour country to the south of us. Is there not a danger that this new wheat that has been developed at a good bit of trouble and expense might be partially or largely lost to the farmers of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: There's been quite a number of questions asked the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. You leave that until the House resolves itself into a Committee of Supply, when the questions will be more appropriate. Are you ready for the question?

MR. HUTTON: Before you put the question, I have a question to ask. How is that, on a matter of urgent public importance, that the member opposite who made the speech and this great plea on behalf of the farmer didn't bother to sit in his seat to listen to the answers?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. HRYHORCZUK: Mr. Speaker, let me go on record that we got no answers.

Mr. Speaker put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for St. Matthews in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're starting in tonight with the Department IV, the Provincial Secretary. Resolution 14, Appropriation 1, Administration.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I don't propose to make a general statement on the salary of the Provincial Secretary. I would like to offer a few remarks when we come to Resolution No. 17, Civil Service Commission, but otherwise I'll do my best to secure information to answer questions for the honourable members. I'd like to tell the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition that I was in error when I suggested that I might provide the information about Grand Rapids and how they're progressing with protecting the archaeological discoveries up there, because I find that comes under my colleague the Minister of Mines and Resources, and he will be dealing with that matter. If that is agreeable to the Leader of the Opposition, he can ask his questions at that time.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make certain general remarks with respect to the Department of the Provincial Secretary. I would start by saying that there are three officials, especially, in this department, that are well known and are doing a wonderful job, and I pay my compliments to these men -- the Deputy Minister, the Queen's Printer and the Civil Service Commissioner.

I would not like to elaborate on any of them, but I would like to state that we have in the Civil Service Commissioner a man who is doing a specially good job. We have good morale in

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd) the Civil Service and it speaks well for the whole service. There is another man also that is quite responsible for the fact that the morale is so good and that we have such a good Civil Service. This man is leaving our work in Manitoba, and I am speaking of Mr. Harry Hunter who has been the Executive Director for the Manitoba Government Employees Association for a number of years. I knew him very intimately when I was in the position of my honourable friend. We met with him and his friends in joint council time and time again, and speaking for myself, and I think I can speak for my colleagues of the time, I would say that Mr. Harry Hunter was always co-operative. He was insistent on getting what he thought was right for the employees of the government of Manitoba, but he was a square shooter and always played the game the right way. I would certainly like to pay my compliments to Mr. Harry Hunter and deplore the fact that he is leaving the present job, the job that he has held for so long. I am told that his successor, Mr. Charlie Wild, will replace him and will make a good job of filling his shoes, and I wish Mr. Wild well. It is very important that we should have a strongly organized Government Employees Association with the right spirit. I would like, at the same time possibly, to pay a tribute to the government for having carried on the tradition of meeting the civil servants around the same table as equals to discuss mutual problems. This also has gone a long way towards providing Manitoba with the situation that we have.

Now having said so, there are certain things that I would like to not blame the civil servants nor the heads of the different branches in the department, but again I would like to remind the committee that here we are again voting a sum of \$10,000 for a Minister who heads also another department, where another \$10,000 will be voted. Now I know that this sum is not going to be used, but, Mr. Chairman, I believe this is not sound budgeting. I think it's wrong. In the old days when one Minister was filling two departments he got half his salary paid by one department and one by the other department. Now last year we voted four salaries of \$10,000 for nothing at all. It created a nice little sum of \$40,000 which was never used. Last year there were nine Cabinet Ministers for 13 departments. This year there is one more department and two more Cabinet Ministers, so I make it that the government is asking this House to vote them \$30,000 for nothing at all. I think it's wrong budgeting -- wrong in principle. The government is asking for some money that they do not need, and the First Minister told us the other day that they have ways and means of getting money in case of emergency. We had the drought this summer. They needed a lot of money and they passed a special warrant. That's the way to get some money, but it had to be accounted for. It had to go before Public Accounts Committee, but this money that is voted this way, nobody has to render any account for it. I say that I do not expect that there'll be three new Cabinet Ministers appointed this year to fill these vacant Cabinet jobs. I do not think so. Last year apparently the First Minister was pleased with having only nine Cabinet Ministers, including himself. This year he has 11 and I say that it is wrong to budget for \$30,000 that is not needed.

