

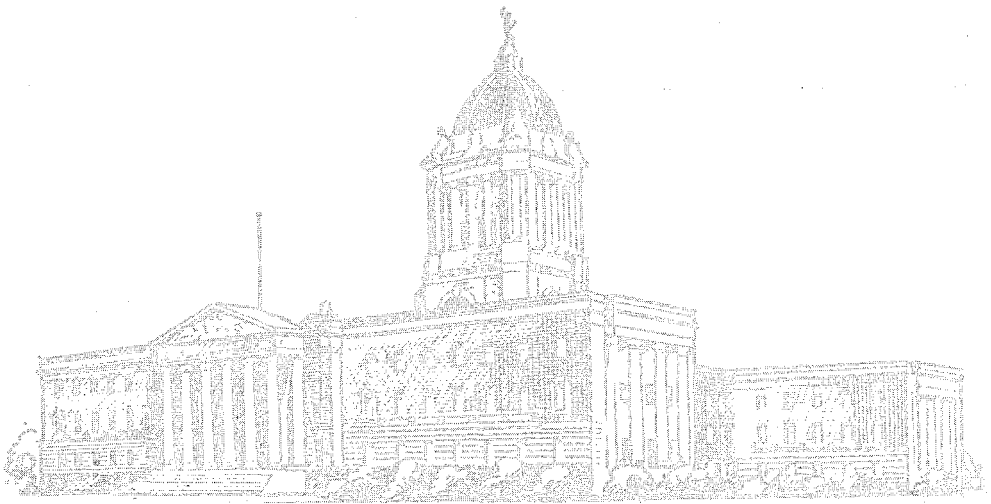


Legislative Assembly Of Manitoba

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable A. W. Harrison



Vol. VII No. 8 2:30 p.m. Friday, February 23, 1962. 5th Session, 26th Legislature

Printed by R. S. Evans, Queen's Printer for the Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Friday, February 23rd, 1962.

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions.

MR. JAMES COWAN, Q. C. (Winnipeg Centre): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of the Western Savings and Loan Association praying for the passing of an Act to amend an Act to incorporate the Western Savings and Loan Association.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions.

MR. D. M. STANES (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Joseph Parker Vinet and Others praying for the passing of an Act to incorporate the Assiniboine Golf Club.

MR. SPEAKER: Reading and Receiving Petitions.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

MR. HARRY P. SHEWMAN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Assinibota, that your special committee appointed to enquire into all phases of livestock marketing system in Manitoba beg leave to present the following as their interim report,

MR. CLERK: Your special committee appointed to enquire into all phases of livestock marketing system in Manitoba beg leave to present the following as their interim report.

MR. SHEWMAN: Mr. Speaker, as this is somewhat of a lengthy report, I would like to have this report published and printed in Hansard to dispense with the reading of it now.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed.

COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK MARKETING SYSTEM IN MANITOBA

Established by Resolution, April 14, 1961.

"To study and enquire into all phases of the livestock marketing system in Manitoba."

May 29, 1961: First Committee Meeting. Chairman and Johnson; Roberts; Wagner. Considered scope of investigation; general course of action; areas of study; maintenance of perspective; methods of obtaining information (by submission of briefs; public hearings); need for technical adviser.

June 27, 1961: Second Committee Meeting. Chairman and full committee. Order of study tentatively set, and dates for first hearings. Considered arrangements for office and secretary, for publicity. Agreed on desirability of study of methods and their effectiveness in other provinces, particularly with respect to control.

August, 1961. First hearing, for receiving brief on overall conditions in Manitoba and briefs from producers set for September 21.

August 14, 1961. Preliminary. Notice of First Hearing and request for brief. Mailing to Producers' Organizations (8). Publicity arranged with Department of Industry and Commerce.

September 5, 1961. Opening of Committee Office, Room 333. Secretary engaged.

September 8, 1961. Announcement of Opening of Office and General Notice of First Hearing. Mailing to producers' organizations, breeder groups, etc. (25) (farm business organizations)

September 14, 1961. Third Committee Meeting. Chairman and Roberts; Wagner; Weir and Dr. J. C. Gilson. Discussion of response to notices of first hearing, and tentative agenda.

Under date of September 6 letters of inquiry went to Ministers of Agriculture in all provinces requesting information needed for a study of comparative legislation.

September 21, 1961. First Public Hearing. Chairman; full committee, and Dr. Gilson. Submissions from: Dr. A. W. Wood, Associate Professor, Agricultural Economics Department, The University of Manitoba - "a brief review of livestock conditions in general in the province with particular reference to marketing." 8 Producer Organizations: General - Manitoba Farmers Union. Manitoba Federation of Agriculture. Co-operative - Manitoba Pool Elevators. Livestock Producer Groups and Organization - The Manitoba Stock Growers' Association. Cattle Breeders' Association of Manitoba. Sheep Breeders' Association of Manitoba. Swine Breeders' Association of Manitoba. Manitoba Hog Producers' Association.

(Report, cont'd.)

September 21, 1961. Fourth Committee Meeting. Chairman and Johnson; Wagner; Weir. For discussion of submissions just received and scheduling of next hearing, for the processing phase. (Set for Nov. 2, later changed to November 9). Agreed that this hearing include labour unions involved.

September 28, 1961. Letters to four large packing plants and custom abattoirs advising date of hearing and requesting submissions. Letters of information to two consumer organizations.

October 3 - 8, 1961. Notice of Second Hearing. Mailing to packers and processors, including all small slaughterhouses and locker plants listed by Department of Industry and Commerce, and two labor unions involved in the processing phase. Also for information to producer, wholesale, retail and consumer mailing lists and main transportation interests and livestock buying facilities. (200)

October 20, 1961. Fifth Committee Meeting. Chairman and all committee members. Discussion of forthcoming hearing and of proposed Committee activities, including the desirability of Committee travel for observation of operations of marketing systems elsewhere, in particular Ontario, with new teletype system for marketing hogs.

November 7, 1961. (180) Preliminary Notice of Hearing on Transportation mailed to list obtained from Man. Trucking Assoc., of individual truckers of livestock.

November 8, 1961. Sixth Committee Meeting. Chairman and Johnson; Wagner; Weir and Dr. Gilson. Discussion of submission received from Meat Packers' Council; report on response to notice of hearing; report of arrangements with J. H. Ellis to work on comparison of legislation and tariffs in different provinces. Agreement on plans for Toronto trip for observation of Ontario marketing system - to leave November 19, travelling by train for the sake of conference enroute. Resignation of Weir because of pressure of new duties. Agreed that J. D. Watt, M. L. A. Arthur, be requested to assume his duties as a Committee member, subject to confirmation at the next Session of the House. Agreement to hold hearing on transportation and public markets on December 4.

November 9, 1961. Second Hearing for Processors. Submission from: Meat Packers' Council of Canada, for Burns & Company Limited. Canada Packers Limited. Swift Canadian Co. Ltd. Letter received from Brandon Packers also supporting Meat Packers' Council brief. Letter received from Custom Abattoir Limited.

November 13, 1961. Notice of Third Hearing. Mailing to total mailing list including individual truckers (about 400)

November 19 -25, 1961. Toronto & Surrounding Area. Observation of Ontario Marketing System in operation. Meeting with Ontario Dept. of Agriculture officials. Visits to Ontario Stock Yards, to community stock yards at Kitchener and Waterloo, a feed lot, an artificial insemination station, a packing plant; Observation of teletype system in operation, selling at main office and buying at a packing plant, also a visit to FAME, a co-operative which strongly opposes the present system. Introduction to Ontario legislature.

December 4, 1961. Third Public Hearing. Transportation and Public Markets. 4 Submissions: Transportation - Manitoba Trucking Assoc. (Railways provided tariff information but did not wish to present briefs) Public Markets - The Public Markets, Ltd. - Winnipeg Livestock Exch. also - Manitoba Farmers Union (Supplementary Brief).

December 4, 1961. Seventh Committee Meeting. Chairman and all committee members. (Watt replacing Weir) and Dr. Gilson. Discussion and Comment on briefs presented. Chairman reported invitation from Alberta Stock Yards to opening of new building in Calgary. Agreed that this be accepted by chairman, that he investigate contacts and points of interest to the Committee. Report and discussion on Toronto trip. Agreement to spend December 18 discussing briefs and information obtained, with a view to deciding what further complementary information is needed.

December 14 - 17, 1961. Chairman's visit to Calgary; discussions with stock yards personnel, producers, and others in livestock industry; observation of Alberta Stock Yards auctioning.

December 18, 1961. Eighth Committee Meeting. Chairman and all Committee members, Dr. Gilson. Discussion of what had been covered in the briefs presented to this date.

(Report, cont'd.) Presentation by Gilson of summary of Manitoba Pool Elevators and MFU briefs, and questions raised by these, or arising out of them.

Agreed that informal meetings with representatives of producers and packers would be a means of filling in gaps in information, also that rail grading and other matters be discussed with Canada Department of Agriculture official, and comparative legislation with Professor Ellis. Schedule of informal hearings set up for January 22, 23 and 24, with a public hearing for retail and consumers on the 25th.

Agreed that more information was needed on co-operative meat processing plants, in relation to controls particularly on the various hog marketing systems; on the effect of rail grading.

Agreed that in view of the recent Ontario Agricultural Marketing Committee report a consultation with a member of that Committee would be most valuable. Professor Ralph Campbell of OAC to be contacted.

Between December 20 and the year end, individual letters went out to the two consumer organizations and the commercial consumer organizations (hotels, etc.), as well as to the retail mailing list, stressing the importance of informing this Committee on the consumer and retail aspects of the overall marketing system.

January 22, 1962. Consultation Meetings. Chairman and full committee at all times. Dr. A. W. Wood (in place of Dr. Gilson) (1) Manitoba Pool Elevators, R. Kapilik, F. W. Hamilton. (2) Manitoba Farmers' Union, R. Usick (and MFU Committee).

January 23, 1962. on the 23rd and 24th (Morning spent in Committee discussion) (3) Manitoba Hog Producers' Association - J. Norquay. (4) L. Hancock, Canada Department of Agriculture. (5) J. H. Ellis (on comparative legislation).

January 24, 1962. (6) Meat Packers' Council of Canada, W. B. Munro. (7) Burns & Company representatives (2). (8) Canada Packers Limited representatives (2). (9) Swift Canadian Co. Ltd. representatives (2).

January 25, 1962. Fourth Public Hearing. Chairman and Johnson; Wagner; Watt. 3 Submissions: Consumers Association of Can. Retail Merchants Assoc. Canada Safeway Limited.

January 25, 1962. Ninth Committee Meeting. Chairman reported request from United Packing House Workers of America Local 235 for hearing. Agreed to hear them, also to arrange meetings with some small slaughterers and processors and with Winnipeg Livestock Exchange.

Friday, February 9, 1962. Consultations from 9 a. m. , with representatives of abattoir companies (individually).

Saturday, February 10, 1962. Conference with Professor D. R. Campbell, Head of Agricultural Economics Department, Ontario Agricultural College and Member of Ontario Agricultural Marketing Enquiry Committee.

Wednesday, February 14, 1962, 10 a. m. Fifth Public Hearing - for United Packing House Workers of America Local 235.

Wednesday, February 14, 1962, 1:30 p. m. Consultation with Manitoba Federation of Agriculture representatives.

Wednesday, February 14, 1962, 3:00 p. m. Consultation with Winnipeg Livestock Exchange representative.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition) (Ste. Rose): The report will be moved for concurrence later, will it, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Notice of Motion.

MR. SHEWMAN: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, that the report be received.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Notice of Motion.

Introduction of Bills.

The Honourable the Attorney-General.

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Q. C. (Attorney-General) (Fort Garry) introduced Bill No. 16, an Act to amend The Manitoba Evidence Act; and Bill No. 5, An Act to provide for the repeal of The Orderly Payment of Debts Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. T. P. HILLHOUSE, Q. C. (Selkirk) introduced Bill No. 10, An Act respecting Coronation Credit Corporation Limited; and Bill No. 11, An Act respecting Laurentide Financial Corporation Limited.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. ROBERT G. SMELLIE (Birtle-Russell) introduced Bill No. 25, An Act respecting The Canada Permanent Trust Company and The Toronto General Trusts Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Carillon.

MR. EDMOND PREFONTAINE (Carillon) introduced Bill No. 13, An Act to amend An Act to incorporate Les Clercs Paroissiaux ou Catechistes de St. Viateur.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. OSCAR F. BJORNSON (Lac du Bonnet) introduced Bill No. 23, An Act to amend An Act to incorporate The Middlechurch Home of Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: We have with us this afternoon in the gallery a group of young people from St. Martin's Church -- 15 in number. Their teacher is the Rev. Mr. Kerr, situated in the constituency of the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs. We hope that their visit with us this afternoon will be a pleasure and will be of profit to them and may they return again at some future date.

We also have with us this afternoon a group of young students from Grade XII, 20 in number, from Dauphin Collegiate under the guidance of their teacher, Mrs. Madsen. The collegiate is situated in the constituency of the Honourable the Minister of Education, and we hope that they also will have an enjoyable and profitable afternoon with us.

We also have with us a group of 16 pupils from Portage Collegiate, Grade XII, under the guidance of their teacher, Mr. C.W. Shirriff. This school is located in Portage la Prairie and we also hope that they will see fit to come back again and visit us at a future time.

Orders of the Day.

HON. GEO. JOHNSON (Minister of Health) (Gimli): Before the Orders of the Day, I would like to lay on the table of the House the Annual Report of the Department of Health, 1961. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the submission of the Government of the Province of Manitoba to the Royal Commission on Health Services which was held here in January this year. Copies will be distributed to the honourable members.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Minister of Public Works) (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to lay on the table the Annual Report of the Department of Public Works for the fiscal year 1960-61.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. D. L. CAMPBELL (Lakeside): Will copies be available, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Honourable the Minister?

MR. WEIR: Copies are available and will be distributed.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

HON. CHARLES H. WITNEY (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Flin Flon): Today there are young people up in the gallery, and I think I should like to draw to the attention of the House that the Manitoba High School Curling Champions fared rather badly last night in Nova Scotia by having lost a very close game to the High School Champions from Saskatchewan. Up until that time they had lost only one game, and as the situation stood last night, Flin Flon would have to win two or Manitoba would have to win two and Saskatchewan would have to lose two. Well, I've already hinted to you that this team comes from Flin Flon, the home of better curlers. I would like before this House rises today, and as I will not have the privilege of being able to introduce them to the House from the gallery as they are arriving tomorrow night and leaving on Sunday, I would like to acknowledge in this House that I feel that Manitoba's High School Curling Champions did a very fine job down in Nova Scotia and that this House should give them the usual round of applause.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, for the champion curlers in the House, for those people on this side, I would like to say that we are very interested in the comments made by the Minister. Possibly if the team coming through could spend some time with us, some of my colleagues, the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain for example, could possibly give them some

(Mr. Molgat, cont'd.) coaching which apparently the Minister himself has been unable to do. We're very happy to see the results that they have had, however, and I don't think that it is at all beyond their capacity to win the two games that they still have to play.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the New Democratic Party) (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, may I once again rise to correct the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. I don't know why he refers to his Party as being the champion curlers of this Assembly. I think it was demonstrated last year, without any doubts at all, that the rink of this House skipped by my colleague the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks wrested the championship insofar as curling is concerned in this Assembly. We have not as yet been challenged, and may I issue an invitation to all and sundry to attempt to wrest from our group the championship curling here in this Assembly. I, too, would like to join with the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in complimenting the young lads from Flin Flon. We sometimes are criticized in this corner of the House because we extol the virtues of the Province of Saskatchewan, and while we are justified in many instances in doing so, I want to assure the Honourable Minister from Flin Flon and all members of this House, any time that Manitoba can beat Saskatchewan or any other province in the realm of sports they have our wholehearted support. We regret, Mr. Minister, that your team did not win. At the same time, however, we do say they did a tremendous job as ambassadors for this Province of Manitoba and we hope, Sir, that they will have another opportunity another year to show that Manitoba truly is the home of curling in the Dominion of Canada.

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Leader of the NDP would permit a question? How can he lay claim to a championship that was won by the CCF last year?

MR. PAULLEY: It would take an awful lot of explaining in order to penetrate my honourable friend from St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: It sure would, I admit that.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. E. I. DOW (Turtle Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Gladstone, that an order of the House do issue for a return showing: For each fiscal year from 1956 - 57 to the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 1961, (a) total revenues from the Land Title Offices; (b) contributions from these revenues to the Land Titles Assurance Fund; (c) total claim payments out of the Land Titles Assurance Fund; (d) total payments from the Land Titles Assurance Fund to the Consolidated Revenue and to any other department; (e) balance in the fund at the end of each fiscal year; (f) total cost of operating the Land Titles Offices, broken down into component parts such as salaries, maintenance, expenses, depreciation, capital and other expenses; and (g) the basis on which depreciation is charged.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, before accepting this Return, I think I should point out two matters. First of all, item (a) under the question in the Order for Return is an item which can be found in Public Accounts. While it is true that parts of item (f) are similarly in Public Accounts, I will endeavour to lump them together for my honourable friend and provide them in this Return, but subject to those comments I am quite happy to accept the Return.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brokenhead.

MR. E. R. SCHREYER (Brokenhead): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Kildonan, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: (1) the total administrative costs of the crop insurance program in 1961; (2) the amount collected in premiums and the number of premium payers per test area; (3) the federal-provincial contribution; (4) the amount paid out in claims per area; and (5) the method used to provide funds to cover the deficit.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. JOHN P. TANCHAK (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Ethelbert Plains, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing: For each fiscal year from 1956-57 to the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1961, (1) total revenues of all Surrogate Courts in Manitoba; (2) total revenue of all County Courts in Manitoba; (3) total

(Mr. Tanchak, cont'd.) revenues of the Court of Queen's Bench in Manitoba; (4) total revenues of the Court of Appeal in Manitoba; (5) the total revenue of the Office of the Registrar of Companies; and (6) the total revenue of the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I have one or two comments with respect to this Order. Item No. (2) in the Order can be found in the Public Accounts, and we will accept the Order subject to item (2) not being answered. Item No. (5) can also be found by a perusal of the Annual Reports of the Department of the Provincial Secretary. Subject to those two comments, the Order is acceptable.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed motion standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. MORRIS A. GRAY (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I am again pleased to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. John's, that this House request the government to petition the Federal Government for an increase for all old age and blind pensioners in the province from \$65.00 to \$75.00 per month.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Speaker, I have no apology for bringing this matter up again. The resolution is the same as we have submitted over the past three years, namely: That this House recommend to the Federal Government an increase to \$75.00 per month. My arguments may be repeated, Mr. Speaker, those that I have made for years, but you must remember my first resolution for an increase was from \$20.00 to what we could get for them. We are very happy that we have \$65.00 per month now, but at the same time I have proof, if necessary -- and I have no intention of speaking long now -- I may have something more to say when closing the debate, but repeating something does not do any harm to anyone. Any honourable member that has the time and the willingness to read at least one chapter of the Bible will always find something new if he reads it religiously and conscientiously. It was read for thousands of years and we still find a well of wisdom and a lecture on humanity and the respect we should have for the aged. So for this reason I have no apology.

You know the story of Moses, when he came down from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments -- and he is listening to me now and I can probably see tears in his eyes -- and found that his people had created a golden calf. He was so mad that he broke the Ten Commandments in two. One half said "don't, don't, don't"; and when he broke it in half the other side said "do, do, do". At that time there were speculators -- people speculated -- and some of them who were close to him picked up the side that said steal and so on, and for the other side were the don'ts. The situation of the old aged has not improved and I don't intend today to prove it to you, although I have it. The cost of living in 1927, when the old age pension scheme was inaugurated, and not by the Liberals and not by the Conservatives, but by two members of our Party that bargained with each other. They were not interested in the political ambition of either party. The House was divided and a letter was sent by the late J.S. Woodsworth and A.A. Heaps to both Prime Ministers. The Conservative Prime Minister at that time said: "I will not bargain with Socialists". And MacKenzie King said: "I want to remain in power and go to the people." He then inaugurated and put on the statute books the pension of \$20.00 a month. Would they have had any wisdom at that time, or would they have had a certain amount of feeling in their hearts, they perhaps would not have stopped at \$20.00. But even at \$20.00 -- I checked the food prices today and the rent -- at that time they could have lived better, more comfortable, and less starvation than they do now on the \$55.00 and the \$10.00 additional. It is a help-- naturally it is a help -- but I don't think it is a major help because they still cannot carry on on this amount. I fully realize that the Federal Government recently raised the pension to \$65.00 per month, without a request being made by us. However, the honourable members will recall the argument they advanced during the last three years to only ask for this privilege and for them to decide, realizing that private members cannot make any recommendation where money is involved. The honourable members in this House have -- not all -- but the majority rejected it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when a resolution of this kind has the stamp of, there's no reason under the sun why this resolution, which only applies for the time being -- but if

(Mr. Gray, cont'd.) you don't ask we never get it -- should be passed unanimously. It doesn't order the Federal Government to do anything. It just simply requests, outlining to them they didn't go far enough. I still feel that this is not sufficient to keep the body and soul together. My argument is the same today as in previous years. If a person is hungry, he is hungry - period. No prayers, no argument. It will cost hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars. It's sufficient an argument to oppose this resolution. What is money? I remember that we have argued here for years and years, "Where are we going to get the money?" When I came into this House the budget was only \$20 million; now it's over \$100 million. Where are we getting the money? When it comes to saving a human life and human lives the question of money should not be considered. The question is, "Are they to be left alone, or supported and helped during the few years that they still have to live?" That's the question for us to consider. They still live in hazardous rooms, dilapidated, fire-dangerous -- and the old age pensioners cannot carry on. Let me quote you figures to date as the situation in this province now exists. The old age security pensioners in Manitoba which come under the Federal Government's responsibility, total 57,000. The only figure I can get in the rural and the urban district is when they mail out the cheques -- the number of cheques they put on a 5¢ stamp and the number of cheques they put on a 4¢ stamp -- and it shows that 53% are just around our building here -- right in the city and the suburbs -- and the rural have 47%. Now the rural old age pensioners may and may not. That's why I want to call the attention to the rural members because they have their own butter or buy it cheaper; raise their own pigs, their own poultry. They have a little shack on the farm or in the city.