Now under the first item, the first vote, we have the Department or Branch responsible for The Companies Act and The Change of Name Act. I have analyzed the revenues of that department and I have found out that this department, who used to be considered as a service department or service branch, this one with respect to The Companies Act, has developed into a revenue-making branch to a certain extent. Now in the year 1956-57, total revenues from the general fees, including the Manitoba Gazette, were \$147,000; in 1957-58, \$149,000; an increase of \$2,000.00. There are more companies registered from year to year. There was an increase in the fees charged, quite an increase, and the revenue has jumped from 1957-58 to '58-'59 by some \$14,000, but the increase came apparently too late to make much of a difference in that year; but between the years '59 and '60 there's a jump in the revenue of \$68,000.00. Now this was mainly brought about, I say mainly, but here again I will admit and concede that there were more companies incorporated; more Letters Patent issued. In the Change of Name Act, there's not much difference there. There has been a steady increase, but not enough to account for this jump in the revenue, because I have here the schedule of fees charged by the department for filing an annual return. Where the authorized capital does not exceed \$100,000, the old fee was \$2.00 for filing a return; the new fee has been increased to \$5.00 -- more than double. Where the authorized capital exceeds \$100,000 but does not exceed \$250,000, the fees were jumped from \$3.00 to \$10.00. Now this is quite an increase -- some 330% I believe. Where

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd) the authorized capital exceeds \$250,000 but does not exceed \$1 million, the fee has been raised from \$5.00 to \$15.00; and where the authorized capital exceeds \$1 million, the fee has been raised from \$10.00 to \$25.00. Now this caused quite a jump in the year 1959 -- at least between '59 and '60. Now the normal increase of \$7,000 is shown this past year between '60 and '61 -- a normal increase of \$7,000, but it does point to the fact that the public has been charged a fee that has made this department not giving service at cost. I think the department is making money. It's a small way possibly of taxing the people to a certain extent and maybe there were grounds, maybe those who have highly capitalized companies could afford to pay these rates, but it's a departure from the policies that were carried on in the past and I believe that they were good policies.

Now I might come to the Civil Service. I have stated that we have a good Civil Service. I have believed that civil servants who were doing a job for the Province of Manitoba, that the conditions of work should be good and that their salaries should be sufficient and comparable as far as possible with other provinces and the industry in the district. I have been of the opinion always that we should be very, very careful always in not having too many bodies, but that we should make sure, definitely sure, that there would be no jobs created without very, very good reason. I understand and I'm sure I'm going to be told that the government has introduced new policies and that men were needed. Yes, I agree to a certain extent, but the extent to which new employees were added to the payroll is to me quite a shock. It's pretty hard to get at the exact figures because there has been a change in compiling these figures. Maybe the best way for me to compare the number of civil employees that were in the employ of the government in 1957 and '58 with the number of employees that we are providing for in the estimates, is to compare exactly the list that was supplied to us by the Minister showing the staff provided for in '62-'63 estimates and compare that with the staff that were provided in '57-'58.

Now the Minister knows and the members of the House know that for 1957-58 the numbers of the employees were added in the estimates themselves. Now there have been changes and I got in touch with the Department and I asked officials of that department to put the numbers of the staff in '57-'58 in opposition to the staff provided for in the present estimates, and I arrived at this conclusion by adding the two columns. Whereas the estimates of '57-'58 provided for 3,691 men and women, the estimates of 1962-63 provide for 5,497, or provide for 1,806 more people. Now I know that there has been the hospital scheme and there is a note in the report that we have received that in Agriculture and Conservation a few more people were employed; also with respect to gaols in the Department of the Attorney-General; with respect to education; with respect to vocational training; and in Health and Welfare because of the splits in the two departments. This is known to me -- fully known -- but it seems to me that the increase is such a big increase that I wonder whether it is not too large an increase. When we figure that all over Canada there is an increase in Civil Service, and I have the DBS figures, and apparently the percentage increase has been greater in Manitoba in the last four years than in the rest of Canada, although it's not very clearly shown and it's always difficult to compare figures. I'm a little scared with the increase that has gone on and I'm wondering at times if a committee might possibly be appointed of the members of this House, including some members of the Opposition, to study the situation. I'm not making a motion, but to me it is alarming. When we consider so many of these people are driving cars costing a lot of money, I at least would like to caution the government not to go too fast and too far along that line. It's getting to a point where many people in Manitoba think that we have quite an army of civil servants. Good as they might be, we have quite a number of them and the matter should be looked into.