A MEMBER: Not shack -- house.

MR. GRAY: House. All right. I'll correct -- house. I don't know if they have a house -- (Interjection) -- Okay! Always willing to learn. The same thing -- (Interjection) -- All right -- House. Shelter -- put it this way, so I won't agree with you either. They probably -- I don't know -- could get along with a little bit less. Take a single man in this city who has to pay now almost not less than \$25.00 per month for a dirty, stinky room without ventilation. Probably has a little gas stove. Sick -- without social workers visiting them. Sometime they may get sick, and I don't know, some of them may die without anyone knowing it. But who are these people, Mr. Speaker? I've repeated it time and time again. They were men and women who worked and slaved for the last 50 years to improve conditions for us, build the roads, the railways, the buildings, the sewers, at a low wage. I know what the wage was years ago. I worked for 7 1/2¢ an hour. I probably wasn't as good as they were but they worked for 15¢, and haven't had a chance to save up anything. Future generations may give them a living area, higher wages. They could save a couple of dollars but they cannot do it at this time because they haven't got anything. They haven't got anything. Why should we leave them alone in their last trying days? They call it a "Golden Age" period. Yes -- a nice "Golden Age" period for them to sit alone in a room, look through the window, see people smile and people who celebrate, and they're sitting in that room thinking: "Why should it come to me? Why should I suffer? Didn't I work all my life?" Worrying and thinking about his lot, his few years left to him are being shortened all the time. Four thousand people have died last year. I don't say they have died from starvation and hunger, but they have died and the average age on the old age pension is rather very, very short.

Under the provincial responsibility, those who apply under the Means Test between 65 and 70, they're being transferred at the rate of 1,400 a year to the other department, which indicates there are so many; and 18,000 were transferred when The Social Security Act was established. I feel that at least half, if not more, those on the Social Security list are in need and as I said before, there are some of them who are not in need badly, we get their money back in income tax. Secondly, for the sake of those who take pensions who are not in need, we cannot afford to have the thousands and thousands suffer.

Regardless of everything, a few years ago the Liberal Government in Ottawa decided for reasons of their own -- I'm not suspecting then that there was an election -- \$6.00 per month; and the Conservatives came in with \$10.00. Where did they get those figures of \$6.00 a month and where did they get the figures of \$10.00 a month now? It is just expediency to chloroform the voters by giving them a candy, but they are not establishing them. They are not doing any rehabilitation work for them and their plight is bad. I know it. I know it from personal experience. I am participating in the help of the old age pensioners either through the institutions

(Mr. Gray, cont'd.) or privately for many years, and if anyone doubts my word, please go into the old age pension office -- either one -- and pick up at random 10 files, and go and visit them. You will find out that my statement is correct.

Mr. Speaker, I am advising a lot of people daily -- some times I'm unsuccessful -- but I would advise this House that once, as I said, the Federal Government agreed that this is not sufficient, let's ask them. There's no direct expense to this province. Naturally, indirectly we will probably have to contribute -- is to tell Ottawa we feel that respecting your judgment and with all the willingness and honest sincerity that you have raised the \$10.00, we found out it's not sufficient, and let them consider, let them consider another \$10.00 a month. When I say "consider", Mr. Speaker, I want you to know, when I came into this House it was \$20.00 per month and we asked time and time again to consider, and every time they put up another \$5.00, another \$5.00. I could tell you a story and I think Mr. Garson would probably verify it. I had a resolution of an increase of \$5.00 -- whether \$30.00 to \$35.00 or \$25.00 to \$30.00. The House restricted this resolution and two months later we got the House's permission -- \$5.00 a month they gave to the old age pensioners. Now if you're afraid that discredit will come to us, I'm willing to veto the motion if some of you gentlemen will submit it. All I want is a little help for the old aged. All I want is to make the few years of their life a little bit brighter; give them a little bit of sunshine. They're not too long on pension. They're not too long, and I feel again whether it's for lack of food or for lack of sanitary condition of the rooms and everything else, they will perhaps have more than a bowl of soup at lunch. When they go to the restaurant today and buy only -- I have it here somewhere -- they get in the morning a bowl of porridge and a cup of coffee. At noon they get a bowl of soup, toast and coffee. At night they get a meal, and the cheapest meal in any restaurant today outside of the Royal Alex or other places is 60¢. Then they have their tobacco; they need toothpaste; they need medical and personal conveniences. Figure it out -- it comes to \$1.20 a day for 30 days -- an average of 30 days. How much is it? Where are the mathematicians here? It's common sense they cannot exist. In Ottawa, and I have all the Hansards, almost 60 members have spoken in favour of this from all sides of the House. They belong to the same parties as we do -- the same political parties. Why can not we support this resolution? And if, God forbid, that the Conservatives will get a little credit, I am willing to give them the credit providing they come with some help.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. ORLIKOW: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Proposed resolution proposed by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. The Honourable Member for Souris-Lansdowne.

MR. M. E. McKELLAR (Souris-Lansdowne): Mr. Speaker, I ask the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand, with the understanding that if anyone cared to speak, I'd be willing for them to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. S. PETERS (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the indulgence of the House to have this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: Order stand. Adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Honourable Member for Osborne and the proposed motion and amendment thereto proposed by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. The Honourable Member for Rhineland. -- Stand?

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if any other member would like to speak. I understand we're now dealing with the Speech from the Throne -- (Interjection) -- He's here now? Well, we could then invite the honourable member to address us.

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, first of all let me congratulate you. I'm happy to see you back in your position and we all appreciate the way and manner in which you conduct the business of the House here. I would also like to extend my greetings to the new Ministers that were appointed during the recess since our last session, both the Minister of Welfare and the Acting Minister of Public Works. They have my best wishes.

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.)

I would also like to extend my congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition in his new office. I'm sure he has a lot to learn in order to match the former leader's abilities, for whom I have great respect. And last but not least, I would also like to extend my congratulations to the new leader of the NDP -- former CCF. I'm sure that he feels quite at home in his new position. After all, there wasn't too much of a change. When things happen like the other day when in Ottawa Mr. Hazen Argue left the fold, I'm sure it must hurt to see such able members leave them. To me it seemed as though when you have an old bag and you put a new stamp and try to fill it, it would just rip at the seams, and that's what happened. Hazen Argue just dropped out. Further, I don't know just what happens when a person leaves the NDP, whether he becomes a D. P. Further to that, I just wonder whether the Liberals are getting a big favour if he does join that group. He might become a liability instead of an asset.

I would also like to congratulate the mover and seconder of the reply to the Speech from the Throne and what they had to say. Later on I will have some further comments on what they said.

I would also like to thank the government for some of the things they have done during the past year. I did not have to put pressure on to get an office this year. It was provided without any pressure at all, and I wish to thank them for it. However, I would also appreciate if they would provide me with some secretarial help if they can afford it. I feel that it would help me very much in my position if I could hand typed copies to the Clerk when handing in resolutions and so on.

I would also like to thank the government for the matter in which they established the water supply board and provided the facility to the Towns of Altona and Gretna. I think this is a very worthwhile achievement and the people back home really appreciate that service. Also, the support that they're giving to secondary industries such as we have in our area. We have two sewing industries -- The Etna Garments at Altona; and we have another one at Winkler. These industries are doing fine. They are providing employment and I'm sure the people appreciate this support. However, I think it would be very worthwhile if this was extended to provide for male employment back home. In most of these needle trades there's work for women, and if we could have some industry whereby we could employ the breadwinner of the family, the male employees, I think it would be better still.

Just the other day my friend across here, the Member for Swan River, mentioned the good roads that we have in Manitoba -- both east and west, north and south. I was rather surprised when he mentioned south because surely he didn't come over those roads or else I think he would have said it a little differently. We have two long roads in my constituency coming in from the United States, and both these roads need attention. I've asked for assistance and improvements on those roads in past years, still there's nothing done. Highway 14A definitely needs improvements. It needs widening as well. Highway 32 needs a blacktop coating very badly, and come summer and you have that heavy traffic, it's just one hole after another. Surely after building roads like that, the government should see fit to blacktop them in order to preserve them and not let them go to waste. I hope that something will be done in this respect in the coming year and that the government sees fit to make those improvements. After all, they're also tourist roads. People from the States coming in use those roads and they should be improved.

I was also delighted in seeing that in the Throne Speech that something is going to be done about the mentally ill -- providing better facilities. I'm glad to see that something will happen in this respect and I'll have some further comments when legislation of that type will be handed in.

In one of the opening paragraphs of the Throne Speech it is mentioned that we are in a buoyant economy -- conditions are buoyant. Well, Mr. Speaker, I disagree with them. I think we have a number of factors proving and showing that things are not as buoyant as the government would like us to believe. Last summer we had a professor from the United States with us at the seminar at the university site. When speaking he made this reference, and he said that in Canada, 25% of the people in Canada had no cash reserves whatsoever. Then he went on to say that another 24% had less than \$250.00 to fall back on. This is approximately half the people in Canada with less than \$250.00 in cash reserves. Certainly that is nothing to brag

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.) about. Farmers and farm workers are hard-pressed because of poor crops and, mind you, some farmers receive very, very little. I don't know how they managed to get by. These people will definitely need assistance come spring for seed, tractor fuel, repairs for machinery, let alone fertilizer, etcetera, for what they most likely they will have to do without. Because of the poor crops, farmers have cut down to the bare essentials in spending, declining any expansion programs, with the result that farm worker's income is cut down to the very minimum. These people find it hard right now and most likely will continue so well on to spring or early summer. Ways and means should be provided to supply these people with the necessary means or credit to tide them over and alleviate the situation.

During the past two sessions I've been trying to impress on this body that it's not so much production or efficiency but rather the price factor that is wrong and out of line in cereal grain agriculture. I think you are all aware, and the statistics contained in the booklet handed out by the Farmers' Union, of just how farmers are faring. In 1961 the total net income of farmers was \$53,358,000 compared to \$111,200,000 the year before. This is only just about half as much as the previous year, yet the gross income was up \$10 million from the previous year, so that you see that the cost-price squeeze is ever greater and the farmers' net income is lower. We all have the ten year comparisons here and they show that in the last 10 years the production increases have been very great. For instance, egg production has gone up 99.9%; poultry increased by 341%; hogs, 78%; calves, 64.4%; and cattle, 93.6%. All these increases, yet the farmers' net income was lowered by about 50% from last year. In and during the 50's, exceptionally good crops and yields were experienced by farmers in Manitoba and Western Canada, yet through all these years farmers were not able to build up reserves because of the cost-price squeeze. The price of grain, especially wheat, being much too low to allow for the building of cash reserves for the farmer. Now the moment he experiences a poor crop, he's up against it. He's got his expenses of operation to meet; his taxes to pay; his cost of living keeps on, although at a minimum figure. It becomes a desolate picture. The community in which he lives is adversely affected. Business comes to a standstill, and as the result, smaller or independent private business people get into difficulty and have to fold up. These are actual experiences in the Province of Manitoba. National companies put the pressure on their dealers to "produce or else" and the "or else" happens.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot emphasize too strongly the need for better prices for farm commodities such as wheat and coarse grains. I have recommended repeatedly the establishment of a two-price system for wheat so that wheat produced and consumed in Canada, or for that matter in Manitoba, should have some relationship to other commodities the farmer has to buy. This can be done. It should be done now. This government is remiss in its duties when it is aware of the circumstances of its people under which they live and sit idly by doing nothing to correct the situation. Something should be done now and not wait until the next election, to be used as a further election promise. At a time when a new wheat agreement is in the making, this matter should be brought to the attention of the federal authorities, and who would be better fitted to bring pressure to bear than a provincial administration of their own stripe. I would urge with all my might that immediate representation be made to the Federal Government for a two-price system for wheat, giving fairer returns to the farmer in increased purchasing power.

The Throne Speech makes reference to the committee on Manitoba's economic future. While I do not want to minimize the work that individual members of the committee on Manitoba's economic future are doing or trying to do in any way, however, I still feel that regardless of the plans or effort made, there is nothing they can do that the injection of additional debt-free purchasing power at the individual or local level would not do. It would also eliminate government going into business and sponsoring various programs trying to assist certain areas or sections in the economy. This would take care of itself. Business enterprise will look after its affairs, if and when possible to do so, without government intervention or interference. To me this whole thing indicates that the economy is not as buoyant as the Ministers of the government would lead us to believe. However, as long as we operate under our present financial debt system there's no hope for improvement in our economy, unless we plunge further into debt or have a period of war, the latter of which no person in his proper senses would want to have happen, least of all myself. Why is it then that during periods of war our economy booms? People have work and purchasing power to buy the gifts produced, simply because at the time

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.) of war people derive purchasing power through their earnings made on the production of goods that are not marketed through normal channels, or constitute products that are purchased back with their earning power derived from their manufacturing. The increased earning power thus derived by the working people becomes additional purchasing power with which to buy the goods available for use, whereas in times of peace we always have a shortage in purchasing power in that the gross national product exceeds the commission, salaries, wages earned, and available purchasing power by many billions each year. Never at any moment of vertical time is their sufficient purchasing power on hand to buy back the goods produced. It also points out that the Federal Government, under our present system without a change in policy, will never and can never repay its debt. But each time as bonds become due, new bonds or securities are floated to pay for the old and, in most cases, additional amounts are secured to cover new expenditures. A good example was the big conversion issue in 1957-58 when also the rates of interest of the new issue were increased enormously. A very demoralizing picture with no hope but eventual collapse and bankruptcy. Regardless of the change in the governorship of the Bank of Canada, if the policy is not changed it is of little or no significance except to the administration in power.

Mr. Speaker, it was rather interesting watching the Honourable Member from Osborne -- I see that he is not in his chair just now -- when speaking or moving the reply to the Speech from the Throne, it seemed as though he was not too sincere in speaking of the government's record and its accomplishments, with an amusing look and a mischievous smile on his face. On two things though, I am in agreement with the honourable member. One, that they have quite a record; and two, that the Roblin government policies are imaginative. Had the Member for Osborne resorted to some other source of information, he could have added to his government's record considerably. According to the Wood Gundy and Company Limited report on Canadian Government and Municipal Financial Statistics, the Roblin government has created quite a record for itself by increasing the net public debt of the province enormously. In 1958 when it took office, the per capita debt was \$34.12; in '59 it increased to \$54.49; in '60 it went up to \$102.51; in '61 to an all time high of \$135.71. That is as at March 31, 1961. These figures do not include self-liquidating debenture debt. All told, the direct debt increased from \$29,683,480 to \$123,771,848.00. Quite a record indeed! The Roblin government's policies are really imaginative too, when it considers these large increases in debt as purely investments in Manitoba's future. But ask the man in the street who will have to, or had to fork up the money for these so-called investments, who will be paying through increased taxes for years to come, and find out whether it would not be wiser to have funds on hand before venturing into large non-revenue bearing expensive programs or undertakings such as the Greater Winnipeg Floodway. Surely that money could be spent to better advantage.

In covering other matters in the Throne Speech, I would like to comment briefly on some of the items it contained. For instance, on the credit purchasing plan where charges that are going to be regulated, as I understand. I hope that the interest rates will have to be clearly set out. I also hope that the loan payments as they are often referred to, where second mortgages are concerned, that those are not allowed either, because we find that very often people trying to finance their homes won't have sufficient money to put up as a payment, so that they'll have to get additional funds in the way of a second mortgage. When arranging for the second mortgages, very often the payments are low, but then at the end they have a balloon payment in two or three years time; and comes that time the person cannot meet that obligation and the whole thing goes over again with another second mortgage where large bonuses are required; and it's just a repetition of what already went by. People should certainly be protected in this regard. I know it's difficult to set a ceiling and I don't know whether I would want to recommend a ceiling of interest rates at all, because we do not want to deny those people who are poor risks of obtaining credit. I know that many people in Manitoba, especially credit union members, will be delighted if such a bill is passed and made law, where true rates of interest will have to be shown and given.

I would also, briefly, like to refer to the Manitoba Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund. I think it was mentioned that the matter is under study and that recommendations will be forthcoming. I noticed also from the last report that we obtained in 1961 that teachers, school boards, and the province, are all making contributions towards this fund. I have the

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.) copy here. Last year, in 1961, teachers' contributions amounted to \$1,544,552; contributions by the province amounted to \$501,641; and contributions by school divisions, school areas, and school districts, to \$459,063.89. There was also substantial earning on their investments of \$769,142.00. Their overall income amounted to \$3,277,843.96. There were also deductions for that year totalling \$1,027,165.00. Earlier I had received information from the Teachers' Society, giving information as to how they were faring with the pension and they claimed that their average pension is \$22.00 a week. Now one thing stands out, in my opinion, and that is that we, as the government, are contributing towards a pension plan where we are not employers, and I would hesitate to increase a contribution made to this particular fund. I think any further increases definitely should come from school boards, and not from the province. After all, if we're going to follow that practice of contributing towards pension plans to one section, we should do the same for others. We should do the same then for farmers, for truckers, for clergymen, undertakers or what have you. I think they are all entitled to it then. Now, I haven't checked back as to why this originally was started. Probably it is because some of the older teachers were getting very small pensions at the time, that this contribution was made. However, I would be interested to know whether these contributions are on a diminishing basis or not.

Then, also, there was mention made in the Throne Speech of increased spending toward education. I trust that funds will be made available for increased teachers' grants in the non-division areas. These increased grants in those areas are needed and they are being discriminated against in not being given these grants. Certainly when the division plan was introduced, no changes were made in the elementary section of schools and there is no reason whatever why those people living in non-division areas -- those school boards do not get these increased grants. Last night the First Minister said that some people just had made up their minds. You could talk to them, it didn't make any difference. They would not respond. I just wonder if he had had a mirror at that time he could have seen one of them, and I think his left-hand neighbor is of the same opinion. These requests have been coming year after year since I've been in the House for increased teachers' grants in those areas, yet we see nothing coming forward. Certainly when we pass legislation restricting others not to discriminate, this House should not practice it. We should rather be an example to them, and I hope that when the legislation comes in that the government will see fit to give increased grants to the people in these areas. Certainly, just by exercising their franchise, they should not be penalized to this extent year in and year out just for one vote.

Then, also, I feel that probably instead of always giving increases to school boards, why not pass them on to the municipalities concerned and in that way have them distributed. We find so often that by increased grants there will be strings attached and in that way the autonomy of school boards is being nibbled away. I feel that this should definitely be made to stop.

One thing I would also like to bring to the attention of the government is regarding schools' annual meetings. In previous years when we had annual meetings we presented audited financial statements to them for their acceptance. Now, under the provisions of the Act, you do not get your book audited and the government does not accept audited statements which are not audited by a chartered accountant auditor or someone who is recognized by them. Now this person is unable to audit all the school books in a certain area, therefore, the annual meeting has to accept a financial statement which is not audited by that person; and, on the other hand, the government will not recognize that audit that the annual meeting has to accept, which is probably done by one of their local people. There seems to be a discrepancy there and I feel something should be done about that.

Mention is also made of domiciling the British North America Act and I am waiting to hear the proposal that will be forthcoming. I think there is one fear back in the minds of the people in doing this, and that is that they might lose some of their individual rights because of the socialistic attitude in Canada at the present time. I certainly will have something more to say when the legislation is brought down.

The same applies to the hospital commission. I will reserve any comments on that matter till later. I feel, and this is on past record, that as far as I am concerned, I don't like to see governments in business to this extent and I don't like to see a compulsory program as we have today. I see that The Hospital Insurance Act is also going to be amended and that students

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.) under 21 attending school will not have to pay premiums. I go along with that. I think it will ease the burden on those students, yet I also believe that it should not be extended beyond the age of 21, because after that they are of age and should take on the responsibility of citizenship and pay what is due to them. After all, we have a lot of young people in Manitoba who do not avail themselves of a higher education and that additional burden will fall on them as well -- to carry the additional costs.

I also see that mining is coming along and going into high level. I just wonder -- can we expect larger revenues as a province because of this? I hope in the future that we will be able to derive more from that industry than we have in the past.

I also note regarding the Pembina River Dam, that the matter is proceeding. I am certainly happy to see that work going on and I hope it's speeded up. It's a very worthwhile project and has my full support. I do commend the government for taking this matter up and I hope it will receive their constant attention in bringing it ahead.

The Floodway is also mentioned. Here I have reiterated my stand in past years. I think the money could be better spent to better advantage -- certainly in the area of water supply. If the money went toward that program we could supply water to our communities and it would do a lot more good. I also think that in the light of the economy as it recedes, that this matter should be reconsidered and possibly settled. I'll have further comments when the estimates come up on this particular section.