Well I don't know if I have much more to say at the present time on this matter. I would like to say to the Minister that I don't blame him personally, that I recognize that when I occupied the position that he occupies now, he was generous to me. I try to be as generous as I can, and I hope that he will take my comments in the way in which I am making them.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Chairman, whenever we on this side have asked questions about the increase in fees which were instituted by the government across the way about three years ago, very shortly after they came into office, we've always had the same answer given by the honourable gentleman across the way, that these were not taxes. We claimed that they were and my honourable friends across the way constantly said: "No, these are simply increases to

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd) bring the fees in line with the service supplied." They insisted there was no taxation attached whatever to this increase in fees. Well, of course, it was impossible to prove whether there was or whether there wasn't, until such time as some experience was able to pass by and some figures be accumulated. Well now we've been in operation under the new fee schedule in the various departments for some three years and I think that the figures that my honourable friend and colleague from Carillon has indicated show most clearly that what the government did do was, in fact, tax the public additionally. Now I'm not saying that the tax was not one that could not be imposed; I'm not saying that the people who are paying this tax are not able to bear it; I'm not saying that it's necessarily wrong to have done so; but I'm saying that it was absolutely wrong to pretend that it was a fee increase to cover costs when, in fact, the figures now show that it covers very much more than costs. If we take for this year, for example, the costs of operating this department, you take the total cost of administration of the Provincial Secretary's Department, \$76,000; you take the total cost of operation of the Manitoba Gazette, some \$35,000; you get a total of \$112,000.00. Now presumably both of those have other functions apart from strictly the handling of companies and so on. They have other duties. However, let us assume that the whole of the cost is attributable to the fees that they charge, then we turn around and see the fees that have been collected. We find that in the period '60-61, that is a year prior to this, the total fees collected were some \$238,000.00. In other words, Mr. Chairman, more than double, substantially more than double the total costs of operating the complete factors connected with these costs. Now I cannot see how that can be termed as anything else but a straight increase in taxation.

MR. EVANS: This is on the first resolution, Mr. Chairman. I want to say that I very much appreciate the compliments that the Honourable Member for Carillon paid to the officials whom he named and to the Civil Service in general. No one is probably in a better position to know than he, the quality of the service that the public interests of Manitoba receive from those in the Civil Service and those who are of the higher rank, of the Queen's Printer, the Deputy, and the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission. It's become pretty much of a commonplace -- I think everyone knows it -- that there is, in our public service, skill; there is a kind of devotion to duty that is not sufficiently recognized among the public. There is all too often heard some disparaging remark about the civil servants. It came into focus not long ago in the United States when someone referred to, I think it was a book published in England, with a title which reflected somewhat on the quality of the civil service. This sort of thing is very deeply resented by those who know the skill and devotion to work that is displayed by, I think, by all ranks and in all sections of the Civil Service itself. But what is not so apparent is a great deal of enthusiasm, the kind of enthusiasm that keeps civil servants working long after the regulation hours, and in piling up a number of hours that they can never hope to recover by time taken in lieu on their holidays, or holidays taken in lieu of time served overtime. So I do greatly appreciate on behalf of the Civil Service the remarks that were made by the honourable member.

I would like to add also a word with respect to Harry Hunter who has made the unique contribution, I think, not only in Manitoba but probably in Canada, to the interest of the public service, because he started here in Manitoba a kind of relationship between employer and employee and between employee associations and the government and the Civil Service itself and the Civil Service Commission, that I believe is unique in the country. As testimony to that fact, he was selected to head up the new Canada-wide, the Canadian Federation of Government Employee Organization, of which he is now the Executive Secretary and for which position he has left the position he held here. I think Mr. Hunter has drawn and inherited a very fine tradition from his father who was a distinguished school inspector for many years in our own Department of Education here in Manitoba. He was well-known and respected, and I think it's not too much to say, held in affectionate regard in the southwest section of the province where he was a school inspector. Harry Hunter himself taught here and then entered the Manitoba Civil Service in the Department of Education. So he grew up with the Manitoba tradition; and he grew up with the knowledge and liking for people, which has enabled him to contribute in the way that I have indicated.