I also would like to mention the extension service. We in our area are a highly diversified area and we have ag reps situated in Altona and Morden. Mr. Ed Howe does a good job in the Altona area and I think the area is well served by him. He is well accepted and people appreciate his work and effort. However, the situation is quite different in the Stanley area where Winkler and Morden are two larger towns. The ag rep lives in Morden and has a vast area to cover, so that the people in Winkler definitely want more attention and better service. Requests have been made to the department for a redistribution or revision of the area and that another man be placed at Winkler. They have offered to give him shelter, to provide office space and secretarial help if needed. Certainly the department should look after this and grant the request. After all, with the diversification of crops that we have, we need more attention. These people are experts in their field and could give advice, and in this way help the industry and the area along. I hope that the government does see fit to revise the district and place an additional man in this area.

I will skip crop insurance at this time. There will be further chances to speak on that. They also mentioned farm income in the Throne Speech. Farm income, as already stated earlier, is away down, and I feel that the government is not doing its share in this respect. Agriculture is a basic industry, and if that basic industry does not do well, secondary industries and other industries will not do well either. If agriculture, on the other hand, does well, the whole picture will change and other industries will benefit by it.

I also would like to make a comment or two on The Labour Relations Act, or the Tritschler Report that we have in our hands. I feel that it's a very good report. It was very timely after the Brandon episode, and I feel some legislation should be brought in on the basis of that report. I feel that union or associations should be made legal entities and have corporate status. There are other recommendations that I would go along with which are of special interest and should receive consideration by this House. In Part 17, we have the matters of union members should have the right to bring action into court against his union. The next one is a financial statement to be followed by unions with Minister of Labour, and copies furnished union members on request. Certainly these matters are worthwhile for discussion and I hope the government will see fit to bring in legislation on some of the recommendations that are made. I feel that when some people claim that the report is not factual, I don't agree with them. After all, this is an enquiry made by Justice Tritschler, and until we have a report that will prove differently, I think the report should stand and we should base our decisions accordingly.

Another matter that I wish to comment on, and I'll probably be rather lengthy on it, has to do with Metro Government. Just the other day we were invited to a meeting with Metro council. The invitation came from them. I had never before attended such a meeting. I don't know whether it's been the practice in the past when other government departments or bodies invite MLA's to discuss matters of this kind. I was also rather -- what should I say now --

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.) taken back when Mr. Bonnycastle asked for more pocket money from papa. Personally, I feel he couldn't have done it in a worse way -- after telling papa what to do. This I feel quite strongly on. I thought it was rather poor, very poor public relations to take such an attitude. I suppose this has been the case all along, that Metro hasn't had too good public relations, otherwise they would be in a different state. Rather than seeking advice from city mayors, he sets himself up as a prince. I would even go so far as to question his support or confidence of the people in the Metro area. After all, Mr. Bonnycastle was just an appointee by the government to the job and has never been to the polls as other city mayors or representatives have. Further, to come out and say that the signing of, or circulation of a petition is dishonest and deceptive -- those were his words -- when all it did was call for a referendum, is the height of nonsense and foolishness. After all, these rights are inherent in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights passed in 1689 which forms part of constitutional law of the Province of Manitoba and the Dominion of Canada. Does he not know that the citizens in the province have the right of recourse to Her Majesty the Queen in matters of this kind? From what I understand, this petition circulated is sponsored by individual persons crossing all party lines; yet Mr. Bonnycastle had the nerve to make and leave the implication and inference that this was done by Social Creditors. What a farce!

MR. SPEAKER: I might remind the Honourable Member that he is exceeding his time. He has now spoken 45 minutes.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I think the Honourable the Leader of the NDP took much more time. I'm dealing with the last subject on my

MR. SPEAKER: I believe that that is only accorded the Official Opposition.

MR. MOLGAT: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that the NDP is not the Official Opposition.

MR. ROBLIN: I think we all recognize that the honourable member is only entitled to 40 minutes, but speaking for this side of the House, it would have no objection to hearing him out if it met with unanimous consent, but I think that would be required.

MR. MOLGAT: We would have absolutely no opposition to him taking all the time he requires, Sir.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I would go a little further than that and suggest that he is at -- a rule, as I remember it, says that extra time is allowed to the Leader of a recognized political party in the House, and I am sure that my honourable friend leads the party that he is speaking for at the moment.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

MR. FROESE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the members that I am the House Leader of the Party, so there's no doubt about that. I will then continue. From what I understand, this petition circulated is sponsored -- oh, I'm sorry -- I have already read that part. Being the only representative in the House representing Social Credit, I am also an executive member of the Provincial League, and I say it is not true that this petition was circulated by Social Creditors. I have not seen the petition and have had nothing to do with it whatever. At the same time, I maintain that the citizens have the right of signing a petition without being charged with dishonesty and deception. The proper time for Mr. Bonnycastle to make his wishes known would be before law amendments, when changes to the Metro Bill are considered. This certainly would make for better public relations rather than trying to influence MLA's prior to seeing the legislation to be brought in. If papa, the government, is going to hand out more pocket money to Metro as requested, I have some very definite suggestions to make. (1) That there should not be any overlapping of tax deals or sources of funds from which both bodies, government and Metro, will draw. Referring to automotive fuel users' tax or license tax -- as a government, we should make sure we will not be blamed for the mistakes of another body. This House should have the opportunity to examine all aspects before vacating or sharing any tax fields that are a source of revenue to the province. Secondly, when large sums of money are made available to Metro, that they in turn will heed advice and consider requests made by city councils comprising the Metro area on matters directly affecting them.

It has been brought to my attention, and since have made it my business to inform myself more about it, namely, the new proposed St. James bridge. Why only one crossing at Madison Avenue? Why not have more crossings on the Assiniboine between Maryland and

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.) Madison, and a further crossing west of Madison bridge? Why spend so much on the Madison bridge and underpass when, for the same money, a number of crossings could be built, relieving traffic on Portage and Academy that wants to go either north or south? Is there something sinister or inauspicious about it? Apparently St. James City does not want the underpass. They stand to lose a lot, both in tax receipts and assessment and, to top all of that, a big debt to pay. It will mean destroying some 60 built-up houses and a considerable lot of commercial business establishments. I think the brief mentions 20 concerns will have to be purchased or expropriated at a cost of a million dollars. Since then it is estimated the figure may exceed two million.

I would like to refer you to some paragraphs of the brief dealing with the request for more bridges at less cost. I have the brief with me and I would like to read a few paragraphs from that particular brief. Page 2, and I'm quoting from the brief: "Let us look at existing facilities. The first bridge east of Madison Street is located at Maryland Street in Winnipeg, and the first bridge west of Madison Street is located at the Perimeter Highway in Assiniboia. In other words, people living in the heart of west Winnipeg, River Heights, Fort Rouge, Tuxedo, Charleswood, St. James and Assiniboia, the most densely populated area of Metro Winnipeg, have three bridges many miles apart on which they can cross the Assiniboine River. When you consider that the average person eats, sleeps and works in Metro Winnipeg, and as such the greater part of his needs are confined to the Metro area, is it not immediately apparent that what we need are more river crossings, more bridges at less money between these three points?" And on the following page they go on to say: "We understand that in Rupert Smith's Report, note was made of certain east-west throughways and the St. James Council and Chamber have also stated that if most east-west throughways were built, it would relieve the traffic flow on Portage Avenue and this would relieve the traffic congestion at this particular intersection. What we need are more east-west throughways." At the bottom on that particular page, and I'm quoting: "The purpose of this brief is to have the Provincial Government complete a survey of this area and which we are abundantly confident will show that Madison Street is not the location for an additional bridge." On the following page at the bottom on the page, I quote: "Metro talks of co-operation in wanting to get along with municipalities and cities of Metro Winnipeg. We do not wish to add to the already mounting criticism of Metro. However, St. James Council and Chamber have repeatedly asked for statistics on the survey which Metro conducted at Madison Street and all that they have ever received are verbal figures stating traffic count and estimates by their engineers of the number of vehicles using this bridge which have been projected to 1975, when they can see 65,000 vehicles per day crossing the river at Madison Street. But what does their traffic count actually show? Merely that there is considerable traffic at this location and nothing else. Why shouldn't there be? There's no other bridge in the area, and how else can people cross the river. Here again we must emphasize that traffic count does not and cannot tell us where vehicles come from and where they're going." Then on Page 8 I'd like to read another paragraph quoting: "We believe that this proposal for an additional bridge site and traffic interchange is wrong. What the citizens of Metro want are the facts. Those responsible have not to date supplied facts or figures which would justify this bridge or interchange." And I go on a little further: "Any information released to date by Metro does not give actual facts. Facts are very disturbing to pressure groups. Remember this is a casual cost of \$5,000,000 proposed and not the final figures which, with the expropriation of property rights, have doubled this amount and all of which money must be borrowed. It looks as if Metropolitan Council has forgotten that each is elected and that for every privilege there is a responsibility to the individual that gave him the privilege; that all monies spent must be accounted for and, what is more, must be paid for." And in the closing paragraph this is what we have and I quote: "In closing, we must emphasize that it is not the intention of this brief to be a delaying tactic or a step to local pride, but a final determined stand to require this government to implement a proper survey of source and destination. If Metro was in such a hurry to complete this project, surely the onus was on them to conduct a proper and complete survey. The little time required to do such a survey cannot and will not harm the existing situation to any degree."

Mr. Speaker, I think this House should be informed of all the actions taken on the request made regarding a survey of source and destination. Since this brief was presented, I understand the government has a plan proposed to Metro, and I also would like to know what that plan

(Mr. Froese, cont'd.) contained and if or whether Metro is ignoring that plan. I think greater clarification on this matter is needed from these parties.

I have one further matter that I wish to bring to the attention of the House, and especially so to the Attorney-General of Manitoba, and that has to do with safecracking. Just the other day we had another safecracking job in one of the neighbouring communities. These have happened more frequently in the last number of years and we seem to get no results whatever as far as the police are concerned. Surely something should be done about this and I hope that the Attorney-General will make it his business to look into this matter, and if it's a matter of shortage of help, that he will see to it that the proper help is given so that we can get rid of these safecrackers in the area, because they have been going on now for the last number of years and are a nuisance and a bother to the people. Thank you.

..... Continued on next page.

MR. DESJARDINS spoke briefly in French, translation of which will be in next Hansard.

Sir, it would never do to do all my congratulating in French. I don't do it often enough. But I would like to congratulate the two new additions to the Cabinet. I'm sure that they will do an excellent job and I wish them all the success in the world. Now a funeral director was chosen. Does that indicate anything? I don't know. But I would say that it would indicate good taste by the Premier and good judgment.

Mr. Speaker, this century supposedly has been one of progress. It has been one where many new innovations and so many new inventions appeared on the scene--the car, the plane, electricity, radio, TV, stereophonic, guided missiles, hydrogen bombs, atomic energy, space-ships, so on and so forth. Sir, I said supposedly, because it seems to me that too often we have sacrificed the human element in the name of progress. We have been getting closer to Heaven, it is true, but away from man, away from God. This might be why we have this increasing chaos all over the world. This might be why the people of the world do not seem to understand each other. This might be why we seem to be in a constant state of cold war. So we have sacrificed too much to obtain material benefits. We are taking away from the individual--he doesn't really count any more, or if he does he does very little. We are becoming more and more a nation of conformists. It seems that there are two camps, two schools of thought on this matter. In the first one, the individual doesn't really count; he must make way for progress. In the other one--the other group is much more dangerous because it pretends to be interested in the individual, in his material welfare; it preys, we might say, on human suffering, on human emotions, on group hysteria, but in fact it is really robbing the individual, robbing him of his most cherished possession--his freedom, his freedom to think, his freedom to choose, his freedom to reject or his freedom to work. And it is a known fact that a man robbed of his freedom, a man without freedom loses his ambition and if this is allowed to be, the individual will become a mere shell, a mere animal, a man without a soul. Oh yes, the animal will be well taken care of. He won't have to work very hard; he will be well fed, but if they're in need for a political party to do this work, why don't we give greater powers to the SPCA?

Sir, we must go back to respecting the individual, all individuals. We must protect and safeguard his rights, his interests. I, for one, Sir, do not believe in handouts but all liberal-minded citizens, not only those of the Liberal Party, but those of any party believe that all men are born free and that they should remain free. We believe in a minimum of restrictive legislation but we believe--and this is very important Sir--to have complete freedom. We must have not only freedom in theory but practical freedom. That means that every man should have the right to work and that is why this unemployment problem is so important to us. It means that hospital and medical care should not be denied anyone. It means that management should not be permitted to enslave labour and that labour has a right to protect itself but also a duty and a responsibility to be fair, to be honest in all its demands.

Sir, yesterday the Honourable the Leader of this House took time out to tell the members of the Opposition on what they should do, what their duties consisted of. Unfortunately I wasn't in the House but I did read the report in one of the local newspapers and I must thank him for his lesson. I must say to him that I have read the Speech from the Throne, that I have listened to all the speakers and that I have asked myself what my duties were as a member of the Opposition, what my responsibilities were as the voice and representative of my constituency, and I have taken, Sir, what I believe to be a fair but critical view of government. I must admit that this government has done some good, has achieved some goals, deserves some credit. In fact, I have made a list of its achievements but I don't think that anyone would want me to read it here today. I have studied the members of Cabinet sitting in front of us and I realize how difficult it is to find the qualities of leadership, the courage, integrity, responsibility and foresight so vitally needed to give good government. I've asked myself certain questions but then I thought that I might be prejudiced, that I might be unfair. So I've decided that all the members of this House could give the answer, that the public of Manitoba could give the answer. Lately, in the past, we have heard from the back benchers--not as much lately since there are no vacancies in the Cabinet--but we have heard about this great leader amongst leaders, the man that could do everything, that did everything right. Well these are some of the questions that I asked myself. Is it leadership to let the Prime Minister of Canada rob us, our province, because it belongs to the same party as we do? Is it leadership to let him go backward, and more, to try to

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) excuse him, to protect him? Is that leadership, Sir? Is that showing the leadership that we need? Is it leadership to create a new form of government, to tell the people, "I'm sure of what I'm saying. I'm the boss. This is it. You don't have to know anything about it, no information, and we don't want to hear what you have to say about it." And then abandon Metro? Not give them any ways, financial means of fulfilling their duty; is that leadership? I was against Metro, but at least I'm not ready to attack it now. Now those people that have been selected by the leader amongst leaders--he's trying to do a job and it's very hard, but when he's attacked by the greatest opportunist, politician Manitoba's ever known, the Premier runs and hides. Is that leadership? Is it leadership to accept and probably lead to demand the best part of a report on the Royal Commission and to rush it without adequate preparation, to rush it as a program just before election, but then to sit on the controversial part of this report? Is that leadership? I'd like to hear those answers because I might not be impartial, I might not give the right answer. Wouldn't somebody want to give the answer? Refuse to answer certain questions. Three years, same refusal. "This will come in due time". At least give us the definition of "due time", and all the time admitting--oh no, not publicly but privately--that the Royal Commission is asking something that isn't there. That's leadership. Well Sir, remember, I didn't ask, "Is this dictatorship?" I asked, "Is this leadership?" Admit it, these questions cannot be answered in the affirmative. Well let us stop this hero-worshipping, this cult to the idol. Granted, this man has a very difficult job but he wasn't forced into it. He was looking for this job and he's not forced to stay in; he doesn't have to wait until there's a vacancy in Ottawa. If he can't do the job he can step out any time. He's the one that tells us what we're supposed to do in opposition. He's talking about leadership. The things that are popular he's the first one in line. Creating new boards. Sure, take one of those boards, one at a time. They're all right but what are we going to do? Do away with this government? Is this a new form of government to replace the provincial government? There are more boards--there's a board for everything. Very capable man, but this is not--there's no responsibility in this at all, Mr. Speaker. Does it take courage for the Minister of Education, smiling now, does it take courage for him to stand up and say, "This is my policy on education; I will give you my policy on education?". And then when he is asked his policy for 10,000 students of Manitoba--not monkeys in a cage, ordinary students--to bend his head and not say a word; to refuse to answer questions or even to discuss, to tell us why certain people in our schools can have free books and the others, in other schools--but not freaks, human beings--have to pay for the same books? That shows a heck of a lot of courage. What are we answering to those questions? Remember, I'm giving you the chance to answer these questions. Is it integrity when the Attorney-General tried to misrepresent facts about the little Colombo plan, tried to paint some answers of a different party contrary to what we mean? Is that integrity? Is it integrity, is it fair to refuse to protect the minds of our children here in this province? Yes, to get rid of this filth. Oh, let's not advertise liquor--oh that would be a crime, but advertise sex and filth and that's all right. If you talk about it you're an old lady and everybody laughs but nothing is done, but we keep on poisoning the minds of our children.

Two years ago I advocated that the government should do more to preserve and develop mental and physical health in this province, and this is what the Minister of Education had to say, and I quote from Hansard, March 1, 1960, on Page 1091: (Mr. McLean)--"Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Boniface has made a useful contribution to the debate on this resolution and I know that we all share his concern that we should have in Manitoba good training, best circumstances in which our boys and girls might grow up. I feel, however, that the amendment which he has proposed is verging on the border of being out of order because it does seem to go off at a completely different angle from the original resolution and amendment, and that it is impractical in that it proposes the establishment of a new department or a branch of a department and carries with it the connotation of the expenditure of public funds. Under these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to vote against the sub-amendment which has been proposed by the honourable member". Good idea fellow, but the heck with it. Is that foresight? Is that foresight? Somebody might be out of order, but the Speaker claimed that I wasn't out of order at this time. I could go on and on, Sir, but they don't like it out there, and then they can tell us that we refuse too much, that there's nothing constructive. But I said that I would be fair and I will be fair. I feel that there is one Minister who at times might be

(Mr. Desjardins, cont'd.) erratic, but certainly could never be accused of lack of courage, of leadership and sincerity. Although we might differ in our methods of accomplishing things, I feel that the Minister of Health is a liberal-minded person, and congratulations to him. Funny you didn't clap a while ago, eh? Then we're told that we never propose anything; we're afraid to propose anything. We're afraid of honesty; we're afraid of everything. Who's afraid? Wasn't it this Cabinet that last Special Session asked to pass one bill when there were three or four different things, different policies, different principles? They tried to force us and they did. Oh, politicians--they're terrific, and that is why so many people think that politics are rotten because they're terrific in this kind of politics. Vote for this; approve this backward step of the big boss in Ottawa--not for long mind you, but the big boss in Ottawa. Approve that, vote for this. Let us raise capital--we don't raise tax. When they were told to keep this money for hospital premiums, no, they refused to do that. It's another way to raise tax, and then to get the people on their side they borrowed a leaf from the CCF here to my left. Borrowed a leaf from the--what's that?--I'm very sorry, sir, NDP. I can't see how they can stand up here and say NDP. I don't remember there's been any election. They were all elected as CCF. The people had no chance to talk.--(interjection)--As a who? Was I? Was I? Not in St. Boniface if you follow straight, sir. I was elected as a Liberal. But if this is the case I will call them the New GP--I mean the NDP's--I'm sorry. Yes, we're told that we have no platform now. We're told that we're afraid to vote. Got to vote on three different things at one time--that's pretty good if you can do it.

Now, Sir, when we suggest something with vision it's not realistic or we're out of order. Well, if the Prime Minister of this country can have his vision, if the Premier of this province can have his vision, if the Honourable Member from Churchill can have his vision, most certainly it is permissible for a back-bencher from this side to have some vision, Sir, and I have my visions. I have my dreams, and I hope that we will see the day soon where man again will be recognized as king of the universe, where there will not be unemployment for those that want to work, for those that can work; when management and labour will realize that they need each other, and when medical and hospital care will be available to all; when less will be given to freeloaders and parasites and more to the aged, to the infirm, to the poor, to the handicapped; and when more is done for the under-privileged; when there is more emphasis placed on the home remedy--not a shelter or a house--on the homes, a better place to live; when there is more use, a better use for the senior and experienced citizens of this province. Not the way it's done now, at 65--now we're talking about '62--throw the watch, retire them and forget about them. Let us remember--if it doesn't mean it now maybe it should--that the term aldermen, elders, referring to those same people that can teach us an awful lot. We seem to think that at age 62 or 60 the man is forgotten. Oh, I know we're talking about pension. I'm not talking only about that--about food and about clothing and all that--I'm talking about what's in the heart. I'm talking about the human side. I hope that one day I can dream, that one day we can spare a little department that will have the welfare of the youth, will think of leisure to the people of this province, of recreation, will try to train leaders. I would like to dream of the day that we will really go after this formation of youth. I would like to see the day when our greatest achievement will not be building the roads which are necessary, which are the scene, unfortunately, of so many killings; where the building of skyscrapers will not be the main thing in our life, but the building of character. I would like to see the day when the government of this province will really lead, will co-ordinate and will co-operate to help all Manitobans. This government is certainly not doing this. As I say, they pretend they want us to vote with them and they make it impossible. They try to hide in all kinds of different maneuvers in bringing some different programs to hide what is really lacking here in Manitoba. Sir, we will always have suffering. Some will never have all they want, but this is not actually that important. It is not too important if they have freedom, if they have ambition, and if they feel respected and respect their fellow man.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Entering this debate, Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate you on assuming your high office again this year, and wishing you continued good health and success in your endeavors. I know with your qualities of heart and mind, Sir, that you are more than adequately fit for your very responsible position.