There is someone else that I would like to mention at this time. As the House well knows, a chairman of the Civil Service Commission has been appointed in the person of Mr. D.A.B. Murray, who was the former Vice-President and partner of Osler, Hammond and Nanton Limited, and who has given a good deal of his time to public service, particularly in the City of Winnipeg.

(Mr. Evans, cont'd) He succeeded Mr. R.G.B. Dickson, Q.C., who relinquished the post some months ago. Mr. Murray is a chartered accountant. He was born in Scotland and came to Canada in 1910. He continues his active association with business in Winnipeg, and this is important from the Civil Service Commission point of view, because we turn and look to the Chairman as the outside business man appointed to that commission to bring to the commission the influence and views of business and ordinary business administration. We are fortunate indeed, I feel, in having Mr. Murray, a man of his standing and integrity, to occupy the position of Chairman of the Commission.

With respect to the Minister's salary, this matter was debated before on another occasion. It is always better, I feel, to over-provide than under-provide, and in cases where the Treasurer and Premier has elected to provide these sums in case they should be required, they are placed there for that purpose.

With regard to fees for the companies, I see nothing in the contention of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, or of the Member for Carillon, in the fact that for the time being the fees are yielding a surplus, but it would not be the intention to readjust fees every year. The schedule has been set and costs have been going up and will continue to go up, and if for the time being there has been a surplus, undoubtedly that will be overcome as time goes by and the fee will have been seen to have been set in a reasonable range.

The honourable gentleman from Carillon draws attention to the fact that there was a large number of new employees in the Civil Service in comparison with the year 1957-58, which is the last year or two years in which he had some connection with administration of affairs in the province. Well this is surely pretty obvious. If new programs are to be entered into, and if new work is carried out throughout the province, there can scarcely be anything else but an increase in the number of employees to carry it out. He calls attention to the fact that there should be some investigation as to why these increases have occurred in the number of people working for the public service. But of course every year there's that investigation; there's that investigation in this very committee. The whole purpose of this committee is to examine the amounts that are being provided for the service of the public for the ensuing year, and the honourable gentlemen opposite are not slow to ask questions about what these sums are required for and to debate the wisdom of providing these sums. But in every one of these cases, I think I am right in saying, that the honourable gentleman himself voted for them and the members of his group voted for these expenditures and to carry out these programs. You simply can't make bricks without straw. You simply can't carry out a public program without people to carry it out. On no occasion did I hear the honourable gentleman rise in his place and propose any single reduction in any one of the programs that he now says has grown too big. Now I ask him, does he think for a moment that in committing himself to carrying out these programs and in committing himself to voting these sums of money to carry them out, that there would be no increase in the number of people to carry them out? I ask the honourable gentleman, would he rise now and tell me how he expected these larger programs to be carried out without additional persons placed on the staff. In what way did he think the items that he voted for salaries were to be expended, if they were not to be spent on salaries for people in the public service. Now surely the honourable gentleman must use something to logic in the -- (interjection)-- if the honourable gentleman will let me finish -- and to sit there and say, and to expect to be taken seriously, that he now finds more people on the staff, when year after year he has sat there and voted for the programs and not proposed any single reduction in any of the programs that were laid before the House and are now being carried out by these civil servants. It simply escapes my ability to follow his logic.

MR. PREFONTAINE: I think I was careful in saying that I have realized that by going into new programs you needed more people, but between this statement and the statement that I think that 450 additions a year for four years weren't necessary, I do not agree that this is the same thing. I know you need more, but I am not in the inside to know how many more, and I say that in view of the fact that certain of your new ventures have required civil servants that are not even included, like those under the Agricultural Credit Corporation, they are not included in these 1,800 that I have mentioned. Those under the Crop Insurance are not included, and they're providing a new service; but this is for hospitalization. I know you might have needed two or three hundred, but there's an increase of 1,800. It's the total numbers, the