I wish to congratulate the mover of the speech in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the

(Mr. Johnson (Gimli), cont'd.) Member for Osborne. I feel his remarks supporting this administration were most appropriate and I always appreciate my honourable friend's friendly attitude and even-tempered and constructive manner in which he puts forward his suggestions to this administration, of which he is a part.

The seconder in reply to the Speech from the Throne, of course, is a dedicated member of the north country, and in congratulating him I also wish to thank him on behalf of the Department of Health for the commendatory remarks he passed on to the very dedicated civil servants who serve that vast region. The employees and the hard-working staff in the department --and I think in all departments--appreciate remarks made by the members in this House when it is fitting, and I think possibly we should all try and acknowledge more often the efforts of our dedicated staff.

I would like to take this opportunity in this debate, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Gimli, to thank the administration publicly for the constructive policies which have benefited my constituency so much. They are indeed grateful for the forward-looking policies which have brought so many benefits to the young and old throughout the borders of Gimli. What is that story, Mr. Speaker? It's a story repeated all over Manitoba. It has changed the topography of Manitoba. Three new high schools in three towns in the area, fine roads, no more pilgrimages by buggy from boulder to boulder but rather, adequate roads which are a pride to us all as Manitobans. There is help for the aged in our Bethel Home at Gimli. We have almost 60% of the residents, very aged pioneers of this province, in receipt of Social Allowances and other benefits. These people have forgotten all about the six-buck boys of 1957. It's a thing of the past--out of heart and out of mind. There are the schools, as I say, for the young; there are the homes, help for the aged, and there are roads for all. They said it couldn't be done. We have an industry in Gimli started up this year, making honeycomb, called Shear-mat, typical of the energies of the Department of Industry & Commerce in joining with the people of Gimli in planning this industry. I well remember the old days when I wrote a letter as President of the Gimli Chamber of Commerce to the Department of Industry & Commerce, and nine months later got an acknowledgement, wondering at that time about a glass factory; but we have an industry there and we're happy. More has yet to be done in the northern part. The people know the roads are coming in the Arborg and district around there. Drainage works are proceeding, which will benefit both Fisher and Gimli. Arborg is anxiously awaiting their road system. They know it's coming. They know that Manitoba at long last is on the march. No longer do you turn left at boulder number three on the corner of the north-east section of twenty-one to get into the Town of Arborg. Mr. Speaker, the story is all over Manitoba. I find it's difficult for the old Grits to find their way around the country any more, and I know the Minister of Public Works will oblige them with maps, more detail, because they won't recognize those old land marks, and it's no longer a pilgrimage to the far corners of our constituencies. I am sure of that.

Now, as to the Leader of the Opposition, I would like to direct some remarks to the Honourable Leader. First of all, like his predecessor, he's a very personable fellow and a very fine gentleman. However, I find him a little less responsible than his former leader, whom I had the highest respect for in all matters of a fiscal nature, and I miss that, but the Honourable present Leader of the Opposition represents a constituency similar to my own--we're both on the west shores of the two great lakes in this province; we both have a cosmopolitan group of people (of all races, that is) in our constituencies, and when I look at his fair complexion sometimes I am reminded of the early voyages of the Vikings to the shores of Brittany, out there, Mr. Speaker, my bouquets must end abruptly. On Monday, February 19th, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition made certain statements in respect to the administration of the Plan, through this Ministry, which I cannot let go unchallenged. I'd like to quote from the Hansard of that day where he said, "On the matter of the hospital budget freeze alone, we find the government guilty of mismanagement, deliberately misleading this House on the whole question of hospitalization, hospital insurance and related matters". He goes on, "In the same report"--that he quoted the financial estimates of the Plan--"we find the statement of the Plan itself which the government has accepted, indicates that the minimum increase, minimum annual increases in cost that the hospitals could expect would be 12-1/2% and up to 15--but again, 12-1/2% minimum by the government's own estimate". Later on, in his same address, he keeps repeating the words "mismanagement", "misrepresentation",

(Mr. Johnson (Gimli), cont'd.) and this is repeated in two or three of the succeeding paragraphs. In essence, Mr. Speaker, he accused the government of being downright dishonest in the administration of the Plan. In the statements he has made the inference was left with this House that the government used one set of estimates to justify the increase in the rates and the imposition of a sales tax--of income tax in Manitoba, rather--and that the government then proceeded to completely ignore these estimates, placed severe restrictions on the amount of money to be paid to hospitals for the year '62, and in fact to divert revenues to other uses.

Mr. Speaker, I've learned to live with some of the innuendoes and distortions of facts on which the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose on occasion indulges, and he must try to make hay even when the sun doesn't shine on his political fortunes and the fortunes of his party. Now I don't begrudge his attempt to ignore the facts of the matters under discussion in order to reach the ears of the electorate with fanciful tales of government intrigue really, and double dealings. But I'm deeply disturbed and disappointed that he should be so ill-informed as to make the attack on this ministry re the administration of the Plan for obvious, it must be, political purposes. This House has always had full access to the affairs of the Plan right down to the very last detail. In 1961 we printed these financial estimates of the Plan for the years 1961-63 covering three years of future operations, and I'll say here that in spite of the unfortunate misrepresentation, or at least misinterpretation by the Leader, these estimates are today more pertinent than ever. We presented to this House the Willard Report on future hospital needs even before it was published. Annual reports with full information on each year's operations had been submitted and the 1961 annual report of the Plan will be available to the House in due course. I have always been ready, I hope, to answer questions with complete candour--all these questions pertaining to the Plan. This is why I find it so disappointing, Mr. Speaker, to be confronted with what I can only assume to be, if I'm to continue to believe in the good faith of the Honourable Member from Ste. Rose, the most astounding example of a complete lack of comprehension of a problem in simple arithmetic. The Leader of the Opposition should be thoroughly acquainted with the financial estimates. These estimates were tabled in the House at the first session of the Legislature in 1961; were thoroughly discussed in Public Accounts Committee during the course of the session; at the Public Accounts meeting the Leader of the Opposition and the past Leader of the Opposition, I recall distinctly, were present along with the officials of the Hospital Plan and myself and the discussion lasted over five hours. It is hardly conceivable that the Leader of the Opposition would fail to understand a simple set of figures on which he has based his allegations. In order to clear the matter up once and for all, I've taken the liberty of having the financial estimates passed around to the honourable members once more, and I would ask you now to turn to Page 45 of those estimates, and I would ask the indulgence of the House, Mr. Speaker, while I briefly review for the benefit of my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition, the figures contained in this page, on which he has based his ill-considered assumption.

The allegation has been made that the government has now placed a ceiling of 3% on increases in hospital costs in '62 over '61 even though it is alleged that financial estimates have made provisions for the increase at 12-1/2. Now on Page 45 there's an analysis of the annual increases in shareable cost estimates for 1961 through '63--that's the top line. The total percentage increase under 1962 is 12.5, and this is divided into three distinct categories. You only have to give a few minutes' attention to refute the ridiculous charge that has been made. This is only another instance of someone making an attempt to have his cake and eat it too. In this case the cake, the 12-1/2% that you see here under discussion, is sliced into three pieces each one of which serves a distinct and important purpose. Only one of the three is designated for the purpose for which my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition would like to see the entire cake devoured, leaving us in the position where provision for good patient care, about which he reports to be so concerned, would be grievously neglected. If the honourable members will refer to these figures they will see that of the 12-1/2% increase, at the bottom, 5.4% provided for higher costs due to the greater patient day volume and the greater number of hospital beds in the province. Now since we have come into office, Mr. Speaker, there have been \$15 million of the taxpayers' money used to provide new hospital facilities, and four of the very largest of these new facilities will begin operating in the year 1962. And if anything, a figure of 5.4 may actually underestimate the amount of money that will be required to

(Mr. Johnson (Gimli), cont'd.) finance these additional facilities. Among those that come into operation this year--to mention a few there's the large new rehabilitation hospital, the new facilities at Brandon and Dauphin, for example, as well as the conversion of the beds at St. Boniface which has been completed as of now and where we now have 200 more bed available for the care of the chronically ill. The full impact, in other words, of these costs will be felt in '62, and this 5.4% figure in these estimates represents the provision that was made for this purpose. This has a very direct and important bearing on the provision of good patient care, Mr. Speaker, in this province.

I'd like the members to then turn to the figure above this 5.4, the second portion comprising 1.9%, and this is designated, as we indicated here, to cover added services and greater use of services that are in existence, and improved standards of care which must go forward. I need hardly mention, for example, Mr. Speaker, the advances in medical science and the improvement in hospital services throughout the province which has been necessary--the increase in facilities rather, which has been necessary to take advantage of the medical advances. Many hospitals are now providing many new services which didn't exist before, such as, for example, very adequate post-operative recovery rooms; expanded facilities in staff to cope with the greater demand of laboratory and X-ray services; a 100% increase in very essential laboratory and X-ray services in one of the major facilities in this province in the past three years; and many others too numerous to mention. In addition, provision was made for the cost of providing physiotherapy on an outpatient basis and designated facilities this year. These increased services coupled with the provision of more bed space is a fundamental necessity for the improvement of patient care which the Leader of the Opposition claims we are neglecting. Having deducted 5.4%, as I've said, needed for the increased patient volume due to the provision of extra beds, having deducted the 1.9% for the improvement of services in adding these beds, there remains 5.2 of the original 12-1/2 percent. It is the final 5.2%, Mr. Speaker, not the 12-1/2% as claimed by the Leader of the Opposition, that was designated to provide for higher costs of such items involved in the operation of hospitals, as salaries, supplies, etcetera. It is this 5.2% provision for increased costs which the hospital budget committee of the Plan had to consider in their initial review of 1962 budget and which lead to the directive regarding the 3% increase.

I want to air in this House the pre-summary of the event at the time that this directive was issued. As all members of the House know, substantial increases have been made in the allowances to hospitals since the Plan was inaugurated. They were necessary because of higher salaries and additional benefits for hospital employees, a greater number of persons employed in hospitals, and improved standards of care as we have mentioned. While allowing these various substantial increases during '59, '60 and '61--and we've been all through this before--we were repeatedly assured by the hospitals that costs were levelling out--the big bulge had occurred--and that in '62 the increase would be less than in previous years as reflected in these figures. We were informed that the level of salaries and fringe benefits for employees were being brought into line with what other workers in the community were and are getting, and that the reason for this added expense would disappear once the equality had been achieved. The wages of hospital employees now reflect wages in the community.