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.) large increase which astounds me and alarms me. I would like to be somewhere else than in this House, to be in there and look at the situation in every branch of the department -- a committee that might sit the whole year round and investigate and see whether there are not too many bodies here or there in the different branches of the service -- everywhere. It's not the kind of questioning here. When the Minister says that I sat here and I approved -- I approved the programs, some of them I did, but I did not approve of 450 people for these programs or 200, or 20. I could not. There's no means for a private member to know how many people are necessary. When he says that I should have stood on my feet and opposed these programs, I don't think the Minister's very serious.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman -- unless you want to reply -- Mr. Chairman, I was going to reserve my remarks in connection with the civil servants of the Province of Manitoba until we got to the department concerned, namely, the item under Civil Service Commission, but it does appear to me that the subject is open at the present time. I think that, first of all, I should join in the tribute to the general civil servants here in the Province of Manitoba. This is one category of employment that all too often received adverse criticism for those that don't understand the job that they are doing. I think that we in this Legislature are among the privileged of the Province of Manitoba to be able to come in contact with the type of employee that we have here in the Province of Manitoba and to find from them outstanding courteousness, outstanding ability to assist us in our endeavour. We, as members of this Legislature throughout the whole of the year, not just at the time we meet here in session, have to approach the various departments for information. We have to approach them and take to them our problems, the problems of the people who come to us in turn. I have yet in the number of years that I have had the privilege of being a member of this House, under the former administration or under the present administration, found a civil servant who wasn't ready and willing to even go beyond the bonds of common duty in order to help us out. I want to say, Mr. Chairman, as the Leader of my group here in the Legislature, that I sincerely appreciate this and find that they are, as the Minister indicated, a devoted group of people.

Tribute has been paid to Harry Hunter. I join in that tribute and I wish him every success in the job that he has gone into. I trust that he will be able in the new job that he has, in the broader field Dominion-wide, to give the leadership and guidance right across the Dominion. I am sure that the civil servants in Manitoba have lost a very capable general secretary, but their loss will be gain for the civil servants across Canada.

I also want to pay a tribute to the members of the Civil Service Commission itself, other than the Chairman, the private individuals. I have found in the members of the Commission, and particularly Mr. Newton, an outstanding individual who at all times is the type of an individual who has a broad understanding and a very, very good approach to we humble members of this Legislature, and I appreciate a man of his calibre.

While we are discussing the question of the employees and the staff, Mr. Chairman, I am quite disturbed when I read the report of the Civil Service Commission. If the Minister wants to reserve comment on the point that I am going to raise at the present time until we get down to the item of the Civil Service Commission, he can do so. I am very much disturbed however, Mr. Chairman, that it appears to me as I look at the figures in the report of the Commission, that for the year 1961 we had approximately a 16% total of resignations from the staff itself. It appears to me, Mr. Chairman, that this is altogether too high and there must be a reason for it. I suggest that possibly the conclusions reached at the recent meeting of the Government Employees Association may give the answer to the reason for the change in staff to the extent of 16%; namely, that not yet have we in the Province of Manitoba, and I would suggest that this criticism is not only true of the Province of Manitoba but could be directed to other jurisdictions as well, but it does appear to me that the answer to this may be because of the relatively lesser amount of salaries that are being paid to our civil servants by comparison with those in outside industry. I understand that the Government Employees Association, if they have not already done so, are going to make representations to the Cabinet for a reconsideration of the rates of pay that they receive as members of the Civil Service staff. I would like to suggest to the Honourable the Provincial Treasurer and the members of the Cabinet that they give due consideration and serious consideration to this very vital question. If the salary rates of our civil servants are brought more in line with those of outside industry, then possibly we won't have

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) the turnover in staff that appears to be evident in this report. I appreciate and realize the fact that, I believe it was in last year's estimates there was a considerable sum of money set aside for the purpose of general increases to the civil servants, but I think that it is equally true, Mr. Chairman, that that was just a sort of a process of partially catching up and more yet must be done.

I was going to make some comment, Mr. Chairman, in respect of a new item which appears in Appropriation No. 17 -- the Assistance for Educational Leave, of the sum of \$100,000.00. Now it's my understanding, reading the report of the Commission, that this has been in effect, was in effect during the year 1961. We find no comparable amount in which to judge how much of an expenditure was made for the year 1961 to be able to make a proper assessment as to the adequacy or otherwise of the \$100,000.00. I would like the Minister if he will, now that we're on this particular subject and I guess it's just as proper under Administration, Mr. Chairman, as it might be under the item, it will save time at that time anyway, I would like the Minister to give us an indication if he can, if he can't do it tonight I am prepared to await the answer, as to what is the average amount that an employee has been receiving in respect of permission to take educational leave to undertake studies directly related to his work. I am not referring to the category as it is directed by his employing officer, but those who desire to take additional educational studies which are related to his work; because I note according to the report that if he is single, he can be allowed an allotment up to \$200 and to \$250 if the person concerned is married. I'd also like to know, Mr. Chairman, because we have some categories of loans or payments in the over-all picture of government where there are strings attached to it. I would like to know from the Honourable the Provincial Secretary whether in respect of these people who are given a payment without it being ordered or directed, whether there are any strings insofar as repayment or whether they have to render additional service, or guarantee a period of employment to the province after they have returned from their leave? These are the comments that I would make in particular dealing with the Civil Service.

I do not join in the criticism of the Honourable Member from Carillon for the obvious reason, Mr. Chairman, that we in this House, may I say particularly that we of the NDP, and I make no bones about it or no apologies for it, have suggested to the government that there are many fields in which they should extend their services, and I am happy to be able to say this evening that in many instances our appeals to the government has not fallen on deaf ears. When one considers the big job that has to be done, for instance as a result of the Hospitalization scheme, which was enacted while my honourable friends on my right were the government of the day, one can see why it is of the increase of our civil service staff. I only make a plea at this particular time that the members of this staff receive a greater amount in return for their labours than they are receiving at the present time. I am sure my honourable friend, the Minister of Health would be happy to increase his staff still further in respect of obtaining more qualified psychiatrists and more qualified personnel in respect of his department; and I think, Mr. Chairman, as the availability of qualified staff of the nature that I have just mentioned becomes available, that of necessity, no matter who the Government of Manitoba is, that staff -- professional staff particularly, is going to have to increase.

So much, Mr. Chairman, in respect of the Civil Service Commission. I believe that this would be the proper department to ask as to the number of firms in the Province of Manitoba for the year 1961 that went bankrupt. I believe this is the correct department or is that the Attorney-General's department? -- (Interjection) -- I beg your pardon?

MR. EVANS: The Attorney-General's Department.

MR. PAULLEY: Would it? Well, maybe he will take note that I would like that information. I wasn't sure frankly, Mr. Chairman, whether it was Provincial Secretary who was charged, I understand, with the responsibility of incorporation and the likes of that or whether it was the Attorney-General who was responsible for court proceedings, or whether or not it was the Department of Industry and Commerce that deals generally with industry, so I thought I would take a pot shot at it at the present time. Now, Mr. Chairman, that's the only comments which I wish to make at the present time in respect of administration. There may be one or two later on in the estimates. By and large -- and I want to repeat this -- by and large we have no general criticism of the picture as we see it at the present time, but I want to assure the government that by this statement it doesn't mean that I'm buttering them up at all.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, my remarks with regard to this particular item at this time will be brief, but I did want to avail myself of the opportunity to say a few words. The Civil Service is one of the items of interest to me at all times and I would like to reinforce a suggestion that the Honourable Member for Carillon has made, that it would be advisable, I think, if the Minister would undertake to furnish to us the increases that have taken place in the staff of these other boards and commissions as they variously come before the House as well, so we can have some idea of the increases in the so-called new departments or branches such as Crop Insurance and Farm Credit Corporation, the Industrial -- I always forget the name of that -- (Interjection) -- the Industrial Development Fund, etcetera, etcetera. If we could have those, I would be very glad and it would give us the full picture.