In September of this year the commissioner of hospitalization issued a letter to all hospitals asking the administration and members of hospital boards to make every effort to contain and control costs in the coming year. In spite of this request, budgets were received from hospitals, increases ranging as high as 12% for this item over the allowances--this is the allowances item--over the past year. The budget committee studied this matter at great length and, understandably concerned at what they discovered, issued a directive in December, which pointed out that the initial consideration of '62 budgets for hospitals with 60 beds or more would be based on the policy that the total overall allowance should not exceed 3% for '62 over '61. I would point out here that this policy applies to hospitals with 60 beds or over. To 18 of the 78 public hospitals in this province a letter dated December 7th made a further stipulation that increases up to 4% would be permitted where particular circumstances justified increases, and further, that exceptions would be made in cases where new facilities were opening in 1962. As to hospitals of less than 60 beds, I can indicate to the House some of the initial budgets which have been approved for some of the rural hospitals, because I want to point

(Mr. Johnson (Gimli), cont'd.) out that the increases in these rates of hospitals with less than 60 beds will increase the total budgetary expense by a good deal more than the stipulated 3 percent. I made a note of some of the initial budget proposals: initial budgets have gone up in some of our smaller hospitals, 78 of them who were not included in this directive for reasons that they're still raising their standards of care and bringing them more into line, more laboratory services, better patient care. Some of these things are 7.5, 6, 3, 7, 15, 3, 7, 8, 11, 3, 13, 6, 0, 11, 19, 7, 6, nil, 9, nil, 1.5, 2, 3.5, 7.5--it goes on like this. We must also remember that we're dealing with initial rate recommendations. Hospitals are encouraged to estimate their requirements as closely as possible and they can afford to do this because they are insured. In fact there's provision in the legislation now that their experience will be completely reviewed at the end of each year. And where due to unavoidable circumstances of a boiler blowing out, things of that nature, or it was necessary to put on extra staff and it's justified, these extra costs are met from the Services Plan Fund. Our experience in the Plan started indicates that the retroactive adjustments are approximately in the neighborhood of 1-1/2 to 1-3/4% of the total budgetary expense. Taking the 3% increase for larger hospitals and the average increases for the costs in the smaller hospitals, and making provision for retroactive adjustments, the overall increase, I am informed, will be at least 5.2% and even more. It can be seen from these financial estimates, which were prepared early in 1960 and are proving to be most valuable as a guide in establishing a rational relationship between the hospital needs of the province and the resources available for this purpose, --and to those who study these estimates with due care and understanding it is apparent that this guide has been followed carefully and the cost forecasts are proving to be remarkably accurate. This is the fact of the matter, certainly as accurate as any estimates can be in this field and projected ahead as this was done. It's apparent that the government's endeavor to keep the cost of care within a reasonable bound is well-founded in fact and figure and represents what I consider a most consistent pulse. The commissioner has had a number of meetings, for the Leader of the Opposition's edification, with the Associated Hospitals of Manitoba, and hospitals have assured him that they share the concern in respect to rising hospital costs and will co-operate to the fullest extent in attempting to hold them down to the lowest level consistent with the provision of good patient care.

I'm hopeful, Mr. Speaker, with this brief review the matter has been cleared up to the satisfaction of the honourable members. I doubt that there were many such as the Leader of the Opposition who failed to grasp the matter before. Certainly I won't occupy the time of the House by dwelling further, but I would like to say for the benefit of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose that I and officials of the department are at his disposal to go over these figures again if they are still beyond his understanding.

I would like to add this final word, Mr. Speaker--(interjection)--Wait a minute; I'm just starting, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that a matter as important as health care to the people of Manitoba, Sir, should not be at the mercy of unscrupulous, partisan politics. Attempts such as the one undertaken by the Leader to cast doubt on the services provided here and the administration by this office of the insurance plan, in my opinion can only do serious harm to the reputation of these institutions in the eyes of the people of Manitoba. Ultimately this may necessarily interfere with the co-operation and good faith from the people which is required to keep hospitals and the hospital plan operating in a way which is in the best interests of the people, and if there's any doubts of any members in this House as to the tremendous benefits which are brought to the people of Manitoba by this now your largest public utility, you have another think coming. It's most necessary that we work together and that we tell the facts. I would appeal to all members of this Legislature, Mr. Speaker, to keep these considerations in mind when dealing with these important matters, and let's get the facts straight and apply them honestly and in good faith when exercising their undisputed prerogative of voicing their opinions regarding provisions made for health care in this province.

The Leader of the Opposition, on radio and TV, if he made the statement that sometimes he must appeal to the electorate over the head of the government in order to bring what he considers the message to the people. I would respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker, that he must be more responsible and factual. His statements on this Throne Speech, his statements of misunderstanding and irresponsibility charged at this administration are just about as phony, as phony as the insinuations across this province that by operating cafeterias for profit we can

(Mr. Johnson (Gimli), cont'd.) run these large institutions. This is just about how ridiculous it is. You can make hospitals run on the profits of the soup kitchen and the cafeterias, and you can run this facility on a total 3% increase when you have all these new facilities coming in and every little and tittle of it is right there, and my goodness, he's had more experience in mathematics than I have. I have said before though, at the Special Session--I don't think the word came through--but if he's there long enough, and I'm here long enough, that that semipermeable membrane might be penetrated and by a process of osmosis leading into a high pressure area, we will finally get some understanding and facts and compassion and consideration for Manitoba's most necessary public utility. Now, my honourable friends, I just hope that the responsible press of this province makes this known to the people of Manitoba. Their costs are up; we are trying to play it straight and gee whiz, that's pretty hard to get through anybody's head as I can see it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go on, having dealt, I'm sure, to the entire satisfaction of all reasonable members of the House with the increase and showing in true light the manner in which my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition hopes to appeal to the electors of this province. I can't help but say a few remarks concerning some of the other remarks made during the Throne Speech debates, and first of all I'm very sorry to see the Honourable the Member for La Verendrye leave our presence. Frankly I've always found him a most friendly and personable fellow with real ability if it was directed with the right organization. I'm sorry to see he's going back, you know, where the real decisions are made up there at the top. My background was all in general practice, with babies and so on, and I'm not a psychiatrist, but as I sat here and listened to his definition of Liberalism I think he was saying to himself, "You know, after all these years we stole everything the old CCF ever put up, and I look across the way and I see nothing but those aggressive truly liberal Conservatives over there", and this creates frustrations and despair and it calls for over-compensation, over-compensation to the point where he says, he accuses us of failing to act, of procrastination and delay. My Lord, he must be more convinced than ever as to the speech of the First Minister last night that he really walked into it, but I feel for my friend and I know that the Honourable Member from La Verendrye will seek and find and probably be back on the right side of the fence in due course.

The Member for Kildonan, as I sat here--and I'm not an experienced member of this Legislature--and as I sat and listened to my honourable friend putting it into the record, talking about the capital debt of this province of \$375 million and condemning the government for everything under the sun, he stood up. I watched him--he voted for everything. He voted for the roads; he voted for the social allowances; he voted for the schools; he voted for the hydro-electric power, and I want him to go back and tell his folks the truth, that he advocated turning out the electric lights in this province. That's what he said, and what kind of irresponsibility are we getting in this House? This is elementary.

The Member for Elmwood made the point, comments on the Manitoba Hospital Services Plan, and I always like to examine these very carefully because he has every right, every prerogative to say anything he wants on the Throne Speech, and that is true and I hope he brings it up again at my estimates, but the facts of the matter are these, that as a responsible citizen of this province, as the representative in the Legislature for the people of Elmwood, it is incumbent upon you legally and morally, to tell the people the facts as are in the Act. Any person going to any hospital in this province as an emergency must be admitted by that hospital and must be put in a semi-private or private room if no standard wards are available, at the standard board rate and the MHSP covers the cost. There is no hocus pocus or anything else to it. This is just sort of misunderstanding that's breeding something that isn't there. We're playing it straight. Playing it perfectly straight, and this is the order to hospitals and this is what is being carried out--(interjection)--an emergency. An emergency is an emergency as detected by the physician in attendance. Only he can admit a patient to the hospital.

The member for Turtle Mountain expressed opinions re the Hospital Commission. I'm sure we can deal with this in full at the time of the introduction of this Bill, but I would certainly reassure him that there's no intent to circumvent the Ministry of the Legislature in this regard. I just think that it's incumbent upon government now that this utility is the biggest single expenditure in the administration, that there has to be more and more public understanding and more and more thought as to many factors which we will deal with at that time.

(Mr. Johnson (Gimli), cont'd.) I can't help but say a few words concerning my honourable friend, the Leader of the New Democratic Party, if I may, and just in this way, that I think it's amusing on this side and instructive to see the way he can't help comparing the procrastinations and delays of the former administration with the forward-looking policies of the government, and he does an admirable job of supporting these policies. I wish to congratulate him.

I hope that the Honourable Member for Rhineland takes home the story he told us today of the tremendous assistance given by this administration in the development of the water resources in his area, and I would expect that the public in that area will be giving tangible recognition the next time they are appealed to by the electorate. They'll come through, I am sure, on the right side of the fence after this performance.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to—I can't help thanking, before I close, the Member from St. Boniface who is also a very fine fellow, and hope that his affection will just spread down the front bench here and through all of us. I know he has the capacity, and I found it rather incongruous sitting here listening to him rap the ability to pay principal, rapping socialism, rapping taxation and he's all for meeting need. Well, this is the way we all should be, and I certainly respect his beliefs and I know he's trying to make a contribution.

But in closing, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say that the Ministry—my Ministry, or this Ministry or the other Ministries on this side of the House, I think are fair bait, and it is only proper that they be criticized by the Opposition, and if my rebuttal to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition appears harsh in accusing him of double dealing and going over the heads of this government without the facts and going on television and radio without the facts, I feel it is my public duty to bring this to the attention of the House, because the charges that he has made before this House—and I now intend to turn the knife—represent real misrepresentation, real misinformation, and are wholly without foundation. The people want the facts and I trust the people of Manitoba will continue to know that they get the facts from this administration. Thank you, Sir.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister permit a question?

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Yes.

MR. MOLGAT: Were there any indications given to this House when we met the 16th to the 20th of October to discuss this very issue, that the government was going to impose a freeze on hospital budgets?

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, this wasn't a freeze on hospital budgets, as I have, I hope, explained.

MR. J. E. INGBRIGTSON (Churchill): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Roblin, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry & Commerce, that the House do now adjourn if we have come to the end of our Order Paper. Mr. Speaker, I notice that there is a second reading here of a Bill that will not take long so if I may be allowed to withdraw my motion we can proceed with that.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed?

MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. Lyon presented Bill No. 2, an Act to amend The Expropriation Act, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I believe the explanatory note fairly well covers this.

This is merely a re-enactment of the section that formerly appeared in the Municipal Act. It was intended, when it was taken out of the Municipal Act, to put it into The Expropriation Act concurrently. Somehow that was overlooked. We are now recommending to the House that the Act, the Section (b) be placed in The Expropriation Act and made retroactive to August 4th, 1959. It is a similar section that appears in parts 1 and 3 of The Expropriation Act. This will appear in part 2 and will have application to municipalities and their powers of expropriation.

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

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Industry & Commerce, 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 Monday afternoon.