Then, one other matter that I would like to mention at this time is one that I tried particularly to get an opportunity to get on my feet a little while ago, because of a certain circumstance. I noticed that the gentleman that I am going to talk about was out of the Chamber and usually we say that we're sorry that someone is not in his seat when we're talking about him. On this occasion I'm sorry that the gentleman is in his seat when I talk about him; I would rather he wasn't. I tried to avail myself of the opportunity of him being out of the House by getting on my feet, but the Honourable the Leader of the NDP -- with emphasis on the DP was -- they soon will be -- he was on his feet and anybody knows what an impossible situation it is to try and get into the debate under those circumstances. Now, the Civil Service has been mentioned in general and some particular individuals have been mentioned. I am going to confine my remarks to one person only, and that's the honourable gentleman who sits to the left of Mr. Chairman here -- because I said last year and I repeat again, that I don't know of a civil servant that we've got in the Province of Manitoba that discharges his duties more capably, more courteously, more fully, with a greater sense of dedication and more effectively than the honourable the Deputy Minister of this department. I'm not talking about the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly; I'm not talking about the Chief Electoral Officer of the province; I'm not talking about the person that occupies goodness knows how many other positions around here and who does literally dozens of jobs, and does them all well -- I'm talking at this time of the Deputy Minister of this department. I think it's quite remarkable, quite remarkable, that this particular individual can handle the number of jobs that he does, can work as hard as he does and do them all so well and stay so pleasant and courteous. I had hoped I could say this while he was out of the House, because he's -- unlike some people who come of the same ethnic origin -- he's a very modest man, and I had hoped to say it in his absence, but if we've got to say it in his presence, then the story is just the same. I had the pleasure when I was a member of the government of seeing this young man operate in several departments. I had the pleasure of watching his rise from a fairly junior position right along through the years until he obtained the position, eventually, of Deputy Minister. It was a remarkable progression and at every place the service that he gave was excellent. It was outstanding. Now to say any more would be unnecessary. I apologize to the honourable gentleman for offending his sense of the fitness of things, but I tried to do it when he was away. I couldn't quite catch it at that time. I have to say it here. I am not going to say it again in the next 25 or 30 years that the honourable gentleman and I will both be here. I am not going to say it again. I am saying it this once to put it on record. I have rubbed shoulders in my time around here with a tremendous number of good men -- I didn't rub shoulders with the ladies, but I've met some ladies that are very, very capable too around here -- but my honourable friend doesn't take second place to any of them and I just wanted to put this on record. --(Applause)-- I believe we are unanimous on one thing.

MR. EVANS: Yes, I think the honourable gentleman will have noticed the warm applause that followed those well deserved remarks directed to the Deputy Minister. I would like to make some brief comments with regard to the remarks of the Leader of the New Democratic Party. Sixteen percent resignations is larger than we would like, but it's smaller than it has been. I think at the end of the war, if I recall, resignations were of the order of one-third per year and were indeed very high. Now 16% is high -- I can't quote figures to prove it, but I think it is not out of line with the rate of resignations in businesses downtown. Now this is a large item of cost to recruit and train new people and we want very much to cut down the rate of resignations. We will, of course, pay the closest attention to all of the resolutions of the Manitoba Government Employees' Association when they're submitted to us as they will be soon. Also we want to give

(Mr. Evans, cont'd.) constant attention to the rate of pay to make sure that it is competitive, because the principle on which the pay rates are set is that of competitive rates for similar employment in the same area, and constant attention will be paid to that principle. I think it should be borne in mind that there is a one-step rise for everyone in the Civil Service each year except those that have attained the maximum of their class and that sometimes escapes attention when there is no general pay increase -- it doesn't escape the attention of the individual employee, I know that -- but I think when we're considering the pay scales that are reported to the Civil Service, it isn't always recognized that there is a one-step increase available to nearly all the employees each year.

My honourable friend raised the question of the comparable amounts that had been afforded for educational leave in previous years and I might point out that the amounts for educational leave were scattered through the estimates of the various departments in previous years and haven't been gathered together in one place. But during the 1961-1962 fiscal year, 28 technical and professional personnel took educational leave under the order-in-council administered by the Civil Service Commission and 11 additional employees were given leave on departmental bursaries by the Welfare Branch -- two from the Attorney-General, one from Education -- all on bursaries provided by the departments themselves. Included in the groups sent were agriculturists, social workers, nurses, doctors, radiologists, engineers and teachers. Employees of the Department of Health, Welfare, Agriculture and Conservation, Attorney-General, Education, Mines and Natural Resources, and Public Works were sent on leave. That is all the information that I am able to provide concerning the numbers of personnel who were sent last year; I haven't the information here as to the amount of money that was spent. I shall endeavour to get for the honourable gentleman, the average assistance provided in cases where the employee went on educational leave of his own motion. As to the strings that are attached, I will read from the regulation governing these matters: "An employee receiving educational leave must sign an agreement to render two years service to the department for each year or fraction thereof of leave granted." So for a complete year's leave for education he would be required to return and serve two years in the public service.

With respect to bankruptcies, and we touched that matter, it is Federal Legislation but I believe the registrations are put in an office under the jurisdiction of the Attorney-General. Well now perhaps, Mr. Chairman, having arrived at 11:00 o'clock the Committee might be willing to rise and report and I so move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the committee of supply has considered a certain resolution and has directed me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

MR. MARTIN: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River, the report of the Committee be received.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Wednesday afternoon.